

# RED LION AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT



THOMAS S. WISE  
*Director*

CHAD T. KEISER  
*Music Supervisor*

September 2018

Dear Parents:

This letter is being sent to those parents whose children will be eligible for our choral music program (Concert Choir, Mixed Chorus) at the senior high during the academic year of 2019-2020. Although next year seems far away, preparations need to be made at the present time. The following information should be of concern for all parents and students.

## **CONCERT CHOIR**

This choir is offered to those students with above-average ability and will be given the weight of 1.1 and a credit of 1.0 in the school course curriculum. This class will be offered five times per week during the normal school day and will be scheduled as a major subject by the administration. All interested students must audition for membership on a yearly basis, regardless of past membership. The advantages of being a Concert Choir member are many: 1) The advanced or above-average student will be confronted with music geared more toward his ability; 2) If the student practices, studies, and makes an effort to better himself and the choir, he can achieve a high evaluation; 3) A grade in choir carries as much weight as other course offerings; 4) An "activity" period allows a student to also serve in various other clubs such as band, student council, and other clubs which meet at this time; 5) The Concert Choir allows the student to form a positive aesthetic sensitivity toward choral music of various eras and cultures; 6) The student who has membership in the Concert Choir is provided with the opportunity and challenge of a concert tour in which the student may meet persons of other cultures and traditions not normally experienced in a classroom setting. Voice parts included in Concert Choir are Soprano I and II, Alto I and II, Tenor I and II, and Bass I and II. If your child is studying privately, Concert Choir is the perfect medium. Voice classes for all members will be held on a weekly rotating basis in which proper vocal techniques are taught. Concert Choir members may be in Mixed Chorus if they desire.

## **MIXED CHORUS**

This chorus is offered to those students not interested in Concert Choir or who have not been successful in auditioning for Concert Choir or who wish to be in chorus as an activity. Although this group is not considered part of the school course curriculum, it will be the student's homeroom assignment so that the student can stay current with various choral activities throughout the school year. Mixed Chorus is listed in the school "activity" offerings. This chorus will

(over)

rehearse once every other week during the "club" period. All persons interested in this must audition one time for membership. This audition usually occurs during eighth grade. Any student not successful in auditioning during eighth grade may again audition in a later year during school. Any student in this chorus cannot participate in any other school activity offered during "activity" period with the exception of Concert Band. This chorus will perform music of slightly lower level than that of the Concert Choir and is treated as a "training" chorus. Mixed Chorus will not tour in the magnitude of the Concert Choir, but local performances are possible.

### **AUDITIONS FOR VOCALISTS**

Students presently in Mixed Chorus who wish to be in Mixed Chorus next year must not re-audition. However, if they do not wish to be in the ensemble, they should contact the choral director immediately. In order that we can schedule students for Concert Choir next year, **all students who are currently at the senior high will need to audition the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. All students who are presently in 8th grade will be auditioned on January 3<sup>rd</sup> after school in the JHS Music Room. Senior High students will be scheduled for auditions during vocal classes or study halls. If the student is not interested, he need not report for an audition. His failure to attend will indicate his/her desire not to be part of the organization. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Junior High School's music room. Any 8th grader interested in Senior High chorus must sign up for a time and prepare the below-listed audition requirements.

### **Audition Requirements for Any Senior High Choir:**

1. ALL VOICES -
  - a. Sight-sing a short elementary melody (supplied by the director)
  - b. Prepare enclosed solo

Any student auditioning should prepare very conscientiously. If the student is taking private lessons, he should ask for guidance. Private lessons are not required but are highly recommended. Individual attention to the students' voices will surely yield positive vocal growth. If interested, all district music instructors have a list of private teachers' names. Any questions concerning auditions should be directed to the choral director.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Wise  
Choral Director