

# Choral Booster Newsletter

May 2020

“Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.”

- Mr. Rogers

To our Woodson Chorus Booster family, so much has changed in the two months since we last put out a newsletter. We are all disappointed to miss out on ceremonial firsts that we planned to celebrate together. We are all wrestling with the unknown and probably feeling a little anxious about what the next year may look like for our Chorus students. Although we are physically apart, the Woodson family will continue to work together to foster Chorus relationships and friendships, albeit somewhat differently. We hope to develop new creative opportunities for our students in accordance with federal, state and county safety protocols. Mrs. Moir and the Woodson Choral Booster Executive team will do our best to keep you informed of any new developments as they occur.

This newsletter provides a brief update on the impact of some of our programs, fundraising, trips, and events. The impact will be felt throughout Woodson and we ask for your patience and understanding as we adapt to our “new normal”. And, as always, we do appreciate any feedback from our Woodson Choral Booster family. We will all need to work together to help our students navigate in a year of big changes, with love and grateful hearts.

## Upcoming Events:

**Auditions for next year’s Bella Voce and Vocal Ensemble are due by May 22nd.** Information is on Google Classroom and the Chorus website.

## Spring Trip

Chorus families with students participating in the trip to Nashville, TN were sent an email on the evening of May 8th regarding refund information and processes. The email was sent from the [woodsonchorus@gmail.com](mailto:woodsonchorus@gmail.com). If a member of your family did not receive the email, please check your spam to be sure the email did not get directed there. If you need it sent again, send an email to the chorus gmail account listed above and it can be resent.

Thank you again for your patience in this process. It has been tedious and slow. The cancellation is also a disappointment for many. While all county standards and practices of Woodson chorus for the size and scope of this trip were followed and mirrored the practices of the last 18 years, we will be adjusting our processes for future trips to represent a newer normal for group travel for all future trip reservations.

## Europe Trip

The trip payment plan was adjusted to reflect payment 3 due of \$900 due on June 10, 2020. All families signed up for the tour, should have received an email in April with the adjusted payment schedule and where to mail checks.

While June 2021 is still another year away, there are still many unknowns. We are working with the tour company on several different options. We will communicate them to families that are signed up for the trip. Be on the lookout for an email from Mrs. Moir in the next couple of weeks.

## Items to Return

Woodson is currently working on a plan for students to return items to the school that were borrowed for the year. For chorus, this would include any chorus folders of music at home, tuxedo jackets and pants, ties, and borrowed dresses. This does not include tuxedo shirts that were purchased, purchased dresses, or purchased shoes. Once we have specific drop off protocols from the school, we will communicate it out to families.

## Honoring our Graduating Seniors

Graduating chorus seniors will receive a home delivery of chorus recognition and their senior gifts. An email with information will go out to senior parents specifically so we can surprise our seniors and honor their commitment to our music community.

Mrs. Moir is creating a senior video to honor our graduates. To ensure internet privacy, Mrs. Moir will email the link directly to senior parents. Please put 2 -3 pictures of your senior in the Google folder. Please include your child's name in the picture title so we can ensure each senior is included in the video. Senior names will not be included on the video with their picture to protect student security. **Please put names in the folder by May 22nd.**

## Fundraising Plans for Next Year

Fundraising over the next school year is going to be a challenge given all the uncertainty around when things will open up and when we will be able to safely convene in large, or even smaller, groups. As we sit here today, activities like Tag Day and the Car Wash seem very unlikely to go forward, but of course things could change in the future. The Executive Board and Mrs. Moir have already been brainstorming on alternatives to our usual fundraising activities, just in case. We will present some options at a later date. As always, feedback and input are welcome!

## **Spirit Wear**

The Spring Spirit Wear order was due March 13th, the first day FCPS was closed. Orders were not placed due to the closure. For those who placed an order, Michele will be in touch to see how you would like to proceed. There is a small inventory of items, which might be able to fulfill orders placed or your payment can be returned and you can order again in the fall. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## **Scrip**

Scrip is still being sold. You can reload physical gift cards and e-gift cards at any time. If you would like to order physical gift cards, Michele Bach-Hansen will place one more order before Summer. Orders for physical gift cards are due by Friday, May 22nd. The company who processes the cards, Shop With Scrip, is currently working under reduced shipping days, so receipt of the gift cards will likely take longer than normal. In case you were wondering, e-gift cards can be purchased for GrubHub and UberEats, among many other locations.

## **Choral Boosters Executive Board**

The current board has decided to postpone the election until we can meet again. Vice President Ted Donat will take over as Acting President from Kristi Pohland on July 1st. Many of the existing board members are planning to stay on. At the first Chorus Booster meeting in August, we will present the leadership slate and put it to a vote and announce any openings. We thank all the senior parents for their tireless service!

## **Mrs. Moir's Notes:**

Student assignments for the 4th quarter are posted through Google Classroom. Recordings of each Blackboard Collaborate session can be found on both Blackboard and Google Classroom. Per Fairfax County guidelines, students receive Proficient, Attempted, or No Attempt for assignments. To be marked Proficient, chorus students must receive 75% or higher on an assignment. Any work from 1-75% receives an Attempted score. Any work not submitted or with no evidence of an attempt is marked No Attempt. In order for students to receive a grade bump, they need to achieve a Proficient score on six or more assignments. If a student already has an A in chorus, the A will remain as the grade cannot be marked any higher. A student's ability to complete all assignments as Proficient in the fourth quarter will not affect ensemble placement for next year.

Assignment due dates are more a guide to help keep students on track. Grade updates and progress reports are more of a snapshot of the potential work available to them. Late work will be accepted without penalty throughout the fourth quarter. As we are in the middle of AP exams, it is understandable that many students are focusing on studying for the exams and potentially not

able to submit or even attempt all assignments. This is ok as there will be no penalty for student grades if they cannot complete everything.

It is ok if students do not attempt all assignments. While we encourage them to stay actively engaged in their school work, completing everything may not be possible for all students due to shared household technology and some of their other courseloads. Especially if a student's focus is achieving the grade bump in another class, they may need to adjust their focus for the fourth quarter away from chorus work. Online learning takes longer. Keep in mind assignments are there to keep students active and engaged, yet posted with the understanding that not everyone will be able to do everything in this environment for various reasons.

As we look at the chorus curriculum for next year, many adjustments are already being made for potential performance challenges and changes. Different technology is currently being explored to potentially maximize our choral community engagement from a virtual setting if needed.

**Stay safe, and stay healthy!**