South Star Choir

2017 – 2018 Choir Handbook



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South Elementary School

13400 Prince George Drive

Disputanta, VA 23842

Welcome to the South Star Choir!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to begin another school year here at South Elementary! You are receiving this Choir Handbook because your child is either a returning member of or has expressed interest in joining our talented choral program known as the South Star Choir. We are very fortunate to have a school system and community that holds the arts as such an important part of the education of our students. Our performances for the 2017-2018 school year include two formal concerts and a program for the annual Spring Fling event held at Prince George High School.

The South Star Choir has been and continues to be an exemplary musical group due to the fine musicianship and outstanding character of its members. In order to foster this musicianship and maintain the choir’s level of excellence, the following expectations have been established. Please discuss these expectations carefully with your child and return the signed Responsibility Agreement, the Release of Student Information, and the Student Information sheets to Miss Serfass by October 6th.

We look forward to another great year filled with music!

Sincerely,

Laura Serfass

Music Teacher, South Elementary

lserfass@pgs.k12.va.us

South Star Choir Events

All events are **REQUIRED** for students to attend. Please mark your calendars. If an unforeseeable conflict arises, please notify Miss Serfass **at least 24 hours in advance or as soon as possible.** Serious illness or family emergencies are considered excusable absences. **Sports practices or dance recitals are NOT considered excusable absences**. Students work very hard to prepare a concert, and the absence of one child adversely affects the entire choir. Students with an unexcused absence at any one of the following programs will not be eligible to participate in further extracurricular events.

**Winter Program:** South Star Choir will perform at the Winter Program at South Elementary on December 12th. The program will start at 6:30pm. Students need to arrive by 6pm to warm-up and line up. Students must be in proper concert attire.

**Spring Fling:** South Star Choir will perform at the annual Spring Fling, which will be held at Prince George High School on March 10th. Students are required to participate in South Elementary’s portion of the program only. You will receive more specific details about this event in the coming months.

**Spring Program:** South Star Choir will perform at the Spring Program at South Elementary on April 17th. The program will start at 6:30pm. Students need to arrive by 6pm to warm-up and line up. Students must be in proper concert attire.

**South Star Choir Expectations**

**Weekly Rehearsals:** South Star Choir meets on Mondays (4th Grade) and Tuesdays (5th Grade) from 2:50 to 3:25 during school. Students will learn basic musicianship skills and rehearse music for the choir concerts. We request that parents/guardians refrain from picking their child up early on these days because each grade only meets once a week. It is expected that students are present at every choir rehearsal. Attendance will be taken at each choir rehearsal. Excessive absences (4 or more) may result in dismissal from the choir.

**Concert Dress:** If we wish to sing our very best, we must dress our very best! All students are required to wear appropriate concert dress for all of the choir’s performances. Students who are not acceptably dressed may be asked to change or face removal from the concert. Here are a few examples of acceptable dress\*:

**Pants:** Khakis or dress pants. Please no blue jeans, or yoga pants. Leggings are only acceptable when accompanied by a long skirt, dress, or tunic.

**Skirts and Dresses:** All skirts and dresses must be knee-length or longer when arms are held above the head. Please consider that the students will be standing on a stage that is at a much higher level than where the audience is seated.

**Shirts:** Polo shirts, button-downs, and blouses are all acceptable. Please no t-shirts or shirts with writing or cartoons on them.

**Shoes:** Dress shoes or tennis shoes. Students will be standing the entire time that they are singing, so please consider heel length when choosing what to wear.

**Hair, Makeup, and Jewelry:** Students must have their hair up and out of their faces so they may better see the conductor. Our voices are the main focus of the concert, so please be conservative with makeup and jewelry if your child wears either of these.

\*These are just a few examples! If you are have any questions about appropriate dress or have trouble obtaining an outfit, please contact Miss Serfass as soon as possible so she may assist you.

**Academics:** Students must maintain good academic standing in order to remain in the group. Excessive absences (4 or more missed rehearsals) due to low academic standing may result in dismissal from the South Star Choir.

**Behavior Policy: It is a privilege to be a member of the South Star Choir.** We expect students to come to weekly rehearsal focused on making music! Each child is expected to attend class on a regular basis and behave respectably at all times towards all teachers, faculty, chaperones, and peers. If behavior difficulties arise, whether during choir rehearsal or elsewhere in the school, appropriate action will be taken which could result in immediate and permanent dismissal from the South Star Choir.

**Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures:** Attendance sheets will be available in the music room for choir members to sign in and out to all afterschool choir concerts. **Each student must sign the attendance sheet in order to be counted present for the concert.** Students who do not sign the attendance sheet will be counted absent and will not be eligible to participate in any further extracurricular events.

**Parents and guardians must sign the sheet when picking their child up from the concert.** We want to make sure your child gets home safely with you!

Parents and guardians of South Star Choir members must pick their child up in a prompt and timely fashion at the conclusion of all concerts or face removal from the group.

Release of Student Information

To publicize the achievements of our students and the great work they do, we like to occasionally publish our students’ names, photographs, or achievements in our school publications or release the information to local newspapers. We may also post the information on the school’s web site. We understand that you may not want to have your child’s name, photo, or achievements published. Please initial below to let us know your wishes.

\_\_\_\_ **I consent** to having my child’s photo, name, and/or academic or athletic achievements published in school publications (i.e. newspapers yearbooks, and/or newsletters, etc.), released to local newspapers, and/or posted on the school’s web page, and/or maintained on the school’s social media.

\_\_\_\_**I do not consent** to having my child’s photo, name, and/or academic or athletic achievements published in school publications (i.e. newspapers yearbooks, and/or newsletters, etc.), released to local newspapers, and/or posted on the school’s web page, and/or maintained on the school’s social media.

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Parent Name Student Name

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Physical Address

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Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student

***Note: If you choose not to consent, your child will not perform in the afterschool concerts and will not be eligible to attend any further extracurricular events.***

Student Information Sheet

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, notify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies or medications that we should be aware of:

Are any of these medications administered at school?

**South Star Choir Responsibility Agreement**

Our signatures below indicate that we have read and discussed the handbook for the South Star Choir. We are aware of all South Star Choir policies and agree to follow them. We agree to uphold the policies stated and continue to strive for the level of excellence that is expected for the group to maintain.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_