Dani Bourgeois

President, Friends of Show Choir

Naperville North High School

THE SHOW CHOIRS OF NAPERVILLE NORTH

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Naperville North Friends of Show Choir is the parent support group that helps show choir with everything from chaperoning and spirit wear to fundraising and costuming. As parents of students in show choir we feel we are uniquely qualified to share our experiences with you in the hope it will guide you to encourage your student to audition. Not too long ago, we were where you are now, just months away from sending our kids to what can only be described as a huge school. It can seem overwhelming and intimidating. One thing we know for sure is that getting involved, both you and your child, is the best thing for both of you. We know you have concerns and hope we can address them so that you will open yourself up to this AMAZING program.

CONCERN 1: IT'S TOO MUCH TOO SOON

We sometimes hear parents say they want their kids to take a semester off to "find their groove" before getting involved. From experience we can assure you that it's best for kids to jump right in and start making new friends. Show Choir is a great way to do that. There are show choir learning events over the summer where your student will meet other freshmen as well as returning students. Because of the relationships made, they will start high school knowing kids from all grades as well as being comfortable in the Naperville North environment. We also host several social events for kids (and parents) to get to know each other. We strive to be a welcoming environment for the whole family!

CONCERN 2: MY CHILD WANTS TO DO OTHER ACTIVITIES

You may be worried about all the rehearsal time and we agree that Show Choir is a large commitment: both groups rehearse twice a week for 2-3 hours most of the school year in addition to once a month on Saturdays. Competitions will take the groups on up to four overnight trips during January through March. However, we have many students who participate in Show Choir and other sports and activities. We have dancers and cheerleaders, football players and swimmers. While these students definitely have full calendars, it is doable. They just need to be organized. Directors are willing to work around most any activity so long as students are demonstrating a good work ethic. If you have concerns about this, please reach out to me and we can talk about it.

CONCERN 3: IT'S SO MUCH MONEY

While there are significant expenses associated with a successful Show Choir program, we work to keep our fees down. We don't ever want the cost to participate be a deterrent to auditioning and ultimately deciding to participate. We spread fees over the course of the year and also have several fundraising opportunities to offset expenses. By participating in these fundraising opportunities, a family could decrease their out of pocket dues significantly.

On a personal note, my son James is finishing his Junior Year at North and had grown up playing soccer - it was his passion. He surprised us all when he told us he wanted to audition for Show Choir at the end of 8th grade. He wanted to try something new and we were thrilled that he was willing to put himself out there and take a risk with a new activity and new group of friends. He has never looked back! He has loved every minute of Show Choir and has made friends that, I believe, will be friends for life. This year his brother, Luke, joined him in Show Choir and is absolutely loving it. Not only have they formed relationships with so many amazing students, but they've become closer in their relationship as well! This is truly one of the most kind and supportive groups of high schoolers I've spent time with!

We have scheduled an **Informational Meeting** for both new students and parents/guardians on **Wednesday, May 14 at 7:30 PM in the NNHS Auditorium**. This will be a great time to get all of your questions answered. To learn more about show choir at NNHS, including signing up for further information please visit :

https://www.nnhsarts.com/2526showchoirauditions

If you have questions before then, feel free to send me an email.

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