

Dear Parents,

August 10, 2017

I am very excited that your child has shown an interest in becoming a member of the Singing Jaguars. Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Chorus will be offered on Thursdays after school from 2:50 - 4:00 P.M. beginning on August 31st and ending in April. Transportation home will have to be provided by the parents. If your son/daughter will be going home with someone other than yourself or walking home, I will need a letter stating your intentions. If an emergency arises that interferes with transportation for your child, please contact me at school and I will accommodate him/her. After reading through the remainder of this handbook, please complete the on-line form by **Friday, August 25th** titled: **Singing Jags Student Information Form – 2017-2018** on Mrs. Isabelle's website:

<http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/isabelle-k>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A CHAPERONE, THERE IS A "VOLUNTEER FORM" THAT YOU CAN FIND ON THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY DISTRICT WEBSITE THAT MUST BE COMPLETED EACH YEAR EVENTHOUGH YOUR INFORMATION MAY NOT HAVE CHANGED. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FOR THERE IS A CHORUS PERFORMANCE IN OCTOBER! There is also a \$30.00 "Fair Share" fee. The forms and \$30 need to be returned to me by **Friday, August 25th**. **However, if you are not able to pay the full amount by Friday, August 25th, please pay \$15 by that date, and pay the remaining \$15 by Thursday, September 28th**. No refunds will be provided. The children also need to bring a white 1/2" 3-ring binder with pockets labeled with his/her name on the front cover to every rehearsal. The first rehearsal is scheduled for **Thursday, August 31st!** ☺

I believe it is important for parents and teachers to support one another and to work together. I hope to see many of you as chaperones and to help out during the performances we will have. Thank you for your cooperation. I'm really looking forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathe Isabelle***E-Mail Address: Kathe.Isabelle@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Mrs. Jeanette Murphy

My Philosophy for Teaching Chorus

Singing is a universal language all its own and is a channel for all types of expression. For instance, when someone is happy he/she may sing a fast, upbeat song. On the other hand, when someone is sad he/she may sing a slow, subtle song. Singing is also educational. The lyrics to songs tell stories so people can learn a lot from studying the words.

Chorus is a great way for students to express themselves and also be a part of a group at the same time. I feel that being a part of chorus will be a memorable experience and I look forward to sharing those experiences with your child.

Rules:

Students who are in chorus are expected to follow these rules:

1) Attend all rehearsals.

Consequences: Students who have more than 3 unexcused absences will be dismissed from chorus. I will notify the student's parent(s) after the second unexcused absence.

2) Attend all performances.

Consequence: Students who miss one performance, and I have not received a note from a parent or guardian will be dismissed from chorus pending discussion with the student's parent(s).

*** Every voice is important at each performance, whether or not a child has a speaking or dance part. We work together as a team!

3) Wear the chorus uniform to all performances.

Consequences: First Time: Students who do not wear their chorus uniform will be asked to sit out of that performance, and their parent(s) will be notified.

Second Time: Students who do not wear their chorus uniform to more than one performance, will be dismissed from the chorus.

4) Speak and act in a respectful manner.

Consequences: First Time: Warning

Second Time: Time Out - Notify parent(s) by letter that will need to be returned to Mrs. Isabelle the next day.

Third Time: Dismissal from chorus.

5) Keep all gum for lunch and recess.

Uniform

The students are required to wear their uniform to all performances. Students who are not dressed in the complete uniform, will not be allowed to perform. The uniform is as follows:

- 1) Royal blue T-shirt with silkscreen print on front/back
In addition to the children wearing this shirt to ALL the performances, the children may also wear it to school on "School Spirit Day Friday's."

*** I will be ordering the shirt from O'Meara's Advertising Specialties, so you do NOT need to shop for one. My goal is to have all the students look the same, and alleviate you from having to shop!

- 2) Solid tan / khaki (only) slacks (girls and boys)
Stores sell out of these fast, so I would try to buy these as soon as possible!

*** Jeans are not permitted for any of the students.

*** The slacks may be found at stores such as: Bealls, Walmart, Target, Sears, Belk, Dillards, JCPenney, or the JCPenney's Back to School Catalog.

- 4) Black shoes - girls and boys
*** Sneakers are not permitted for any of the students.
- 5) Black (only) ankle socks for the girls
- 6) Black (only) ankle or crew socks for the boys

Performances

The Singing Jaguars perform frequently . All of the students will be required to make-up all school work that is missed due to a performance. The following list of performances is **TENTATIVE**. I will send home a letter/permission slip at least two weeks in advance of each performance.

Saturday, October 21: River of Life's "Fall Festival"
Time: 12:00 – 12:30 P.M.

Friday, December 1st: Jacksonville International Airport – 11:00 A.M.

Tuesday, December 12th: Holiday Concerts in JCE's Cafeteria
9:30 A.M. for students/faculty
7:00 P.M. for family and friends

Friday Evening in February: "Ice Skating Party" (Jacksonville Ice)
Date / Time (TBA)

Friday, March 9: Family Fun Day's Pasta Dinner Performance - Cafeteria
Time: 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 26th: Spring Concerts – Cafetorium
9:30 A.M for students / faculty
7:00 P.M. for family/friends

Fair Share

The amount is \$30.00. **Families that have more than one child participating in chorus, “buy one, get one half off” will apply! ☺** **If your child is in 4th or 5th grade, and he/she will also be participating in JCE’s band program, ONLY the band fee will need to be paid, NOT the chorus.** Also, if there is a financial hardship, please let me know. No child should be left out for financial reasons! The forms and \$30.00 need to be given to Mrs. Isabelle by **Friday, August 25th. However, if you are not able to pay the full amount by Friday, August 25th, please pay \$15.00 by that date, and pay the remaining \$15.00 by Thursday, September 28th.** No refunds will be provided.

What Will The Fair Share Cover?

- 1) Chorus uniform shirt
- 2) Purchasing choral music
- 3) Purchasing accompaniment CDs
- 4) Purchasing Props
- 5) Purchasing sound equipment as needed.
- 6) Busses for performances such as the Jacksonville International Airport, otherwise the cost will need to be paid by the students as a field trip fee.