



PALENCIA
ELEMENTARY
PIRATES

Chorus Policies and Procedures
2019-2020

Parents and students should be familiar with these; many commonly asked questions are answered here. Please keep this paper to refer to throughout the school year.

PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE AND ATTIRE

Students will wear the outfit appropriate for the performance as indicated by Mrs. Dowdie. If a student is not in complete compliance with the rules regarding the outfit, accessories, and appearance, he/she will not be allowed to participate in that performance. Parents should make sure their singer has the full outfit together well in advance of when it is needed. Parents should also reinforce the rules for appearance/attire by performing a visual check of their child before he/she leaves the house. Showing up without part of the outfit will cause that singer to sit in the audience with a parent during the performance; please do not let that situation arise. ***In addition to teaching students to love music and performing, I'm trying to teach them responsibility and the importance of following directions.***

Girls:

- a. Pirate Chorus shirt, plain (solid) black pants and black belt if the pants have belt loops (NO JEANS or LEGGINGS), black closed-toe lace-up or slip-on shoes. Please wear appropriate undergarments. If your black shoes are sneakers, they cannot be "light-up" shoes. No high-heeled dress shoes, crocs, sandals, or boots, please. The students will be moving and dancing and need to be safe on the risers.
- b. *Hair and make-up:* Girls should have hair pulled back from the face, without using any distracting hair accessories. No extreme haircuts, color or styles will be permitted – as a member of the "team", your hair should not be a distraction from the performance. No stage make-up is necessary for regular performances and is discouraged. They are still children.
- c. *Accessories:* No bracelets, necklaces (unless they are small enough and long enough to be tucked inside the chorus shirt), and small stud earrings. No dangle or large earrings.

Boys:

- a. Pirate Chorus shirt, plain (solid) black pants and black belt if the pants have belt loops (NO JEANS), black closed-toe lace-up or slip-on shoes. If your black shoes are sneakers, they cannot be "light-up" shoes.
- b. *Hair:* Guys should have their haircut and combed neatly and out of their eyes. No extreme haircuts, colors or styles will be permitted – as a member of the "team", your hair should not be a distraction from the performance.

PIRATE CHORUS FAIR SHARE

A. Payments

Chorus members are requested to pay **\$35** which pays for our shirts, props, music and other materials. Please understand that there are expenses for the shirts and music that must be covered as soon as school starts. If you are unable to pay due to financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Dowdie; there are scholarships available for any student who would be denied participation due to an inability to pay.

B. What does this "Fair Share" cover?

This "Fair Share" covers the cost of the shirts, music, choreography, royalty fees, and any other expenses related to Pirate Chorus. Pirate Chorus shirts will be ordered for you by Mrs. Dowdie after registration in August. The outfit items paid for in your check include the Pirate Chorus shirt and add-ons for performances as necessary. You are responsible for black pants, black socks and shoes.

PERFORMANCES and REHEARSALS

The main reason for participating in a group like Pirate Chorus is to perform for an audience.

Rehearsal Attendance: Regular rehearsals take place on Tuesdays before school, beginning at 7:30am.

Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory and records are kept of attendance. Should an **emergency** arise which prevents a student from attending, notify Mrs. Dowdie immediately. Prior to major performances, we will try to rehearse at the school on the stage so members can get used to performing on the risers.

Behavior: The chorus will use the Class Dojo system of behavior management – after the first rehearsal, you will get a notification of the creation of your child's account in Pirate Chorus. If a child has **FIVE** negative dojo points at the time of auditions, he or she will not be permitted to audition for solos or speaking parts. **TEN** dojo points will mean that he or she will not be eligible for any special choreography or instrumental groups. **FIFTEEN** dojo points will mean that he or she will not be permitted to perform in the next concert. Joining a chorus is the same as joining a sports team – we all must work together towards our common goal.

COMMUNICATION

The Pirate Chorus will encourage non-traditional communication methods, in accordance with Palencia Elementary School's environmental policies.

In addition to Class Dojo, we use Remind for group texts. The code to join the group is www.remind.com/join/piratechor. **IF YOU WERE A MEMBER LAST YEAR, YOU WILL NEED TO JOIN AGAIN.** For direct communication with parents and guardians, e-mails will be sent to the address you provide. If you do not have access to the internet in your home, please notify Mrs. Dowdie so that she can have the traditional supplies available for you when information and music are distributed.

Contacting Mrs. Dowdie: If a sudden illness or other emergency prevents a singer from attending a concert or rehearsal, please notify me immediately either by e-mail kate.dowdie@stjohns.k12.fl.us or by phone 904-669-0467. I have unlimited texting and calls, so contacting me through my cell phone is not going to be a burden to me. I may not answer (for example, if I am in class) but will return your message as soon as I am able. **IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH PICKING UP YOUR CHILD AFTER A PERFORMANCE, PLEASE TEXT ME.**

DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

All of us are LEADERS and leaders take responsibility for their own actions. In rare instances, disciplinary measures may have to be taken which may result in permanent dismissal from Pirate Chorus. If a child's behavior is such that the impact on the group as a whole is negatively impacted, I will reach out to the child's parents to find a solution. Please note: the decision to remove a child from chorus due to behavior will ultimately be the decision of Mrs. Dowdie alone. Any fair share monies received will not be refunded.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We need volunteers! There are many options – at rehearsals, make CDs, prepare packets, decorate – so many options! If you are a cleared volunteer and would like to help, please email! kate.dowdie@stjohns.k12.fl.us