

Dear Chamber Singers & Madrigal Ensemble,

I have been busy making plans for a great school year. I am writing to let you know of some dates that are important for participation in Chamber Singers and Madrigal Ensemble. Our overnight retreat is on the calendar. This rehearsal/goal-setting/bonding time is very important to our development as a cohesive group. It is during this time that we begin to build and nurture the family atmosphere that I find to be integral to good music making and a fully enriching experience. We will begin the process of pulling together an outstanding and cohesive group. I expect that every effort will be made on your part to participate.

Here are the dates:

Madrigal Ensemble: Friday 9/1/17 12:00pm – Sunday 9/3/17 1:30pm

Chamber Singers: Sunday 9/3/17 8:00am – Tuesday 9/5/17 1:00pm

Each group will be spending two nights at Camp Whittle

31701 Rim of the World Dr, Fawnskin, CA 92333

Our time will be spent rehearsing, rehearsing, and rehearsing, with an intermingling of games, food, music listening, and reflection time. Each year, participants recount this weekend as the most meaningful and valuable time of the entire year.

What to bring:

- sleeping bag, blankets, pillows (bunk beds and mattress are provided)
- pajamas, appropriate for a school activity (if in doubt, think conservatively)
- toiletries, deodorant, medicine, etc (private showers are available and encouraged)
- towel (again, for the shower)
- a warm coat (for the evening around the campfire)
- tennis shoes (there will be some athletic activity)
- fresh change(s) of clothes incase you sweat (and you will)
- A chromatic pitch pipe, this is required for class, go ahead and get it early at your neighborhood music store or online
- pencil and 1/2” 3-ring binder/choir folder (choose your own color/design, not black)
- snack to share: TBD in class the first week of school

General Information:

- The choir room will be open before AM on Friday 9/1/17 for you to drop off all your stuff (Madrigal Ensemble).
- When we return to the school on Tuesday, all students are expected to help unload the bus and return items to the choir room (Chamber Singers).
- You will be excused from of 5th and 6th period on Friday (Madrigal Ensemble) and a half day on Tuesday (Chamber). You will come to the choir room during lunch to help get the bus packed up and loaded.
- Everyone is expected to help. This is a group effort.
- There is an enormous amount of expense (transportation, food, lodging, etc) that goes into this weekend that is absorbed by the steering committee because this is an essential part of our work as a choir. To help offset this cost just a little, we suggest a \$105 donation per student (Please make check payable to **SMAPA Samohi Vocal Music**).
- All meals are provided, but students bring snacks to pass around and enjoy “afterhours.”
- Please tell your parents they cannot park in the bus lane at 7th and Michigan when waiting to pick you up or drop you off.
- If you play guitar, ukulele, or otherwise, bring it along for the campfire!!
- Everything you need must fit into a small/medium duffle bag, no large suitcases necessary, or allowed!!

That should just about do it. Everything else we will wrap up during school. Section leaders should plan on a lunchtime meeting on the first day of school to help plan the weekend.

FYI Things Mr. Huls doesn't want to deal with or hear:

- “Do I have to come?” (yes, it has been years since I have had to deal with this question, but when a student did not attend in the past, they never really developed a sense of belonging to the group. In general, they missed out. If you don't WANT to come and be a part of this, these two advanced groups are NOT FOR YOU.
- “Do we really have to stay over night?” (yes)
- “Can my mom come and get me at night and bring me back in the morning?”(No)
- “I have piano lessons, can I come and then leave and come back?” (No)

The bottom line is that this is OUR time to be TOGETHER, you should WANT to be with us the entire time. When you aren't there, we are not an entire group. You miss out, and we miss out. It is expected that you will cancel/reschedule appointments etc.