Congratulations!
Welcome to the Stinger Singers!

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your son or daughter's entrance into the *YES Stinger Singers*, Youth Elementary's very own 4th and 5th grade chorus! It is a great honor to be chosen for this performing group and a great chance for young singers to develop their gift. Rehearsals for *The Stinger Singers* will be every **Tuesday _AND_ Thursday** morning from **7:30 AM to 8:15 AM**. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 5th. Students should be dropped off on the bus lane on the far-right side of the school (by the playground). They should enter the door closest to the music room. Drop-off should occur between 7:20 and 7:30 AM. The doors will not be open prior to 7:20 (I have a middle schooler and a high schooler who I am dropping off every morning, so I can't guarantee that I will be here any earlier). If your student is already a part of the Before-School Program, he or she will be able to come to rehearsal from there. Also, be aware that just before a concert, it is highly probable that we will have a few extra rehearsals either before or after school to prepare the choir for the performance. I will do my best to give you plenty of notice so that you may plan accordingly.

Our chorus students will be performing a wonderful variety of musical selections. They will be learning proper choral singing technique, proper concert etiquette, how to read choral music, and will even be learning how to sing harmonies. *The Stinger Singers* have many opportunities throughout the school year to perform including concerts here at school and performances around the community.

Some of the upcoming performances include a holiday concert and a spring musical**.** STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND _ALL_ PERFORMANCES. This year the students will wear **black Stinger Singer Shirts (provided)** and **khaki pants *or* a long khaki skirt (tea length please, *no mini skirts*)**. Other performances may also be scheduled as opportunities in the community arise. I will send letters, emails and text reminders notifying parents and students of such opportunities. A schedule of upcoming events will also be posted on the YES Chorus Site at the following address:

https://yesmusicclass.com/stinger-singers *or use this QR code:*

At this website you can also download concert programs, lyrics to songs we are working on, scripts for the shows, and I'll even post pictures of the kids, videos and music when possible.

Our school district has a communication program, *TalkingPoints*, which makes it easy to communicate with parents and for parents to communicate with teachers. So, I will also send out reminders and announcements for important rehearsals and events using *TalkingPoints* as well. Please download the app for easy access via this link: https://talkingpts.org/families/

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Being part of this chorus is a privilege and therefore contains many responsibilities for both parents and students. On the last page are several things students *and* parents *must* agree to in order to participate in chorus. Please initial beside each statement indicating that you agree. If there is a problem in one of these areas, then the student will not be allowed to continue participation in chorus. **Chorus contracts are due** September 13th. *Students will not be allowed to participate without a contract signed by a parent or guardian and by the student.*

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Here are a few important notes concerning rehearsals and performances:

It is vitally important for the development of the group that each member attend *all* rehearsals and performances. *Parents, if a conflict arises in schedule, please notify me as soon as you become aware of the conflict (don't depend on your student to remember). Email me at* jarrod.tyler@walton.k12.ga.us or you can message me through Talking Points.

Should a student miss a rehearsal, it is the responsibility of the student to either bring a note or have a parent email or text to explain why they were not at rehearsal. If the student was absent from school that day, there is no need for an explanation. The attendance policy for the *Stinger Singers* is that a student cannot have more than 3 *unexcused* absences a semester. It is also very important for us to utilize our rehearsal time effectively and as such, students will not be permitted to be late for rehearsals (the bus lane door is locked after 7:30). If a student is late more than 3 times in a semester, then he/she will forfeit his/her membership in the *Stinger Singers.*

Parents, please be advised that there is no current budget for purchasing music or production items. Thus, there is a fee for chorus members to help cover the cost of purchasing music, polos and production items for the Stinger Singers. The fee is $30. There may be parent/student who is not able to contribute $30, so I would also ask for parents to please consider adding $5 or $10 to your fee as a scholarship fund for deserving singers. Per school policy, contributions should be given via MyPaymentsPlus on the school website. Payment will be found in a pull-down tab under *Miscellaneous Sales.*

Let me offer my congratulations once again! I am looking forward to an exciting and musically rewarding year.

https://www2.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome

Musically yours,

Mr. Jarrod Tyler, M.M.
Music Educator
Youth Elementary