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From: **Greg Hebert** <ghebert@tuhsd.k12.az.us>

Date: Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 4:31 PM

Subject: Welcome to CDS Choir 2020-2021

To: Greg Hebert <ghebert@tuhsd.k12.az.us>, Andrew DeValk <adevalk@tuhsd.k12.az.us>

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to have your student/s at CDS to be a part of the Choir Family. Please look for more incoming and new information this week, and on the choir website www.cdschoir.com.

Many of you may be wondering things like..."WHAT IS GOING ON???"

Well, we would like to put you at some ease in terms of what it will look like for your son/daughter in the choir program.

Choir is as much of a social and family oriented program as it is curricular. The goal is (and always has been) to teach students about music, performance, community/family, appreciation for the arts, and foster confidence in a nurturing and challenging environment where they can grow and feel comfortable in themselves. Music performance is "the great unifier!" In these trying times, these kids need this class **more than ever!**

So....what does this all mean?

Corona Del Sol will start on August 3 and will be live streamed online until we go back in person. ***If you are still uncomfortable in having your child come back to school when the in person option becomes available, no worries; your child can continue in all of the classes at CDS online until you deem it appropriate/necessary through the same live streamed online process.***

Next....WHAT WILL CHOIR DO??

1. This will **not** be like last semester at all. Students will be accountable for attendance by logging in at the appropriate time. While online, and just like in person, attendance is the biggest part of the grade for choir (translation...the easiest). However, if there is a medical concern, there will be make-up opportunities available. :)

2. Class will be normal (well, whatever that is anymore). While online, students will be standing, stretching, physically using solfege (do, re, mi) hand signs, sight-reading, and...wait for it...SINGING!!! There will be some written assignments through Schoology, but most of the class will be centered around singing. Music will be sent home through pdf files on Schoology, and students will be learning the music to do concerts.

3. How will choir concerts look? Well....hmmmm....you kinda got us. But, below is what we plan to do (however, you can't completely hold us accountable to any live/in-person options until we get more clarification, direction, and decisions from the powers that be):

- 1st Quarter: Each choir will learn 3-4 songs and we will record one of them virtually for an online performance. This online performance will include some solos (more information on that to follow).
- 2nd Quarter: Each choir will learn 3-4 NEW songs and (in terms of performance) will do the same as 1st quarter; but, if back in person, will do socially distanced recorded or live concerts with obvious appropriate in person protocol.
- 3rd/4th Quarters: Who knows....BUT....if we are closer to normal and in person, we will focus on spring and pops concerts. If we can only do ONE live concert in the spring, the emphasis will be on a POPS concert. This year's theme is "The History of Rock-n-Roll!"

4. Choir Council will still be on Friday afternoons 3pm-4pm, through Zoom. Applications for Bella Voce/6th hour Choir 1-2 and Novum/7th hour Choir 1-2 will be available online in the next few weeks.

5. After school help will be available through google meets, and there will be after school options for small group rehearsals, theory lessons, help with regional solos, etc.

6. Part tracks will be available to help learn music. However, we will go over lots on notes in class.

7. Letter Points will still be a thing. Look for updated information at www.cdschoir.com in the coming weeks for more details.

8. We will have applications for stage crew as soon as we receive more clarification on what live and/or recorded performances will look like.

9. CDS Choir Masks will be available for purchase in the next few weeks for \$10.

10. CDS Choir T-Shirts and Council shirts will be available in the next couple of weeks, and more details coming soon.

11. Solstice will continue this year. Students Clara White (Solstice President) and Alex Williams (Music Director) will be sending out information once we get back to school.

12. Dawnette Brower cdschoirhelp@gmail.com will be our parent volunteer leader. We are always in need of parental support. Please consider volunteering this year. :)

A formal letter will be published at the end of this coming week with more details on topics such as: student travel, field trips, season tickets, fundraising, honor choirs, festivals, and any community gatherings.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your patience during this difficult time. Whatever your views may be about all of this, we are still a community that **stands strong** and will overcome this by working together.

Please don't hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

Greg Hebert (Choirs 1-2, 5-6, 7-8)

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Andrew DeValk (Choir 3-4)

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