**Chorus Welcome Letter**

**The Ballentine Firefly Singers**

I am so happy your child will be singing in chorus this semester! My goal is for each member to have a positive experience. Below are basic expectations that students and parents need to understand and follow when joining the Ballentine Firefly Singers. These guidelines help to make everyone’s experience enjoyable and safe. ☺

**Schedule**

Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, August 14th.** We will rehearse **every** Wednesday. Attendance is not mandatory during track-outs, but students are welcome to attend. Please see below.

**Performance Dates**

I don’t have the school performance dates yet. I will send them to you as soon as they are on the school calendar.

Fuquay Varina Tree Lighting performance – Thursday, Dec. 5th *Time:* TBA

Daytime concert for our school – TBA

Evening performance for our friends and family - TBA

**Chorus students are expected to attend all performances*.* If your student can’t attend a performance, please notify me via e-mail ASAP. Students who don’t show up to the performance without prior notification won’t be eligible to join chorus again.**

**Concert Attire**

Chorus members will need to purchase a 2019-2020 Firefly Singers T-Shirt. The cost will be around $10. The shirts will be different each school year, so every chorus student will need to purchase the new, updated version.

Performance attire: chorus t-shirts, black pants/skirts, dark shoes. If you need assistance getting these items, please let me know so I can help. 😊

**Attendance**

When students are tracked in, attendance at each Wednesday rehearsal is **mandatory**. If you student is sick or unable to make a rehearsal, his/her parent should contact me prior to the rehearsal. If your student is tracked out, no absence notification is necessary.

It is very important to the success of the group that students commit to regular attendance. It is not fair to the group if all singers don’t regularly attend rehearsals, as it will negatively impact our group’s performance. **Students who have 4 or more absences will be asked to stop attending chorus**. Two early pick-ups will equal one absence. Absences may be made up during track out.

Once students join, they should be prepared to stay in the group for the entire semester. Students who join chorus should plan to stick with it through the December performances.

**Attending during track-out**

Attendance during track out is not mandatory, but definitely welcome!! If your student is attending during track out, please park in the parking lot and walk them to the front doors at 3:45 pm. Students may then come to the cafeteria to check in.

**Chorus Dismissal**

**Students must be picked up promptly by 5:00 pm.**  *Students picked up late more than twice will be asked to leave the group.*

We will dismiss from the carpool circle. Please have your student’s carpool number ready. **Parents must have a carpool tag to pick up their student to ensure the safety of the students.** If you forget your number or are late, you will need to come in to sign your student out.

**-If your student is usually a bus rider, you will need to come in the first day of rehearsal to get a carpool tag.**

***-Only adults named on the locator card will be able to pick up your student. If your student would like to carpool with another student, they must be added to your student’s locator card. Please notify me in writing if your student will be leaving with another student.***

-If your student is a walker, they will be allowed to walk home after rehearsal. If they attend after-school care, they will go to the cafeteria after rehearsal.

**Student/Parent Policy**

**Each rehearsal students are expected to:**

***G****ive and earn respect* - Use kind words and keep hands and feet to yourself.

***L****ead by example* - Participate, be positive, and follow directions the first time.

***O****wn your actions* - Be honest and do your job

***W****ork hard every day* - Come to rehearsal ready to learn and be willing to take risks and make mistakes.

**Parents are expected to:**

-Provide after school transportation for their student(s) and pick them up promptly at 5:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons unless their student lives in the neighborhood and walks home after their school day.

-**Communicatewith *Ms. Fruend* via email or text** if their student is going to be absent. I understand that lack of attendance, multiple early pick-ups, and/or behavior could result in my child’s removal from the choir or choir performances. (Please refer to the Attendance and Chorus Dismissal Policies).

**Please sign the behavior/parent contract and have your student bring it to the first rehearsal. Every student must turn in the contract to participate in chorus.**

**Contact Information**

I will communicate with you through e-mail and occasionally via the Talking Points app. I am looking forward to a great experience making music with your student this year! Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions at jfruend@wcpss.net. I look forward to working with your amazing students in chorus!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fruend

K-5 Music

Ballentine Elementary

Ballentine Firefly Singers



Student/Parent Contract

**Student**

I understand that being a member of Chorus is a privilege and serious commitment. Due to the number of students and important performances, it is important that we work as a team. I will participate and GLOW during chorus. I have reviewed the chorus behavior expectations in the welcome letter/handbook.

***3 warning system***

**1st warning** – A warning will be given to the student to stop inappropriate behavior. After chorus Mrs. Fruend and student will discuss solutions to the problem.

**2nd warning** – Mrs. Fruend will notify the student’s parents to inform them of the problem that has occurred and discuss how the problem will be fixed.

**3rd warning** – Student will need to be removed from chorus if behavior doesn’t improve.

Chorus is going to be great! I know Mrs. Fruend has many exciting things planned for us this year. We will practice and work hard together to perform for our parents and friends☺

**Student’s Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student’s Teacher** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)**

As the parent of the choir member, I understand this is an extracurricular school choir and that I must provide transportation for my student if they are not a student who lives in the neighborhood and walks home. I will pick them up promptly at 5:00 each Wednesday after school. I understand that my child must be on-time and present. I agree to ***communicate with Ms. Fruend by e-mail or text*** if my student is going to be absent or picked up early. I understand that lack of attendance, chronic tardiness, and/or behavior could result in my child’s removal from the choir or choir performances. (Please refer to the Attendance Policy and Behavior Policy of the handbook). I have reviewed all guidelines in the welcome letter/handbook.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this signed form to Ms. Fruend on your first day of chorus. Thanks!**