

# SFHS SHOW CHOIR AUDITION PACKET

## 2019-2020

Dear Show Choir Auditionee,

Thank you for your interest in the Bridge Street Singers and Prima Voce Show Choirs! We have an exciting and award-winning tradition of show choir at St. Francis High School and we are thrilled that you are choosing to become a part of it. Before auditioning, read through this entire packet and share with your parents. The following information is as accurate as it can be at this point, but it is subject to change.

Should you choose to audition, return the signature page/student statement page at the back of this packet at your audition. A return of these items is a representation of your commitment to the following:

### 1) **TIME COMMITMENT-**

Bridge Street Singers (BSS) and Prima Voce (PV) will meet twice a week outside of the school day on Mondays and Thursdays (PV from 4-6pm and BSS from 6-8pm). There will also be some additional choreography retreats and rehearsals scattered throughout the year, depending on clinician dates and program needs. You will receive a preliminary schedule of rehearsals, retreats, and performances at the mandatory student/parent info meeting at the end of May (exact date and time will be communicated with the posted rosters after auditions). Part of the commitment for these groups this year will mean returning to rehearse at the end of winter break (Jan 1st or 2nd) for mandatory, final dress rehearsals.

It is imperative that you attend all rehearsals and retreats. We cover a LOT of material during EVERY rehearsal, and you miss a lot if you are not able to be in attendance. We expect that you make every effort to attend all rehearsals/retreats. Should an emergency come up that might prevent you from being on time or attending in general, contact your director ASAP ... before the rehearsal. Absences from rehearsals could result in blocking changes or removal from part or all of the set.

Another requirement of participation in a SFHS show choir is enrollment in one of the SFHS curricular choirs. If you are not currently signed up to take choir next year, but would like to add it back in, not a problem! See Mr. Telschow for an “add choir” form, it’s easy!!

## 2) COMPETITIONS-

Competitions are a big part of the Show Choir program. These occur on 5 or 6 Saturdays during the months of January, February and March. BSS will likely compete at 6 competitions, and PV at 5 competitions. We plan to have each group compete out of state, which means that there will likely be hotel stays the night before one or more of these competitions.

## 3) COST COMMITMENT-

Like any extracurricular activity, there is a cost for show choir that must be paid or fundraised in order to participate. Our show choirs are essentially self-funded, meaning the fees paid go directly toward the expenses incurred for travel (school busses, coach buses, hotels), costumes, shoes, music licensing and arrangements, choreographer and director staffing, competition entrance fees, retreat meals provided, etc.

The all-inclusive fees for next year’s groups will be \$1,100 for Bridge Street Singers and \$1,000 for Prima Voce. These amounts cover all student costs, with the possible exception of a few one-time purchases such as undergarments and make-up (girls only). When all of the costs for each student are added up, the actual cost per student is much higher!! The Choir Boosters supplement these costs to keep the individual commitment as low as possible. **Know that it is our goal to make participation in show choir a possibility for all students!**

To that end, the Choir Boosters will be sponsoring and organizing the following fundraisers to offer opportunity to lower individual fees for students that choose to participate:

**Community Discount Cards: Sell 20 and knock off \$200 of your fees!**

**Summer Car Wash: Sell 10 and knock off \$50 of your fees!**

Participating in each of these opportunities **lowers your fees by \$250, easily!** In other words, if you participate in these fundraisers, fees for BSS become \$850 and fees for Prima become \$750. Should you choose not to participate, simply bring in the cash for the amount and count it as one of your payments.

There will be additional fundraisers that you may also participate in. One that is ongoing, and a GREAT opportunity, is called "Achieving Dreams." This is a fundraiser outside of SFHS that is ongoing and is a way to work events in the cities and earn money (for however many people work) to offset show choir fees. You make a lot of money for each shift you do, and they are actually fun activities! Go to [www.acheivingdreamsmn.org](http://www.acheivingdreamsmn.org) to learn more.

A payment schedule will be handed out at our first meeting in late May (exact date TBD) but know that we do not expect all of your fees to be paid up front. Payments will be spread out in monthly increments to allow you to spread out the cost or participate in fundraiser if you choose.

This year, please note that we will need to have payment "checkpoints" for continued eligibility in our program. This will help us to ensure that we are able to make our needed payments to our outside vendors on time. More info on this will be explained at our meeting in May.

*We do not want money to be a factor in your decision to participate in show choir or not. Please talk to Mr. Telschow with any questions or concerns, and help us to help you by communicating any needs.*

#### **4) COSTUME RETURN -**

We will be asking you to return some of your costumes at the conclusion of the season. As in most sports and activities, retaining costumes to re-use or sell will help the longevity of the program and will allow us to keep costs at a minimum for this year as well as in future years. Specific return details will be shared at the conclusion of the season.

## 5) **ATTITUDE-**

If you don't like singing, dancing and working hard at EVERY rehearsal, **DON'T AUDITION!** If you like all of the above, you will have an incredible time with an outstanding group of people. Many people find their best friends in these groups. Show choir is hard work, as well as a ton of fun!!

## 6) **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES-**

**This is also a big commitment for parents!** Parents of BSS and PV become members of the St. Francis Choir Booster Club. They help support the choirs financially through fundraising activities. Parents are asked to volunteer for several events throughout the year. In order for this program to be successful, we need all parents/guardians to become involved. Parents are asked to help at concerts, set building, competition supervising, fundraising assistance, etc. We also ask that parents come to our local and out of town competitions to provide support and assistance for BSS and PV. More information about this will be explained at the parent meeting in May.

## **The audition process is as follows:**

- 1) Sign up for an audition time with five of your friends (auditions will be held in groups of 6) on the sheet inside the choir room. Audition times will be in 10-minute slots but plan to come early to turn in your forms and get settled before your audition. There will be current members here to help you run through the audition material so you feel great before walking in the door.
- 2) Share the information in this packet with your parents. Then complete the student parent consent page and show choir statement page. Return these pages at the time of your audition.
- 3) Prepare the vocal excerpt of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in your preferred key. You will sing this a cappella (without accompaniment).
- 4) Learn the choreography excerpt. This year, you will learn the choreography to the chorus of "Brand New Day," from this year's set. There are practice sessions held after school each day the week of May 6th and there will be people to help you learn. Additionally, there are links to choreography videos posted on our choir website ([www.stfrancischoirs.org](http://www.stfrancischoirs.org)).
- 5) **Show up early for your audition, being prepared and feeling good! Stop in at the welcome table to check in and turn in your forms, then practice with your friends and student helpers before you go in. Remember that everyone wants you to succeed, so do your best!**

*(Return this page at audition)*

**Parents:**

**Please only sign this sheet after you have read the entire packet. It is very important that you understand what your child is auditioning for, as well as what we are asking of you as a parent.**

(Please keep the previous pages of this packet for your records.)

The following form must accompany your child to the choir room on the day of auditions. **Your son/daughter will not be eligible for a group until this form has been completed and returned.**

By signing this form, you commit to the expectations as outlined in this packet. As a parent/guardian you agree to support your child's efforts and your director's efforts to make this group successful. In addition, you agree to be an active Booster member and participate in the activities as outlined above. You also agree to the financial commitment either in payments or fundraising efforts (please see the financial section earlier in the packet).

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(This page intentionally left blank)*

*(Return this page at audition)*

## Show Choir Statement

(print your name): \_\_\_\_\_

One of the deciding elements for admittance into the show choir program this year will be your Show Choir Statement. We want to know, in well written paragraph(s), why you want to be a part of one of these ensembles. Include what strengths you feel you will bring to the group. We only need a paragraph, so make every sentence count!

**Please type or print clearly!**