

Parkview Pizazz



2014-2015 Handbook

Welcome from the Director

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Parkview Pizazz Show Choir. We are striving for excellence and are glad you have joined us in our pursuit of that goal. Students participating in this organization can expect to become knowledgeable singers, dancers, and lifelong musicians. Parkview Pizazz Show Choir will provide students and parents with wonderful, memorable experiences, and will help students become more responsible, disciplined, focused, and well-rounded individuals. Additionally, I firmly believe a student's involvement in this program will help them develop skills they will use in all aspects of their life as a PHS student, and beyond.

Please read this handbook carefully. Sign and return the forms for this handbook. Do not hesitate to call if you have questions.

I am looking forward to a fabulous year in Parkview Pizazz Show Choir!

Sincerely,

Laura Schuler
Director

Alyssa Case
Assistant Director

Michael Stanek
Choreographer

Goals for Parkview Pizazz Show Choir

- **Excel in All Performances**
 - Work hard at every rehearsal to be prepared musically and physically
 - Take all performances seriously and give 100%
 - Encourage parents/guardians, friends, principals, and teachers to attend concerts and competitions.
 - Attend all rehearsals and competitions.
 - Take care of your instrument—your VOICE.

- **Maximize your Talent**
 - Work hard each day to improve technique and form good singing habits.
 - Work outside of rehearsal on the music and choreography.
 - Apply previously learned material to each rehearsal or performance.
 - Listen and use your pencil.
 - Sing with expression.

- **Present a Positive Image of our Choir to the Community, School, and Peers**
 - Have pride in our choir.
 - Communicate to others what we do and hope to accomplish.
 - Be competitive, but appreciate the abilities of others.

- **Keep a Positive Attitude Throughout the Year**
 - Always look ahead and see the desired goals we are working toward.
 - Don't let personalities get in the way of our unified effort. Work together to move forward and progress.
 - Encourage each other in a positive way.
 - Always give respect to all members of our group.

Philosophy of a Show Choir

The main emphasis in a high school choral program should be on the traditional choirs--in Parkview's case, the Concert choir. This is because these choirs are where, on a daily basis, young singers learn the essentials of good singing--breath support, good vowels, rhythm and diction. That is why all Pizazz members are strongly encouraged to be a member of the Concert choir. Students must learn to sing well before they can learn to sing well and dance and do all the other ambitious things a good show choir does. In the future, Pizazz members should be prepared for the possibility of being required to prepare a song for the WMSA Solo and Ensemble contest. Pizazz represents the best in singing talent that Parkview has to offer-- singing at the Solo and Ensemble contest is an example of what the best high school singers do.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all rehearsals and competitions is expected and required. We rehearse every Monday night from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Students should also expect to be called for occasional rehearsals on school days (usually Fridays) from 7:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. as needed. This is not a lot of rehearsal time, so in order for us to put on a first rate performance every time students must attend all rehearsals.

Excused competitions are as follows: personal illness, a death in the family or a similar emergency. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, the following: absence without previous notification to the director, work and vacations. Any excused absence must be accompanied by an excuse note and signed by a parent. In the case of personal illness or a death in the family, the note should be turned in when the student returns to school. In the case of any other emergency, the student should notify the director by phone as soon as possible and turn in an excuse form when returning to school.

Absence from a rehearsal or a competition because of an unavoidable conflict with a school sports team or other extra-curricular activity is excused if it is discussed with the director ***well in advance*** of the conflict, preferably two weeks. I will try to give you two-weeks notice of any performances or extra rehearsals--I would appreciate the same courtesy. An excuse note, signed by a parent, must be turned in before the conflict.

One unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in a conference with the director. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in another conference with the director and sitting out for the next competition. A third unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in dismissal from the group. One unexcused absence from a competition will result in a conference with the director and a warning. A second unexcused absence from a competition will result in dismissal from the group. Any absence from a competition without prior notification to the director is a serious offense and may result in dismissal from the group. The decision as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused rests with the director.

CONDUCT

All members are expected and required to adhere to the Parkview School District student conduct code, including during school hours, during rehearsal at the school in the evening, and when performing in the community or attending any clinics, competitions, contests or special events outside of school. As a very visible member of the Parkview Schools community, your behavior should be not only above average but above reproach. Any poor behavior, whether it be a major lapse of reason or a minor loss of poise, reflects poorly on you and your school. Any problems with behavior in public or at school will be dealt with by the director on an individual basis and may result in dismissal from the group. You have earned the right to be in a fine group--with that right comes a responsibility to act in a mature manner. Represent Parkview Schools in the best way you possibly can at all times.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Every effort will be made to keep costs down for the groups while maintaining a competitive edge and highly educational standard. We will only compete and have camps that we can pay for. Our budget amount for these expenses is determined by parent "donations," student fundraising, and corporate sponsorships.

Pizazz Summer Camp: The show choir member will be responsible for the \$25 cost of attending. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP OR YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN PIZAZZ.**

Pizazz Membership Fee: We require a \$150 participation fee and a \$50 costume charge for a total of \$200 from each member of Pizazz. The first payment of \$100 is due the week of the summer camp. The final payment is due on October 1st or on the first business day after if the 1st falls on a weekend. No Pizazz member will be turned away if they are unable to afford this amount. Please contact Mrs. Schuler for alternate means of covering this cost.

The show choir member will be responsible for any future hotel costs when traveling to competitions that require it. Students are responsible for their own meals and beverages on trips and at competitions. Necessary Clothing: show choir members will be expected to purchase their own shoes, socks, stockings, and undergarments. **These items are not a part of the overall participation cost.**

Students that withdraw from participation from the group mid-year will **NOT** be refunded their participation fee.

Travel Policies

1. All choir members must travel together if there are busses provided to choir events.
2. All choir members must return to PHS on the busses provided. **On special occasions, you may need to ride home with your parents, other adult family members, or with another student's parents.** Under these circumstances, a note signed by your parents and given to the director 24 hours prior to departure. If approval is given, the student will be released when all of the following obligations are complete: (1) we have returned to the bus as a group, (2) the appropriate party is present and gets verbal permission from the director (3) costumes/ props/ other gear has been checked in with the director.
3. All students must remain on the busses until a director has given instructions, and permission is given to unload.
4. After arriving home, before unloading the bus, all papers and waste must be put in the trash bag provided and all windows must be closed.

Appearance

All students are asked to consider taste and modesty in their personal appearance. There may be performances at which we will not be in costume, and at that time guidelines on proper dress will come from the director. Students are reminded that they are representatives of Parkview Schools. All decisions on appropriateness of appearance will be made by the director.

- ♪ All members should be on time and in complete uniform for each competition. This includes having hair and make-up complete.
- ♪ Students are not permitted in the audience in costume before shows, or during intermission, he/she must stay back stage or in the designated area.
- ♪ No jewelry is to be worn during performances, except for costume earrings. This includes (but is not limited to) watches, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, anklets, rings, and tongue rings. Tattoos must be covered by makeup or flesh colored Band-Aids.

- ♪ Only clear nail polish or a French manicure is allowed during competitions. **ABSOLUTELY NO COLORED NAIL POLISH!!**
- ♪ Hair color and style may not detract from the performance (no pinks, purples, bright reds, or other distracting colors) and it must be away from the face for all performances.

Costumes

1. Students will be assigned a numbered costume and will be charged for costumes that are not cared for properly. The cost is \$50 **minimum** for each costume piece that is lost or mutilated.
2. Always hang your costumes properly. They should never be wrinkled.
3. Keep your costume clean and pressed. Follow the proper care instruction on the garment. NEVER put any costume piece in the dryer. NEVER use a hot iron on delicate material. NEVER wash, dry, or iron sequins. Costume items will be sent out at the end of the year for cleaning and should not be washed. You may get the item **professionally** cleaned during the year if you ask.
4. All students are expected to have and wear the correct costume during performances. If a student does not have the correct pieces, he/she will not perform. Costumes will be selected by the director from catalogs intended for high school performing groups and must be worn by all students.
5. All women must have the following items available for every performance: several pair of the approved brand name/ color panty hose, the approved character shoes, and the approved undergarment(s). All men must have the following items available for every performance: several pair of dark black (no faded) socks, the black shoes, and a white cotton t-shirt. These items are NOT included in the initial show choir fee.

INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students who are involved in other school activities besides Pizazz should carefully consider their responsibilities to every group in which they are involved. Coaches do not expect their athletes to miss practices--in the same way, your director does not expect singers to miss rehearsals. Students should first check their schedules with other activities against the regular Pizazz rehearsal time before considering membership in Pizazz.

Students are required to keep the director informed well in advance of any possible conflicts with rehearsals and performances. Last minute excuses for missing rehearsal for another school activity will not be acceptable.

Attendance at all competitions is mandatory. A competition for us is like a game is for a sports team. This kind of responsibility cannot be ignored by any member of the group. Inevitably there will occur unavoidable conflicts. If a sports team does well at tournament time, there may be singers whose schedules are very much up in the air. In those kinds of situation the director will be understanding. The director is aware of the school activity calendar and takes it into consideration when scheduling performances. Students are reminded that it is ***their responsibility*** to keep the director informed concerning possible conflicts.

MUSIC AND DANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for having the music and choreography learned by performance time. If students miss rehearsals, or do not concentrate during rehearsal they will inevitably fall behind the rest of the group. If, in the judgment of the director, a student is not prepared to perform for any of the above reasons, they may be denied performance privileges. If a student through no lack of effort is having trouble learning the music or choreography, arrangements can be made for extra help. Other students should be a resource in this regard--if singing and dancing come easily to you, then you are a leader, and are expected to help your fellow students if they are having problems.

VOCAL HEALTH

It is important to try to stay healthy, not only in general, but for the sake of your singing voice. The cold and flu season is the number one culprit in this regard. The best advice to give is the same given by your doctor and your Mom--eat right, get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids and wear a scarf and hat in cold weather. Coughing places a great strain on the vocal cords--when the urge to cough comes, try a hard swallow instead.

The use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is not only expressly prohibited by the student conduct code but is also detrimental to the singing voice. The dangers of tobacco and alcohol are too numerous to list here. In addition, alcohol and tobacco dry out the mucous membranes, which need to

be lubricated for a healthy singing tone.

GRADES AND ELIGIBILITY

All members of Pizazz must maintain a passing overall grade point average in order to perform with the group. A student falling below this standard may continue to rehearse with the group, but may not perform until their grades are raised to a passing level. When we are touring during the school day, you need to check with your teachers **ahead of the day we will miss** to make up your work. When we return, you are expected to return to class as quickly as possible.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in the spring of each year. The auditions will be judged by the director and assistant director. The audition will consist of a prepared song, an interview, and a dance routine that is learned prior to the audition. If students go through the audition process and are selected for the group, they are asked to take that decision by the judges very seriously. Nothing is more frustrating or unfair to the director than to choose singers for the group only to have those singers change their minds or find that they do not have time to be in the group. Please be considerate of your director and fellow singers in this regard.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement in Pizazz is very important. Parents can be a big help with costumes, transportation, being chaperones and other activities. The members of Pizazz and the director will be in contact with parents throughout the school year to let parents know how they may be of help. Parents are urged to contact the director if they have any help to offer or any questions. Parental involvement needs to always strive to be positive. Be involved with your child's education and be supportive of their efforts. Be realistic in your expectations--disappointments sometimes occur, and young people need to learn how to deal with these possibilities. Students and parents are reminded that Pizazz is an extra-curricular activity--it should never be the prime focus of a student's education.

EQUIPMENT

Each of you will be responsible to move equipment. I will provide you with a list of the equipment that you each will be responsible for. You will be responsible for loading, setting up, moving, and unloading the equipment. Much of our equipment is new and all of it is expensive. Care must be given not to scratch or damage the equipment. Think about how you are carrying, moving, loading, and storing it.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsal time is valuable! Each minute needs to be used wisely! Begin immediately to plan on coming to rehearsals with a positive and focused mentality. There is no room or time for horseplay and continual playing around if we are to maintain excellent performances. Good performances do not just happen. They must be diligently worked toward. Concentrate! Focus! Intensity! You will be sent home if you are disrupting rehearsals. After the third removal from any rehearsal, you will be removed from the group.

RESIGNATION

If you resign from the group, you are not eligible to audition for the next year. There may be some special considerations which may apply. For example, a long term illness, etc. would be excused from this rule. See the director if you have any further questions.

ATTITUDE

Poor attitudes can lead to poor performances and hurt feelings. Poor attitudes will not be tolerated. Problems should be discussed immediately so they do not develop into bigger problems. Poor attitudes in the group may lead to dismissal.

Culprits in this area: bickering, talking behind someone's back, not accepting criticism, complaining, not working at your highest potential, etc.

Pizazz Parent/Guardian Form

The amount of help needed in show choir is considerably less than in many other organizations. For example: we do not make costumes for the choir, we don't have many props, we do not reserve seats for show choir shows, and we do not build extensive sets. However, we will still need volunteers to help with a variety of other small tasks. For example, to take/sell tickets during the talent show, to video tape performances, to alter costumes, and to complete other minimal tasks. In addition I hope you will be willing to assist your children with some of the fundraising activities that we will do! I would like to develop a coherent parent communication system in order to insure that we have the people to take care of a variety of things that the directors can not do simply due to their own physical limitations.

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____

E-mail Address: _____

___ I would be willing to be involved in contacting/organizing other parents to help at events.

___ I would be willing to be involved in helping at events.

I can help with:

___ Variety Show (Fall)

___ Tractor Pull Food Tent (June)

___ Other Fundraising

___ Costumes (altering or making)

___ Sound System Set-Up/Tear Down

___ Concessions/Raffle Tickets at Events

___ Hair and Makeup

___ Publicity

___ Ticket Sales

___ Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (Spring)

___ Other

Show Choir Year-at-a-Glance

May, 2014

Auditions, May 20th and 21st in the choir room.

June, 2014

Pizazz Snack Stand at Ordfordville June Days-June 15th from 6:00p.m. to 10 p.m.

July, 2014

Tractor Pull Food Tent at Stables Bar, July 12th from 10:30 a.m. until 7 p.m.

August, 2014

Pizazz Summer Camp, August 18-22, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
First \$100 due by the end of camp.

October, 2014

Final \$100 payment due, October 1st
Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebees, October 11th
Pizazz Variety Show, October 18th, 7:00 p.m.
Pizazz Fall Camp, October 18th, 8 a.m -4 p.m., October 19th, 1 p.m. -6 p.m.

November, 2014

Pizazz Camp, November 15th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

December, 2014

Winter Camp with Michael, December 26-28, 8 a.m. -5 p.m.

January, 2015

Brodhead/Parkview/Turner Preview Night, January 5th, 7 p.m.
Colby Competition-January 10th, All day
Burlington Competition-January 17th, All day

February, 2015

Fort Atkinson Competition-February 14th, All day
Monona Grove Competition-February 21st, All day
Brodhead Competition-February 28th, All day

March, 2015

Pizazz performs at American Legion, March 14th
Pizazz Spaghetti Dinner and final show-April 11th

Please Return This Form

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read this handbook and agree to abide by these rules as a member of Parkview Pizazz.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT FORM

I have read this handbook and am aware of the responsibilities my son/daughter will be taking on as a member of Parkview Pizazz. He/she has my permission to be in Pizazz.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____