

"Education...



through Entertainment..."

Sanford H. Calhoun High School Music Department

Calhoun Choral Program

Concert Choir/ Chorale/ "Crescendo"

1786 State Street, Merrick, NY 11566

S. Sardo, Director

www.ccp1.org

March 1, 2010

Dear Parents/Students:

The 'Music in the Parks' Tour is right around the corner. Plans are being finalized and the entire trip should go off without a hitch. The tour director has been in constant contact with me concerning our plans, and as of this date all is proceeding nicely. As we close in on the tour weekend, this letter will include a final itinerary, and directions to the competition site. Please remember that this itinerary is still subject to last-minute change.

Parents and students who have been involved with past tours should pay particular attention to this year's letters. There are many facets of this trip that make it unique.

All students and chaperones will be required to have a valid photo ID with them at all times.

Students should remember that they are each representing the Calhoun High School Choral Program. There are certain ground rules that must be followed in order to ensure a pleasant and productive weekend. Your cooperation and following of directions will help to set the tone for attendance at future spring tours. In the event that a student does not meet the program guidelines set by Music in the Parks, our hotel, Calhoun High School, or the staff/chaperones, that student will be sent home at his/her own expense. Parents will receive a phone call notifying them of the action to be taken. Of course, reasonable, positive, responsible conduct is required at all times, but especially when in the hotel. A good rule of thumb for students is this: you all know me pretty well by now. 'If you don't think I'd approve, don't even try it.'

A few parents have shared with me their plans to cheer us on in Virginia. While I am very happy about your involvement in this exciting weekend, please keep in mind that I am responsible for your child, as well as 75 other children. I would ask that you not stay at the same hotel as the group. In past years, we have had isolated incidents of parents 'trying to help', but in so doing, making my job more difficult. Your child is responsible for following all of the instructions given by me and the other chaperones. If you feel that this might cause a problem, please contact me prior to the tour.

All students are expected to participate in all scheduled activities. There are seven chaperones attending the festival to make sure all students are present at all activities and at mealtimes. NEVER GO ANYWHERE ALONE!!!! You cannot leave the boundaries given to you by me at any event-please pay close attention.

Quoting from the Music in the Parks director's manual: "The behavior of all students involved in Music in the Parks is a direct reflection on Educational Programs, Inc. as well as on their school and community..." Students, please remember that your parents have signed a tour contract, and you will be held accountable for your actions. I will, of course, strictly enforce the 'Music in the Parks' rules that prohibit alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and smoking during the festival weekend. I know I won't have to worry about these rules being followed, but they need to be stated.

It has been our experience that, while in Virginia, students should plan for many contrasting weather scenarios. While the temperature should range in the mid 60s/ low-mid 70s, a jacket should be packed, as well as rain gear. Also, the sun is more direct in Virginia Beach (on the Va.-N.

Carolina Border)- remember suntan lotion! Also, please remember that water quality varies from state to state, and since Nassau County has some of the purest water in the country, you may not be used to Virginia's water.

Many parents ask how much money students should bring with them. Well..., it depends. As the itinerary shows, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners are included with the festival. Students are responsible for the remainder of their meals. Also, souvenirs are in abundance. My suggestion would be for the student to ask classmates who were on a past Va. Beach tour how much they needed, and to augment it based on it being 2 years later.

As was mentioned in last month's letter, it is district policy to hold a mandatory parent-student-administrator meeting prior to any extended trip. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 6:00pm in the Vocal Room. All "Crescendo" and Concert Choir tour students must attend with at least 1 parent, or they will not be permitted to attend the tour.

The students have really put their preparation into high gear. "Crescendo" and the Concert Choir are definitely at that 'next level'. I truly believe that both groups will make their school and community very proud of them. (I'm already very proud of them.)

If you have any questions concerning any aspect of the festival please contact me at 516-992-1373 or via email: ssardo@ccp1.org.

Yours in Music,

Mr. Sanford Sardo
Director of Choral Activities
Calhoun Choral Program