

Preble High School

Show Choir Audition Packet

CENTERSTAGE
Pendezvous

Dear Show Choir Auditionee,

Thank you for your interest in the Preble High School Show Choirs. We admire your willingness to audition. You never achieve anything in life unless you are willing to take a chance on yourself. While obviously everyone who auditions will not be selected, the groups will be chosen from those willing to take the chance.

We have compiled as much information as we can in regards to the 2023-2024 season including, rehearsal and performance calendars, payment schedules, and other expectations as best we can with the facts we have available to us at this time.

Please make sure that you have read and understand all of the information included so that you can make an informed decision regarding your commitment to this organization.

We have all been adjusting to different situations and this process is modified as well. All auditions will be held virtually and our camps are looking like they will be held via online meeting this summer. We are moving ahead with purpose and counting on things returning to normalcy in the fall at some point. When they do, we want to be ready to move forward with a great season!

Please note that all audition forms are due at the time of auditions. We can promise you that if you make the commitment to perform with Center Stage or Rendezvous and take every opportunity to perform at your best, it will be an experience that you will never forget. We appreciate your enthusiasm and interest in auditioning for Preble High School Show Choir.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Tolksdorf

Included in this Packet:

- General information for auditions
- General membership information
- Potential Calendar Dates
- Attendance policy for members
- Parent/Guardian Expectations
- Audition application

Below is a brief description of each opportunity:

Center Stage, our Mixed Show Choir requiring an advanced level of vocal proficiency, dance technique and a vibrant performance personality. Many of these students are leaders in choir, school and community. They are involved in other school sports and activities and many take private voice lessons. Students should be willing to make the commitment necessary to attend all competitions, performances, camps and practices. Regular Center Stage practices begin November 21 and run through April 6 with rehearsals on Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Thursdays 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, our Intermediate Show Choir has won many awards over the past few years and has earned a reputation as top prep show choir in Wisconsin. Members of this group will be leaders in the curricular choral ensembles and many students take private voice lessons. Members of this group are willing to make the commitment necessary to attend all competitions, performances, camps and practices. Regular Rendezvous practices begin November 21 and run through April 6 with rehearsals on Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. Auditions for this group will occur simultaneously with the Center Stage auditions.

There are over 100 students involved in the program between singer/dancers and combo members. There over 150 students who audition for the right to be a member of the Preble Show Choirs. In order to respect everyone who auditions for the group we have spelled out with great detail the commitment needed for this group. Members of Preble performance ensembles will be given preference for membership in these groups.

To make all of this possible, we will need a commitment from every single member of Center Stage, Rendezvous and their parents/guardians. Please take some time as a family to examine the cost information and rehearsal/performance calendar carefully so that you know and understand the financial, as well as the time commitment you and your family will be expected to meet.

If auditioning for show choir you must be available for our Choreography Boot Camp and Mandatory dates.

Rendezvous Choreography Boot Camp with Jennifer Gulsvig – July
Center Stage Choreography Boot Camp with Ben Schrank – JULY 31, AUGUST 1, 2, 3

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Regular Rehearsals Start on Tuesday, November 21

Frequently asked Questions

What costs are associated with Show Choir?

All Students will pay for transportation to and from competitions, team dinners, bio boards. \$250 (est)

COSTUMING

Both groups will have a main outfit and a costume change. *All costumes will be for one year.* We try to control costs but the potential exists for pieces to be as much as the following:

Alto/Soprano – Center Stage

Primary Outfit/Secondary Outfit

Dance Brief/Bungee

(For first time performers)

T-Strap Dance Shoe, Nude

leotard, Earrings, make up

Potential Cost dependent on group and items purchased previously- \$275-\$325

Bass/Baritone – Center Stage

Primary Outfit/Blazer/Suit (2)

Shirts, Pans, Tie, Shoes

Rendezvous

Primary Outfit/Accent Piece

Shoes, undergarments, jewelry, etc.

Combo Outfits: Primary outfit \$85

Payment Schedule: \$150 at choreography camp remaining balance when known in Jan/Feb

Performers are responsible for other costs such as: nylons/tights, socks, belts, appropriate under garments, and any replacement of lost or damaged items. Dresses and Suits are custom made and once measurements are submitted the costs cannot be refunded.

There are other items that may be added to the season as the concept of the show is further developed. Billing statements will be released as soon as an initial cost is known. All student accounts must be in good standing in order to participate in the ensembles.

Fundraising: There are fundraising opportunities offered through the Preble Music department that put money into student accounts. This option is available to members of curricular ensembles at Preble.

Money from these accounts can be transferred to pay for various items throughout the student's years at Preble while enrolled in music classes.

Major Dates:

TBA – Team Bonding Event

JULY– Dance Camp – Rendezvous

JULY 31, AUGUST 1, 2, 3 – Dance Camp – Center Stage

November 21: Regular Weekly Rehearsals Begin

January 13: Burlington Chocolate City

January 27: New London Competition

February 3: DePere Let's Jam

February 10: TBD

March 10: Southwest Show Choir Competition

April : Cabaret (potential date April 5-6)

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

The following information is provided so that parents can make a fully informed decision when making a commitment to involvement in Preble Show Choir. While some of the information may seem harsh, it is intended to give our choirs the best possible experience.

Singer Membership – Center Stage and Rendezvous are extensions of the curricular choral offerings at Preble High School. These advanced show choirs require a high level of vocal proficiency acquired through participating in a choral ensemble. Successful students will be proficient in music theory, sight singing, ear training and vocal technique. Students should be willing to make the commitment necessary to attend all competitions, performances, camps and practices. Preference will be given to member of performance ensembles (band, choir, orchestra). Membership in these classes is highly encouraged and will only help to strengthen the group and make us better at competitions.

Combo Band Membership - The show choir bands are extensions of the curricular band offerings at Preble High School. The show choir bands are advanced offerings requiring an advanced level of proficiency gained through participating in an instrumental ensemble. Attendance at performances/competitions is required. Practices will be modified and concentrated in order to allow students to maximize their involvement in activities. Preference will be given to member of performance ensembles (band, choir, orchestra). Membership in these classes is highly encouraged and will only help to strengthen the group and make us better at competitions.

Show Choir Dance Camp Attendance - During the camps, we will focus primarily on choreography and transitional aspects of our competition show. At this time, all blocking and moving assignments will be given; therefore, any absence during camp will be extremely detrimental to the ensemble.

Only under extreme circumstances will members be excused from any portion of camp. If this situation should arise, it is up to the student to draw up a contract explaining a makeup plan, including a time line, and other students involved in teaching the makeup. The contract will be signed by all of the students involved, their parents and the directors. This will need to be taken care of at least 30 days prior to the camp. Rookies will not be excused from camp for any reason.

Absences – Please note that when you audition for a spot in our show choirs you are taking a spot on the team and literally a spot on the stage. When you are not present due to lack of planning on your part it impacts everyone on stage. (Illness or act of God is the exception.) We have no one “on the bench” to take your place. Students who are habitually absent will be removed from the group. If you do not make rehearsals prior to a competition you may not be able to perform with the group.

School Attendance and Performance/Rehearsal Eligibility - You must be in school all day in order to be eligible to perform in any performances that takes place on that same day. You must be at school for half of the day in order to rehearse with the group. The code of conduct details this policy. If you are sick from school, stay home and get better. Don't get the rest of us sick.

Academic eligibility – First and foremost your responsibility is to your grades. Students will need to sign a code of conduct form. It clearly states that a student with two F's cannot perform with the group until the grades are raised. Parents are encouraged to regularly check Infinite Campus to review student progress and get them off to a good start to the year. When Show Choir starts in December grade trends are well established. Directors will do what they can to assist students who are on the watch list. There are many students in Preble Show Choirs who are more than willing to help tutor a struggling student. Please do not be afraid to ask for help.

Rehearsal Attendance - All Center Stage and Rendezvous members are expected to make their commitment to their team a priority by attending all rehearsals, performances and competitions. All rehearsals are mandatory.

- a. Extended Illness or injury – In order to fully understand what is happening we require a note from a doctor detailing the nature of the injury, illness and what we should expect for participation from student and detailing any restrictions or accommodations that may be necessary.

An unexcused absence from rehearsal may result in a suspension from Preble Show Choirs for at least one competition or performance. Two unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the group.

- a. No one will be excused because of work or birthdays. Make sure you clear your work schedule in advance.
- b. Any absences, with the exception of emergencies, or illness that are not cleared with the directors at least two weeks in advance may be considered unexcused. Concerts, or other performances for Preble ensembles are exempt from this policy.
- c. Three times late will be considered an unexcused absence.
- d. 3 unexcused absences may result in the member being dismissed from the ensemble.
- d. **DRIVERS ED** will not be considered an excused absence. During a period from December to April the directors will make one attempt to modify the schedule so that Center Stage and Rendezvous rehearsals will be at uniform times on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow for a consistent open block for 3-4 weeks – this will happen in the month of February. If your eligibility to take the class does not align with this period you will need to wait until after the season or find a school that offers classes that fit within your show choir schedule.

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

1. Parent Involvement - The show choir members need your parental support. We need parent help with the PMP, fund raising, chaperoning and most importantly as fans. We hope that you will take an active role in supporting the Preble Family of Show Choirs.
2. Communication with Parents – The directors will do everything they can to communicate in a timely manner with the parents/guardians of our students. Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date with the directors. If you feel you have not heard from the directors and may be missing information please contact us directly or visit www.prebleshowchoirs.weebly.com to check for any updates.
3. Payments/Fees - Please be prompt with your payments. All payments can be dropped off at rehearsals or may be deposited in an envelope labeled “Show Choir Payment” in the PMP mailbox inside the choir room.
4. Volunteer Responsibilities – Parents/guardians are expected to be involved with the show choir and other elements of our music program at Preble School. **Every parent/guardian is expected to serve on a committee for Cabaret, our biggest fund raiser of the year.**

Additionally, parents/guardians are expected to volunteer in at least one of the following areas/events:

- Chaperoning for Competition
- food coordination
- set construction
- costume helper
- team and fan apparel
- Solo/Ensemble hosted by Preble PMP

Supporting your favorite choirs at competitions:

- a. Wear your Preble Show Choir Fanwear
- b. Sit in the first two rows for the performance
- c. And give them that positive feedback that they rely on receiving from you!