



Homestead High School Show Choirs
4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814
260-431-2200

March, 2023

Dear Students and Parents:

Thank you for your interest in the Homestead Show Choirs. The first step in planning for an award-winning 2023-2024 show choir season starts this month. Homestead has two show choirs that meet both during the school day and after school: Class Royale, comprised of boys and girls in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, and Elite, comprised of only girls in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. No previous choir experience is necessary. Auditions will consist of both a singing and dancing portion. Please be aware that auditioning for a choir does not guarantee placement in a HHS choir.

Auditions for the 2023-2024 Homestead High School Class Royale and Elite show choirs will be held in the HHS choir room on: **Wednesday, March 29th, beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

This will be the only opportunity to audition, so please plan accordingly.

To assist in preparation for the audition, vocal/choreography workshops will be held on the following days:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday, March 20 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm |
| Tuesday, March 21 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 22 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm |

Students – you may come to as many or as few of these workshops as you feel is necessary for your adequate preparation. There is no set requirement. During the workshops the music parts and choreography sequence will be taught. We will videotape the choreography and make available online during the workshop week at no cost. Copies of the printed music will be available in the HHS choir office during any of the workshop times.

Attached you will find a packet of information regarding the audition process, a sample audition form, parent/student expectations, code of conduct, and a signature page. This entire packet has been reviewed and is district approved. We hope it clearly conveys what is expected of parents and each student in show choir, as well as outlines processes in place to ensure a successful year.

Current HHS show choir students who have any outstanding balance from the 2023-2024 school year **will not** be allowed to audition.

Participation costs for this year are \$1600. This includes but is not limited to our performance rights, costumes, personal/accessory items, trips, props, choreographers, music, and numerous incidental group expenses. This fee **does not** include the cost of any required shoes and/or makeup. There will be a \$75 fee towards the end of competition season for this.

The first payment will be at the time of auditions. If you are not placed in a choir, your check will be returned immediately.

| | |
|--|-------|
| <u>Payment Schedule:</u> March 29 | \$200 |
| June 1 | \$200 |
| July 1 | \$200 |
| August 1 | \$200 |
| Sept. 1 | \$200 |
| Oct 1 | \$200 |
| Nov 1 | \$200 |
| Dec 1 | \$200 |

All fees must be paid by December 1, 2023 for your child to remain a member of HHS Show Choirs. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact the director for financial assistance forms prior to the audition date. Homestead High School does not provide our choir program with any funding or reimbursements. We are responsible for raising/disbursing all money for this program.

Families can earn 100% of their fees by participating in fundraisers. At our May parent meeting, we will share information about individual fundraising opportunities: Persons of Note, Classic Showcase sponsorships, and Scrip. Any amounts earned prior to payments being due may be used to offset those payments. Some fundraisers will continue throughout the school year, enabling families to build “escrow” for their fees account. Remaining escrow monies at the end of the school year may be carried over to begin the following year; graduating senior families may choose to have their escrow balance refunded to them, or to make a donation to HHS Show Choir.

Additional family expectations:

- Work a minimum of five (5) fall athletic concessions (mid-August through end-October)
- Work a minimum of ten (10) hours at the Homestead Classic Showcase (Feb 2 and 3, 2024)
- Sell 6 tickets for Cabaret Night and volunteer a minimum of (2) hours

At auditions, it is MANDATORY that all students provide

- **the Signature Page (the last page of this packet) signed by both student and parent(s) and**
- **the first fee payment of \$200. Please make checks payable to Homestead Show Choir.**

Students without these items will not be allowed to participate in the auditions.

There are no exceptions to this requirement.

It is going to be an award-winning year for Homestead’s show choirs, and we are so pleased to have you become a part of the excitement. We sincerely look forward to your involvement! Rosters for the 2022-2023 Class Royale and Elite Show Choirs will be posted at the close of school on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Please plan to attend our **first meeting for all 2023-2024 show choir parents – Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.** and all subsequent meetings:

- Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm – kick-off the new year and receive Show Choir Handbook
- Monday, November 13 at 7:00 pm – prepare for competition season and welcome Anonymous Blue
- Saturday, January 20 (part of Tech Day) – kick-off the competition season; preview the shows
- Monday, February January 29 at 7:00 pm – Classic Showcase briefing

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding Homestead High School Show Choir and auditions, please contact Mr. Curtis Shaw at cshaw@sacs.k12.in.us.

Please keep this information for your reference.

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR
Class Royale and Elite
2023-2024 Parent/Student Expectations

In order to affect the most efficient use of your time and busy schedules, the following expectations are instituted. All parents and students are expected to abide by these expectations. They are based on the one encompassing rule, “Be Courteous” in everything you do and with everything you say.

Chaperone and Parent Volunteer Expectations

Supervision of students- As a performing group that travels extensively, supervision of students falls to all of us. To that end, adult volunteers serving as chaperones or other support staff of the choirs must take an active role in supervising all students. In the event that students are observed misbehaving while representing HHS on the grounds at school, on the bus or while traveling, in dressing rooms or homerooms while competing, or in hotels or restaurants, etc., please be reminded of your role to correct inappropriate conduct and to report such conduct immediately to Mr. Shaw. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to: Dress Code Violations, Physical Contact (PDA), Inappropriate language, etc.

Student Conduct, Rehearsal and Attendance Expectations

- 1) **Personal Conduct:** Acceptance into a Homestead High School Show Choir signifies a willingness on your part to adhere to the rehearsal and performance schedules and the expectations herein.
 - a) Experience indicates that all co-curricular and extracurricular students are held to high expectations. Homestead High School Show Choir operates according to the HHS Extracurricular/Co-curricular Participant Expectations, as detailed in the Student Handbook. Since the influence of students participating in extracurricular/co-curricular activities extends beyond the school campus, these participants assume additional responsibility for proper behavior and leadership. This responsibility requires that student Show Choir participants observe all rules of the Homestead High School discipline policy while off campus, during non-school hours, summer months, and other vacations or holidays, as well as during the school day, at school functions, and traveling to and from school or school functions. This responsibility applies to all participants in athletics, student organizations, teams, and elected offices. Therefore, if a student fails to live up to these expectations, they may not be permitted to continue participation in any extracurricular/co-curricular activities.
 - b) All district rules apply any time a student is in public representing Homestead High School. While at competitions or during any public appearance, you will be expected to act in a manner that demonstrates courtesy, common sense, and brings credit to yourself, the group, and Southwest Allen County Schools. Should anyone act in a manner that in any way reflects poorly on the group or the Southwest Allen County School District, discipline, including possible removal from the group, will result.
 - c) **Social Media-** Students using social media sites such as but not limited to Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, etc., to post or say disparaging things about student members of the choir, directors, parent volunteers, competing schools, or anyone associated with the Homestead Show Choir program may be removed from the competition group.
 - d) Courtesy to fellow members, our instrumental combo, audiences, guests, and the directors is of utmost importance and is the primary guideline for all actions. Courtesy manifests itself in conduct, adherence to rehearsal policies and schedules, language, and interaction with others.
 - e) It is expected that Show Choir students will extend this standard of excellence to their academic performance. If necessary, students will be offered academic assistance in keeping with Homestead High School’s Strategies for Student Success.
 - f) **Full Year Commitment:** Placement into a Homestead High School Show Choir is a **full year** commitment and responsibility. Not completing the year is not an option as it would inflict an unnecessary and unfair

hardship on the entire group. Unexcused absences from rehearsals, mandatory competitions, and performances may affect the student's grade.

- g) **Rehearsal and Performance Expectations:** Show Choir is a rewarding and time-consuming commitment and is unlike most commitments that you will make at the high school level. It is a group effort where everyone must depend on everyone else to be present, to sing, to dance, and to raise funds. When a student is absent it impacts the entire group's performance in loss of vocal sound. Spacing is also affected with the vacancies in the area of staging. The student's partner will be required to dance their choreography alone – choreography that is designed to be danced with a partner – making it much more difficult.
- a. Students must be on time at every rehearsal. Please arrive in the classroom early and be standing in the rehearsal/performance room, ready to begin warm-up, at the called rehearsal/performance time. Please do not wait to be prompted to begin warm-up. Roll call will begin at the called time. Extra time will be added to the end of rehearsal for the entire group in proportion to the time students are tardy. Do not cause the rehearsal to be delayed or have your partner dance alone. If you are late, inform the director as to why immediately upon your arrival.
 - b. Have your folder, music, pencil, and personal water bottle at every designated rehearsal. Music that is lost must be paid for at the current replacement cost plus shipping and handling.
 - c. Please be attentive and silent while anyone else is talking and when a stop or pause is called by the director or choreographer. Listen to the corrections/suggestions by the director/choreographer first and correct that area of concern by singing or dancing, then ask your appropriate question(s) or make your suggestion(s). Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before making any comments. Failure to do so may result in the student being sent home immediately from rehearsal and being placed on the next step of the Discipline Ladder (see Discipline/Consequences below).
 - d. Excused absences (other than absence from school due to illness) must be handled on an individual basis with the director. Please arrange all work or personal appointments (doctor appointments, teacher conferences, test make-up dates, family errands, etc) outside of your choir's scheduled rehearsal time. If a student is absent from vocal and/or choreography rehearsal(s), their performance/competition participation will be at the discretion of the director. Absences without written parental explanation will be considered "unexcused". Unexcused absences may affect the student's grade and may affect his/her position on stage and his/her participation within the group. These expectations are necessary for proper preparation of the group.
 - e. Please request **permission** to miss a rehearsal in an email to Mr. Shaw at least TWO FULL DAYS before any conflict. Personally give the request to the director and be available for discussion. **No exceptions!!** In emergencies you may notify the director the day after the absence. Permission to miss a rehearsal is not granted until the student or parent has discussed the absence with the director. If you have not requested permission two full days ahead of time, you must be at the rehearsal.
 - f. Please notify your teachers of any Homestead High School Show Choir conflicts with their classes as soon as they are scheduled. Inform them that the activities are district approved and offer to do make-up work in advance. Do not use Show Choir or Show Choir commitments as an excuse for missing other obligations, especially academic assignments. If you have a concern, please see the director.
- h) **Voice lessons** are strongly recommended for ALL students. A list of qualified area voice teachers is available in the choir office.

Competitions/Concerts

- 1) Attendance at all performances and competitions is MANDATORY. Grades will be affected if a performance or competition is missed. A tentative performance calendar will be available in August.

- 2) Concerts will include
 - Fall Concert – Wednesday, October 11, 2023
 - Holiday Concert – Wednesday, December 13, 2023
 - Spectacular (Elite) – Thursday, May 16, 2024
 - Gala (Class Royale) – Friday, May 17, 2024
- 3) Show Choir competitions occur on Saturdays, January through March. All students will be expected to travel as a group.
- 4) Homestead Show Choir will host our own competition, “Homestead Classic Showcase” February 2 and 3, 2024. See the parent involvement section for further details.
- 5) An ISSMA organizational contest will take place in April.
- 6) Additional community or school performances may be scheduled throughout the year. Students will be notified of all performances in advance and should accordingly work ahead in their school work, request adjustments in work schedules, and be willing to adjust other outside commitments **FOR ALL PERFORMANCES**.

Attire/Costumes/Personal Appearance

Please wear appropriate clothing for all rehearsals, especially shoes. You will be moving with partners, turning, jumping, etc. Be comfortable and use good judgment. Students will have time after school to change in the choir dressing rooms. No sandals or bare feet will be allowed at any time. Hats or head coverings must be in accordance with the Homestead High School dress code, or as allowed by the director.

1. Please take your costume home after each performance or show. The music suite is not a costume storage area. Please take your garments out of their garment bag and care for your costumes according to the “Costume Care” directions provided by the Costume Committee.
 - a) When traveling for competitions and performances, students are expected to be appropriately attired at all times. As announced by the director this may include full costume or travel attire.
 - b) Designated Show Choir approved make-up will be required of all students at all performances and competitions.
 - c) Any lost or destroyed costume items will be replaced at the student’s expense accordingly.
2. The wearing of body-piercing or facial hair is not allowed during performances and the length/style of head-hair during competition season will be at the total discretion of the director so as to not deter from the performance and/or judging. The director will decide on girl’s hairstyles. The director’s decision in each of these matters is FINAL, no exceptions.

Discipline/Consequences

Violations of guidelines and expectations may affect the student’s position on stage, eligibility for solos, and class grade.

Depending on severity of the conduct (violations which are severe in nature may merit immediate removal from the choir)

- ✓ 1st violation: student has conference with director and parents are called.
- ✓ 2nd violation: student is sent home immediately from rehearsal and a meeting with parents and director is set (student may or may not be present at the discretion of the director).
- ✓ 3rd violation: student is sent home immediately from rehearsal and placed on probation.
- ✓ 4th violation: student faces possible removal from the group.

Parent Involvement

The success of Show Choir is dependent upon parental involvement in committees and subcommittees that assist each group throughout the year.

1. These committees include but are not limited to: Costume; Spirit; Backstage/“Wing Nuts”; Fundraising; Music Boosters; Athletic Concessions; Trip Planning; Show Choir Clinic; Chaperones; The Homestead Classic Showcase Invitational; Cabaret Night.
2. These committees will begin to form at the August parent meeting. Parents must commit to regular attendance at all Show Choir parent meetings and to assist in all the various group fundraisers throughout the year. At a minimum, families will be required to:
 - work a minimum of ten (10) hours at the Homestead Classic Showcase
 - work a minimum of five (5) fall athletic concessions
 - sell 6 tickets for Cabaret Night and volunteer a minimum of (2) hours.

These activities are required of all families, as they allow us to be able to fund Show Choir.

3. Please feel free to see the director during office hours (Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. and Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) if you have a matter of importance to discuss. Please make an appointment in advance. Constructive criticism of the operation of the group is healthy and desirable. Such criticism is welcomed and should be conveyed to the director privately. Destructive and/or unprofessional criticism is neither courteous nor acceptable. Parents are expected to discuss all concerns first and foremost with the director in an appropriate time and place. If a parent feels the concern is not being addressed by the director, they are to speak with the parent advisory board president next.

Student Fees

1. **The fee for the 2023-2024 Homestead High School Show Choirs will be \$1600.** The fees differ due to the higher number of accessory items required by the girls. The show choir fee includes but is not limited to costumes, personal/accessory items, trips, props, choreographers, music, and numerous incidental group expenses. This amount does not include the cost of shoes (if needed) and/or makeup. You will be billed separately if shoes and/or makeup are needed by your student. There will be a \$75 fee towards the end of competition season for this.
2. Families will also be required to sell 6 tickets for Cabaret Night.
3. Depending upon SACS transportation needs, an additional travel expense of \$30.00 may be necessary in the fall.

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6. Should a student drop out of Show Choir on or before the last day of the first nine weeks, one-third of the fees will be refunded. **No refunds will be issued to any students past this date.**

We want every student to have a very positive experience during their high school years, so please consider fully all the information provided before making this commitment. Please feel free to contact Mr. Curtis Shaw at cshaw@sacs.k12.in.us if you have any additional questions.

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR 2023-2024 Audition Information

1. You must submit a completed **2023-2024 Signature Page** (located on the last page of the Student/Parent Expectations document) along with your first payment (\$200 for boys, \$200 for girls) on or before the audition day, Wednesday, March 29. Auditions will begin at 3:00 pm. You will not be allowed to audition without these items.
2. The audition will consist of Singing and Choreography together. You will be given audition sheets to complete. Please complete the forms accurately and completely and bring to your audition.
3. You will be scored on the three parts listed in #2 above. In addition, a most important component of your score is ***“attitude & conduct”***. This component will be/has been determined by your conduct and attitude throughout the year(s). For the current eighth graders, your choir director or counselor will be contacted for their input into this component.
4. Audition in SATB groups of four. You may choose your group if you desire. Students may sing/dance in more than one group but only their initial appearance will be judged and scored. Feel free to put together your group of four (SATB) prior to your audition; this is not a requirement or a necessity. Do what will make you the most at ease so you can do your best.
5. Come to as many choreography rehearsals as you feel necessary: Mar. 20-22 (Monday-Wednesday), 5:00-7:00 pm.
6. Your attire, make-up, hair, etc. will have no bearing on your score. Dress comfortably so you can sing and dance your very best.
7. The audition will last approximately three minutes total. This is your time to impress the judge(s). Be confident and poised. Smile, look the judge(s) in the eyes. Convince them you deserve their attention. If you make a mistake, continue on, don’t stop. Move and sing with a purpose and with confidence.
8. Audition results will be posted at Homestead High School, Summit Middle School, and Woodside Middle School on Thursday, March 30 at the close of the school day. The first Parent Meeting for all 2023-2024 show choir parents will take place Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm in Homestead’s Community Room.
9. **Participation costs for this year are \$1600.** This includes but is not limited to our: performance rights, costumes, personal/accessory items, trips, props, choreographers, music, and numerous incidental group

expenses. Families will also be responsible for 6 Cabaret Night tickets; details about Cabaret Night will be discussed at the beginning of the school year. This fee **does not** include the cost of any required shoes and/or makeup. There will be a \$75 fee towards the end of competition season for this.

The first payment will be at the time of auditions. If you are not placed in a choir, your check will be returned immediately.

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AUDITION # _____

PRINT NEATLY – TAKE

YOUR TIME

**HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR
Audition Form – 2023-2024**

Auditioning for: ___ Elite ___ Class Royale ___ Will Accept Placement in Either Choir

Group You are CURRENTLY In: (circle) Class Royale Elite Select Class Act None

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Voice Part _____ Current Grade 8 9 10 11

Father's Cell # _____ Mother's Cell # _____

Father's Name _____ Father's Work Phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Mother's Work Phone _____

Mother's Email _____ Father's Email _____

Student's Email _____ Current School (circle) Homestead Summit
Woodside

SINGING

Accuracy 1 2 3 4 5

Quality 1 2 3 4 5

Musicality 1 2 3 4 5

CHOREOGRAPHY

Accuracy 1 2 3 4 5

Stage Presence 1 2 3 4 5

CONDUCT

Attitude and Behavior 1 2 3 4 5

(8th grader's teachers will be called and polled)

(30 Points Possible) TOTAL SCORE _____

Please list all *Dance, Show Choir, and Music* experience. Also list specifically any and all possible conflicts with afternoon rehearsals on Mondays & Wednesdays (Elite) or Tuesdays & Thursdays (Class Royale), weekend performances, and over-night competitions (competition season includes all Saturdays early January – late March):

Signature Page

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the stated “Expectations” and “Code of Conduct”. I understand in accordance with school policy, failure to comply with the “Expectations” and “Code of Conduct” may result in disciplinary action up to and including my removal from the Show Choir program. I further commit my talents and efforts to making the HHS Show Choir season a success. Additionally, I understand that placement into a choir is not a guarantee. If I am not placed in a choir my first payment will be promptly returned to me.

Print Name (Student)

Signature (Student)

Date

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the stated “Expectations,” including payment deadlines and Fall Concessions, Homestead Classic Showcase, and Cabaret Night obligations. I understand failure to make payments in accordance with the program guidelines could ultimately result in my student being removed from the Show Choir program. Further, I understand that failure to pay all fees in accordance with the guidelines may result in my account being turned over to the Southwest Allen County School’s collection agency and/or attorney. I further understand I will be responsible for all costs associated with collection up to and including agency and attorney fees and court costs. Additionally, I understand that my student’s placement into a choir is not a guarantee. If my student is not placed into a choir the first payment will be promptly returned to me.

Print Name (Mother/Guardian)

Print Name (Father/Guardian)

Signature (Mother/Guardian)

Signature (Father/Guardian)

Date

Date

For Choral Director/Treasurer Use Only:

_____ Initial Payment Received
Amount: _____ Check Number: _____

_____ **Financial Assistance Requested – Application submitted.**