



PALENCIA
ELEMENTARY
PIRATES

Palencia Elementary School

Pirate Chorus Handbook

2015-2016

The purpose of this handbook is to inform you of the procedures and policies that will be followed by the Pirate Chorus members at Palencia Elementary School. Parents and students should be familiar with this handbook; many commonly asked questions are answered here. Please check it first when you have questions.

SECTION I

PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE AND ATTIRE

Students will wear the outfit appropriate for the performance as indicated by Mrs. Dowdie. If a student is not in complete compliance with the rules regarding the outfit, accessories, and appearance, he/she will not be allowed to participate in that performance. Parents should make sure their singer has the full outfit together well in advance of when it is needed. If a portion of the outfit is discovered missing or damaged several days before a performance, there is more time to try to make repairs or find a replacement. Parents should also reinforce the rules for appearance/attire by performing a visual check of their child before he/she leaves the house. Showing up without part of the outfit will cause that singer to sit in the audience with a parent during the performance; please do not let that situation arise. In addition to teaching students to love music and performing, I'm trying to teach them responsibility and the importance of following directions.

Performance Attire

1. Girls:

- a. Pirate Chorus shirt, plain (solid) black pants and black belt if the pants have belt loops (NO JEANS), black closed-toe lace-up or slip-on shoes. Please wear appropriate undergarments. If your black shoes are sneakers, they cannot be "light-up" shoes. No high-heeled dress shoes, please. The students will be moving

and dancing and need to be safe on the risers.

- b. *Hair and make-up*: Girls should have hair pulled back from the face, without using any distracting hair accessories. No extreme haircuts, color or styles will be permitted – as a member of the “team”, your hair should not be a distraction from the performance. No stage make-up is necessary for regular performances and is discouraged. They are still children.
- c. *Accessories*: No bracelets, necklaces (unless they are small enough and long enough to be tucked inside the chorus shirt), and small stud earrings. No dangle or large earrings.

2. Boys:

- a. Pirate Chorus shirt, plain (solid) black pants and black belt if the pants have belt loops (NO JEANS), black closed-toe lace-up or slip-on shoes. If your black shoes are sneakers, they cannot be “light-up” shoes.
- b. *Hair*: Guys should have their hair cut and combed neatly and out of their eyes. No extreme haircuts, colors or styles will be permitted – as a member of the “team”, your hair should not be a distraction from the performance.

SECTION II

PIRATE CHORUS FAIR SHARE

A. Payments

Chorus members are requested to pay **\$35** which pays for our shirts, props, music and other materials. Please understand that there are expenses for the shirts and music that must be covered as soon as school starts. If you are unable to pay due to financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Dowdie; there are scholarships available for any student who would be denied participation due to an inability to pay.

B. What does this “Fair Share” cover?

This “Fair Share” covers the cost of the shirts, music, choreography, royalty fees, and any other expenses related to Pirate Chorus. Pirate Chorus shirts will be ordered for you by Mrs. Dowdie after registration in August. The outfit items paid for in your check include the Pirate Chorus shirt and add-ons for performances as necessary. You are responsible for black pants, black socks and shoes.

SECTION III

PERFORMANCES and REHEARSALS

The main reason for participating in a group like Pirate Chorus is to perform for an audience.

- A. Family Concerts:** The Chorus performs twice a year, in the fall and in the spring, for our families. These dates will be given to you as soon as they are finalized.
- B. Student Concerts:** The Chorus will perform for PES students in the fall and spring; the concerts will be the same programs as the ones performed for our families.
- C. Community Concerts:** Instilling a sense of community in our children is important. Therefore, Pirate Chorus will perform at some community events throughout the year, when possible.
- D. Performance Attendance:** PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE BY MRS. DOWDIE! Please understand that performances are set with all of our school's activities (as well as the district's calendar) in mind and are therefore planned with multiple factors taken into consideration. Should there be a conflict with a concert date, try to make the necessary adjustments to be at our performance. Pirate Chorus is a school-related organization. Participation in Pirate Chorus is expected to take precedence over non-school-related activities. Students are required to stay for the entire duration of any event in which our participation is only a part of the event, unless told otherwise by Mrs. Dowdie, since being a good audience member is as important as other facets of chorus participation.
- E. Rehearsal Attendance:** Regular rehearsals take place on Wednesdays after school and will last until 3:00pm. Students **MUST** be picked up at that time in the front of the school, released to the Extended Day program, or exit school as a biker/walker. **Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory and records are kept of attendance.** Should an **emergency** arise which prevents a student from attending, notify Mrs. Dowdie immediately. Prior to major performances, we will try to rehearse at the school on the stage so members can get used to performing on the risers.

SECTION IV COMMUNICATION

The Pirate Chorus will encourage non-traditional communication methods, in accordance with Palencia Elementary School's environmental policies.

Students will be given a "group code" and sign-in instructions for Edmodo.com. Edmodo is a kid-friendly, school district approved social networking site that teachers may use to communicate with students. The postings are monitored by the teacher. Using Edmodo will allow us to rely less on traditional methods (paper memos, CDs of music, etc.) while encouraging students to interact with the other members in a positive, ecologically-friendly way. For direct communication with parents and guardians, e-mails will be sent to the address you provide. If you do not have access to the internet in your home, please notify Mrs. Dowdie so that she can have the traditional supplies available for you when information and music are distributed.

Contacting Mrs. Dowdie: If a sudden illness or other emergency prevents a singer from attending a concert or rehearsal, please notify me immediately either by e-mail dowdiek@stjohns.k12.fl.us or by phone 904-669-0467. I have unlimited texting and calls, so contacting me through my cell phone is not going to be a burden to me. I may not answer (for example, if I am in class) but will return your message as soon as I am able.

SECTION V DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

All of us are LEADERS and leaders take responsibility for their own actions. In rare instances, disciplinary measures may have to be taken which may result in permanent dismissal from Pirate Chorus. These instances include, but are not limited to:

A. Repeated absences from rehearsals and/or performances.

Students who miss more than TWO rehearsals in a semester

may be asked to leave the group.

B. Accrual of school discipline referrals.

Students who have two or more discipline referrals may be asked to leave the group.

C. Disrespect towards the director or other members.

Students who are consistently disrespectful towards the director or other members may be dismissed from Pirate Chorus; this includes interactions outside of rehearsals and performances. The chorus is a family. We must treat each other kindly and be encouraging.

D. Poor rehearsal work ethic.

Students who talk or give little effort during rehearsals may be dismissed from Pirate Chorus. We only have 1 hour a week to learn our music and choreography. This is impossible to do if students are not working hard and collaboratively. **We will use the “Three Strikes and You’re Out” policy.**

SECTION VI

PIRATE MUSIC BOOSTERS

All Pirate Chorus parents are considered to be part of the Pirate Music Boosters. Throughout the school year your help will be needed with sizing for shirts and costumes, assisting during rehearsals and/or field trips, providing snacks for after-school rehearsals, managing fundraisers, etc. You must be an approved St. Johns County School District volunteer in order to volunteer or travel with the students – if you have not yet done so, please go to the school district website (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us) and follow the links to complete your volunteer application as soon as possible.