

Dear Parents,

August 10, 2022

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 **September 15th** and ending in April. Participation in chorus requires attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Missing performances due to other activities will result in dismissal from chorus. 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 **Tuesday, September 13th** titled: **Singing Jags Student Information Form – 2022 - 2023** on **Mrs. Isabelle's Schoology site under Courses – click Chorus** or you may access it at my 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 HAVE NOT CHANGED. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FOR THERE IS A CHORUS PERFORMANCE IN NOVEMBER! The website directions on "How to become an approved volunteer," are on P. 2 of this handbook. There is also a \$20.00 "Chorus Fee" which needs to please be returned to me by **Tuesday, September 14th. However, if you are not able to pay the full amount by Tuesday, September 14th, please pay \$10 by that date, and pay the remaining \$10 by Thursday, October 13th.** No refunds will be provided. The children also need to bring a white 1/2" or 1" 3-ring binder with pockets labeled with his/her name on the front cover to every rehearsal. The first rehearsal is scheduled for **Thursday, September 15th!** ☺ **Please note 5th graders** who are a Safety Patrol **MAY** participate in Chorus as well. The students would attend Chorus following their Safety Patrol duty.

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 during the performances we will have. Thank you for your cooperation. I am really looking forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,

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

Website Directions for Becoming a St. Johns County Approved Volunteer

*** You may go to our school's website and access the link, "School Access Form,"

-OR-

- 1) Online: go to St. Johns County school's website: stjohns.k12.fl.us
- 2) In the red banner at the top of the page click on: Visitors & Volunteers
- 3) Read and complete school access form

Please remember to always have your acceptable form of I.D. with you. ☺

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 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. Ex. Forgetting to attend.

- 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 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: Walmart, Target, Old Navy, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Belk, Dillards, JCPenney, Burlington Coat Factory

- 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 the students will be required to make-up all schoolwork that is missed due to a performance. The following list of performances is **TENTATIVE. The dates/times may change, and some performances may be added and/or deleted.** I will send home a letter/permission slip at least two weeks in advance of each performance.

Tuesday, November 1st: Patriotic Program with Fruit Cove Middle School's Jazz Ensemble – JCE's Stage 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 10: Jacksonville Icemen (National Anthem) Jacksonville Arena - 7:00 P.M. performance (Transportation by parents)

Tuesday, December 13th: Holiday Concert for Family/Friends – JCE - Time: 6:30 P.M.

Friday, February 10: Jacksonville Icemen Hockey Game (National Anthem) Jacksonville Arena - 7:00 P.M. performance (Transportation provided by parents)

Friday February 24: "Ice Skating Party" (Jacksonville Ice) 8:00 – 10:00 P.M.

March: Retirement Home (TBA) Date/Time TBA

Tuesday, April 11: Spring Concert for Family/Friends – JCE - Time: 6:30 P.M.

Chorus Fee

The amount is \$20.00. **Families that have more than one child participating in chorus, “buy one, get one half off” will apply.** If there is a financial hardship, please let me know. No child should be left out for financial reasons! The forms and \$20.00 need to be given to Mrs. Isabelle by **Tuesday, September 13th.** **However, if you are not able to pay the full amount by Tuesday, September 13th, please pay the remaining \$10.00 by Thursday, October 13th.** No refunds will be provided.

What Will the Chorus Fee 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.