

August 2013

Dear Parents of Fourth Graders:

I hope your year is starting off well! Fourth grade holds many exciting performance opportunities, and I would like to make you aware of two of them that are coming soon.

## **Elementary Chorus**

The elementary chorus is for students who enjoy singing and performing. It is a fun and rewarding experience. Any fourth grader is welcome in chorus! ☺ Chorus is offered all the way through high school, so this is a great year to start. Chorus will meet on Mondays from 8:00—8:40 am. Please make every effort for your child to arrive to school on time. Chorus is valuable instructional time, so any interruptions in the rehearsals should be for emergencies only. If your child joins chorus, I would like for him to honor that commitment and participate the entire year (September through April).

I will post a sign-up sheet outside the music room door next week. If your child wants to join, he should sign the sheet under his teacher's name. Individual auditions will occur the following week. These are placement auditions only. Chorus is open to anyone who wants to be a part of it. I would simply like to hear your child sing to place him in a voice part. Chorus rehearsals will start at the end of September. I will e-mail you and give your child the dates of our performances throughout the year so that you can mark your calendar now. There are times when I will need a few chaperones, so if you are willing to be a "chorus parent", please let me know. I would love for you to become involved.

## **Talent Show**

The fourth grade talent show is Friday morning, October 4 at 8:10 am. In a couple of weeks I will post a sign-up sheet for the talent show outside the music room. Children will have a week to sign up. Auditions for the talent show will take place September 9-20. Auditions will be before school, during the school day as time allows, and after school. Results of the auditions will be posted Monday, September 23.

Fourth graders may audition for 1 or 2 different types of talent. Groups may include people from different classes. Background recorded music may be used; however, singing along with the soloist or lip syncing is not acceptable. Recordings must be minus the soloist (i.e. a karaoke CD). If a CD is used, we provide the player. Of course, the piano is available for students who are performing on piano or have brought an accompanist. The students must bring any other needed instruments. No act can exceed 4 minutes in length. Because of time constraints, there will be a maximum of 20 acts in the show this year.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for the students to be rehearsed and prepared for the audition. Students must have their props and accompaniment; however, costumes are not required for the audition, since final decisions are not made until all the acts are seen.

In past years, we have had students singing, playing musical instruments, acting in skits, reciting poems, performing jazz and ballet routines, karate acts, and gymnastics to music. We have also had cheerleader routines, raps, and magic tricks. We will have auditions for emcees (hosts and hostesses) as well. Please make sure all routines and songs are appropriate for children in a Christian environment.

If your child is going to be in a group act, he needs to make sure they have *practiced together and know exactly what they are going to do before the audition*. It would be terrific if the students could handle skits or other group acts by themselves, but it usually takes a parent to “guide” their practices. Group acts will be judged on the merits of the whole group, so remind your child to choose their groups according to the strengths of each individual.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the talent show or chorus.

Thank you!

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