

August 24, 2007

Dear Parents and Honor Program Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your student to the Governor's Ranch Honor Choir Program (HCP). Governor's Ranch has traditionally been the home of exciting musical opportunities and fine arts programs. I am excited about the new school year and as a member of HCP, you are participating in a team of excellence in performance and leadership. Ensemble singing is unique and rewarding as we work each week to development our voices and learn to listen and blend as a team. We already have so many wonderful students in our choir and we hope that you will join us. I am always excited to hear the abundance of talent at GRE and it is great to have so many wonderful male voices in our school.

GRE Singers ensemble is open to **ALL 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students** and each student is asked to read and sign the following commitment sheet for the purpose of building accountability and a responsible attitude. The commitment form should be signed and returned by the second rehearsal – September 18th. **Singers meet on Tuesdays from 2:45 until 3:45 p.m.** in the music room. **Our first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, September 11th.** The annual membership dues of \$25.00 should be turned in with your commitment form by September 18th as well (two payments of \$12.50 is an option if needed). If you have two or more students in choir, the dues are reduced. If that is your situation, please talk to me. We believe that the requested dues are practical and necessary. If the dues are a hardship for anyone, please contact me because our priority is to enable all students to participate and enjoy this opportunity. As you know, Singer rehearsals are weekly; therefore Singers are receiving vocal and performance training each week. The dues cover the cost of music, accompanist, music events, and a polo style school shirt which they will wear for all performances with khaki pants or skirt. If the student already has a choir shirt, the money is always spent on new music and other musical elements for our performance aspect. Singers will perform at the Columbine Area Choral Festival in April, 2009 (check the music website throughout the year).

Families, please plan to join the choir for a **potluck and evening of caroling on Friday, December 14th** after school. I am **looking for parents to help** coordinate this family event and the end-of-the-year Pizza Party. Please call me if you can help. I desperately need a couple of parents to be the choir parent's support and liazon. Let me know if you can help. We would like to coordinate a couple of events around the holiday but I must have help to do this. I believe that together, the GRE Honor Choir Program can continue setting excellent standards for our school and community. Please call me at 303-982-5165 if you can assist. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please contact me by phone (982-5165) or email – sescoe@jeffco.k12.co.us. **Beginning in September, please check the music website for upcoming events, rehearsal information, and performance details.** Thank you and I look forward to the year ahead.

'Sing'cerely,

Sylvia Escoe
Vocal Music

AFTER READING THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE IT TO SHOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE WITH THE HONOR CHOIR PROGRAM COMMITMENT. PLEASE RETURN BY THE FIRST REHEARSAL, SEPTEMBER 11TH. RETURN THE FORM AND DUES BY SEPTEMBER 18TH.

PHILOSOPHY: GRE Singers represents an attitude and philosophy of excellence – in musicianship, performance, and character – and of service to our student body and community. Singers should seek to grow in their musical skills, relationships in the ensemble, and in their role as a GRE student.

PURPOSE: We seek to learn and perform music that is culturally rich, expressive, and diverse. Our ultimate purpose is to give our best effort to reaching a high level of excellence as we perform for and represent our school and community.

ENSEMBLE EXPECTATIONS: (Students please initial on each line)

____ 100% ATTENDANCE POLICY to all rehearsals and performances unless excused by director. Excused absences are for sickness and family emergency. Other situations should be discussed between parent and director. Tardies and absences should be reported beforehand, if possible (303-982-5165). Absence is unexcused if parent does not contact me. **BE THERE EVERY TIME, ON TIME!!! PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS SO THAT THEY DO NOT AFFECT OUR REHEARSAL TIME. THANK YOU.**

____ Each singer is responsible for learning the music and preparing for performance. **I will be ready to work, on time, every time.**

____ Rehearsals begin every Tuesday afternoon promptly at 2:45 p.m. and will end at 3:45 p.m. Singers should be in their assigned position ready to stretch and breathe. I ALLOW FIVE MINUTES FOR SNACK, BREATHE AND POTTY BEFORE WE BEGIN. Please plan snacks that do not dry the vocal cords. Sign the roll chart as you enter. **Bring good energy!!**

____ If a student is unable to sing for health reasons but he/she is able to attend school, he/she will sit to the side and “mark” the rehearsal (i.e. take note and listen) so that he/she is informed and prepared. Students may not sit out of a rehearsal time unless I have received a call from the parent. If the student must sit out and I see that that is necessary, I will give the parent a call following the rehearsal to make sure that parents are informed about their illness. Eat healthy and get proper rest!!!!

____ **MORE THAN ANYTHING, SINGERS MUST HAVE FUN AND GET EXCITED ABOUT MUSIC AND THEIR MUSICAL TEAM!!**

PARENT & STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I have read the above and I commit myself to being responsible in representing our philosophy, purpose, and expectations with my very best effort and care.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

If possible, I need the following: Ph # _____ Email _____

***Please include a check, cash, or money order for \$25.00 for the 2007-08 dues. You may make a September payment and a January payment of \$12.50 if you prefer. If assistance is needed, contact me at 303-982-5165 or email at sescoe@jeffco.k12.co.us.**

