

14 August 2014

Dear EHS Chorus Families,

Welcome back to another school year! As you may know, things in chorus are a bit different this year, as we've added a new Men's Chorus. So that we're all on the same page, here's the breakdown of the different choirs in our program (all named in honor of the awesome and inventive Thomas Edison)...

Impact – Men's Chorus, *appx. 15 singers*

Incandescence – Women's Chorus, *appx. 45 singers*

Ingenuity – Advanced Women's Chorus, *appx. 30 singers*

Innovation – Advanced Mixed Chorus, *appx. 17 singers*

As we embark on another great school year, there are several things I'd like to make you aware of.

Everything is on the Website

Have a question? Need a form? Want to watch a concert recording? You will find what you're looking for at www.ehschorus.com.

The Edison High School Choral Guild

[Click here](#) to volunteer!

As a parent of a chorus student, you are a member of the EHS Choral Guild, the parent booster organization for our choirs. The Guild holds about 6 meetings over the course of the school year to plan and prepare for chorus events and fundraisers. Attending the meetings is a great way to stay up-to-date on what's going on in choir, get connected with other parents of chorus students, and help in the planning process for our events.

If you can't attend the meetings, there are other ways you can get involved. On the first day of class, I'll send a Parent Volunteer Form home with your student so that you can let me know in what ways you'll be willing to help this year. If you prefer, you can fill out the form online right now! Again – you can access the form by [clicking here](#).

There are a few key volunteer roles that need to be filled ASAP. Please let me know via email if you would be willing to do any of the following:

- **Co-chair Tag Day on September 13th**. This is a 2-year commitment, though the work really only lasts a couple days each year. You will learn the ropes this year from Wendy Lockard, who ran Tag Day last year, and next year you will show a new co-chair how to run it.
- **Chair the Uniform Committee**. You will be responsible for ordering new chorus uniforms and making sure each uniform is hemmed appropriately. This does not

mean you do the hemming yourself – you schedule a tailor/seamstress to do that job!

- **Chair the Retreat for Innovation on September 12th.** This will mainly involve providing a dinner for about 20 people.
- **Chair the Retreat for Ingenuity on September 26th.** This will mainly involve providing a dinner for about 35 people.

Class Fees

If you are new to EHS Chorus, I'd like to give you a heads-up that the class fees can total over \$150. The good news is that none of this cost *has* to be out-of-pocket; your student can pay the class fee through participating in our fundraisers throughout the year.

The largest portion of the class fee goes toward the uniform your student must purchase. Please note that the uniform must only be purchased ONCE – you will pay a significantly lower class fee in subsequent years (more like \$20). And if your student eventually outgrows their uniform, we can do a swap.

If your student qualifies for free or reduced meals, class fees are also free or reduced. In order to receive the lower rate, you must first apply for free and reduced meals (find the application [here](#)), and then submit the “Consent to Share” form (find a copy of it [here](#)).

Important Dates Coming Quickly

Since there are a couple important chorus events early in the school year, I wanted to let you know about them now so that you can plan accordingly. I've listed and described the upcoming events below. For more calendar details, visit www.ehschorus.com/calendar.

- **Innovation Retreat – Friday, September 12th**
- **Ingenuity Retreat – Friday, September 26th**

These retreats are required for all members of the advanced choirs. We will meet in the chorus room as soon as school dismisses and spend the rest of the day together doing various team-building activities and getting a head start on our literature for the year. Dinner will be provided. As a part of the retreat, we will sing the national anthem at a home football game and then stay to watch the game together. All singers must stay for the entire event.
- **Tag Day – Saturday, Sept. 13th**

Tag Day is a fundraising event in which all chorus students are expected to work at least one shift. On Tag Day, parent drivers bring small groups of students to area neighborhoods where the students sing a little jingle at each house and ask for donations. We will need many parent volunteers to drive our students around on this day. If you can volunteer for a driving shift, be sure to sign-up when you get that request via email.

Permission forms for Tag Day will be posted at www.ehschorus.com and will also be sent home on the first day of class; they should be returned on the second day of class. Students can select which shift to work, or can work all three shifts, starting at 9:00 am and ending around 5:00 pm. Money earned at Tag Day directly benefits the students who work the event, and can be used toward class fees or any other chorus-related expenses. Parent drivers also earn money toward their students' accounts. Last year, each participant earned about \$25/shift!

Maternity Leave

I am due to have a baby around Thanksgiving, and will be on maternity leave for all of December and for some (undetermined) amount of time into the new year. We have not hired a substitute yet, but I will let you know when that decision is made. I'm committed to doing my best to give your students the best choral experience they can have, even if I'm not in the classroom!

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year of making great music with your students. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

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