



THE ENCORE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

2018-2019 Handbook

INCLUDES AUDITION INFORMATION

THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF
WITH THIS HANDBOOK BEFORE YOUR AUDITIONS.
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOU JOINING OUR TEAM!



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A WORD OF WELCOME

Welcome to the Encore Entertainment Company, Medina High School's show choir and consistently one of the top high school show choirs in the state of Ohio. The choral music department at MHS has experienced many years of creative, outstanding performance with all of its choirs, and, with your efforts, this year will continue in that legacy. You will find that the expectations for performance and work ethic in the Encore group are extremely high. As a former Encore student member myself, I can vouch for the exciting performances, musical growth, friendships made, and confidence gained through participation in this choir.

Encore is a highly selective and competitive show choir that performs regularly throughout the community in addition to its competition schedule in the winter/spring. This extracurricular choir serves as the public ambassador for an extensive choral program at Medina High School. The group has been in existence for over 30 years, having performed both locally and nationally and won numerous awards during its tenure at the school. Encore strives to provide the highest quality of music and dance education for its members, while continuing to uphold its reputation as a fine performing ensemble.

Encore is a mixed choral ensemble that will consist of Freshman - Senior girls and boys. All show choir singer-dancers are also expected to participate in a curricular choir at Medina High School (Men's/Women's Chorale, Women's Chorus, or Concert Choir).

While the group keeps a very tight and strict schedule, its members have a lot of fun along the way, building friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. We are glad you are considering being a part of this outstanding organization. Please let me know if you have any questions about auditions or the information and policies in this handbook.

Mr. Skidmore - skidmort@medinabees.org

THE ENCORE ENTERTAINMENT "FAMILY"

Directing Team - Working with Mr. Skidmore, we have an outstanding staff of professionals -- Ms. Katie Peyton, assistant director; Mr. Tom Bonezzi, pit band director and arranger; Ms. Christina Rueger, choreography assistant; technical directors, scenic designers, and builders; choreographers and clinicians

Singer-Dancers - Includes around 38-50 students of any grade level at MHS who sing and dance in the competition show, holiday show, and spring show (SHOWTIME). Singer-dancers rehearse most frequently (2-3 times per week). **Swings** are singer-dancers who are able to perform fully at home events but "swing" on and off stage during Encore's competition show. Swings typically perform as replacements for missing students or when needed by the directing team. Amount of time in the competition show varies from year to year.

Pit Band - Nicknamed "Tombo Combo," the pit band or instrumental combo includes 15-20 top instrumentalists who perform in an accompaniment-style stage band. These performers must be technically advanced and hard working. Encore's band rehearses once or twice per week together, but

members are expected to practice outside of rehearsals. The pit band participates in every Encore performance and is an essential component of the Encore competition show. We like to see pit band members participate in and serve as leaders in other school music groups (choir, band, orchestra). Members of Encore's pit band will serve as the core of the pit orchestra for the fall musical and for the spring show (SHOWTIME).

Crew - Nicknamed "The Machine," the Encore Crew involves around 10-20 quick thinking and hard working students who participate in the technical side of Encore's show. A strong focus, maturity, and work-ethic is necessary for success in Encore crew. From setting up the scenery and organizing props and costumes to setting up platforms and running a light board, crew members participate in a variety of tasks based on the demands of the show, the strengths of individual members and the interests of the directing team. Crew participates as crew members in the fall musical and in the winter Encore competition season. We like to see all crew members participate in our choir program or another musical ensemble. Rehearsal commitment is around once per week during the winter months.

Parent/Family Support Team - With nearly one hundred student members participating in dozens of performances and a budget involving tens of thousands of dollars, parent and family support is key to the success of the Encore Entertainment Company. This effort is led by our booster group, Harmony Helpers. More information can be found in the Parent/Family Information section of this packet. We need to support of all singer-dancer, pit band, and crew families.

FUNDAMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Show respect for the instructors, other members of the ensemble, our school, and yourself.
2. Take care of the choir room and stage, including all equipment, costumes, props, and music.
3. Be early, with appropriate materials, to all rehearsals and performances; EVERYONE assists with setup and tear down of rehearsal equipment.
4. Put in time on your own to work on the show outside of rehearsal; work toward individual improvement to help the group cause.
5. Follow all school rules and set an example as leaders in the MHS and Medina community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Performance in Encore requires a level of physical stamina and ability. How this looks for each student may vary, but, in general, singer-dancers should be able to maintain around 30 minutes of moderate to high energy "cardio" activity. Observe some videos of show choir sets on YouTube to see the type of physical fitness required. All singers, pit band members, and crew are expected to be able to lift props, set pieces, instruments, and other equipment in performance situations, as needed. Please let us know at your vocal audition if you have concerns or questions.

Encore members should be consistently improving as musicians and performers. All singer-dancers are expected to be studying voice privately. Find a voice teacher with whom you work well, and begin/continue voice study ASAP. We are fortunate to have many outstanding voice teachers in the Medina area. The shared goal for our group is excellence, and even one student not carrying their weight or not improving will keep the entire group from realizing its full potential. You will also participate in recitals during the year that will require extra vocal coaching. Please talk to a director if there are serious financial concerns.

All singer-dancers must be members of a daily class choir. See your counselor now to make this happen.

All guys are expected to participate in Men's Chorus. This will help improve vocal skills, give us additional repertoire for our holiday Encore sing-outs, and give the choir guys who are not in Encore a chance to learn from your experience.

All members will be positive role models within the Medina community and other MHS choirs. Encore is one of the most elite organizations at MHS, requiring high standards for musical performance, stage presence, fitness, creativity, and leadership. Additionally, each member will be held to high behavior expectations. All members MUST do the best they can to support the choir program and the art of singing among other Medina community members, both young people and adults. You are a leader in the Medina HS community - people that you don't know will likely recognize you in the city.

Use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapes, narcotics, and other illegal behavior WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and use may result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble. Remember, what we put into our bodies and minds matters – eat healthy, work hard, think positively. Encore members are to follow the MHS Code of Conduct. Status in the group may be impacted by violations of the Code of Conduct.

We require a minimum 2.0 GPA. Encore has been home to many top-ranked students in each class. Competition season can get a little busy, especially if you do other sports – good time management will help to make you successful (keep track of your schedule – practices, time for homework, projects, family events, etc.).

We strive to maintain our top-quality equipment, and we enjoy using outstanding rehearsal facilities. Assist by properly putting away equipment and cleaning up any trash after rehearsal. We need every student, senior through freshman, to do their fair share of loading, unloading, storing, assembling, disassembling, sweeping, and whatever else needs done during, before, and after rehearsal. Singer-dancers, pit band members, and crew should add around 10-15 minutes before and after rehearsal times to be sure that equipment and platforms are set-up and taken-down properly. For singer-dancers, platforms must be set-up before the start of each rehearsal and taken down after the conclusion of each rehearsal. Water bottles only are permitted in the choir room and auditorium. Snacks should be eaten in the halls, lobby, or vestibule only.

REHEARSAL AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since each member is a valuable part of our team, each member is expected to be at every rehearsal. Rehearsals will average around 4-5 hours per week during the school year, being held on most available Mondays and Wednesdays. The rehearsal timeline for singers will be similar to this: MONDAY – 4:30-7:30PM (or 4-7PM) (arriving early to set up platforms); WEDNESDAY (schedule varies) – 3:00-4:00PM. This schedule may change and become more intense when our choreographer is in town or as we run technical rehearsals before competitions. Rehearsals for the pit band will begin in the fall and typically involves 2-3 hours per week of rehearsal time, usually Monday and Wednesday evenings. Regular crew rehearsals will begin during the winter competition season, involving around 3-4 hours per week of rehearsal time for most members.

Student-run rehearsals/sectionals may be held at school on weekends, after school, or during lunch periods for further reinforcement or cleaning of the competition/performance show. Section leaders and

dance captains will provide specifics on these rehearsals. Homework (written or otherwise) may be assigned.

Barring serious health issues, it is expected that students will be at each rehearsal. Serious family/religious conflicts, illness, MHS athletic game conflicts may be excused if information is provided to the director BEFORE THE REHEARSAL. This information about each absence must be communicated with directors via a Google Form. Regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused, it must be communicated to directors before the rehearsal starts. This both for student accountability and student safety. If you miss a rehearsal and it is unexcused, you must:

1. Arrange a meeting with another member or a dance captain to get what you missed.
2. Create a video of you singing and dancing the material missed at the rehearsal.

Send this video to Mr. Skidmore (skidmort@medinabees.org - address is Gmail, so you can share the video file with Google drive or post it as a private video on YouTube) WITHIN 48 HOURS (2 DAYS) OF THE MISSED REHEARSAL

Conflicts with school practices (school sport, club, band, orchestra) are to be shared evenly between the two groups. Communicate schedules early to both director and coach. Do not wait until the last minute. If emergencies arise (playoff games, added practices etc.), please let the director know as soon as possible. In the past, we have had Encore members participate successfully in every other MHS activity.

If a student accumulates too many absences, whether excused or unexcused, his/her status in the group may be reevaluated and the student may be removed. Unlike other classes where student grades can vary, music ensembles require "A-level" performance from each member. Show choir requires precise blocking and staging of each member - superior execution of notes and rhythms - attention to all details. Your attendance impacts others. If events must be added during the course of the year, the directing team will make every effort to give two weeks of notice to students.

For best performance, students must dress appropriately in rehearsal. Always wear proper athletic clothing - no jeans. STUDENTS MUST WEAR SHOES (dance or athletic shoes) AT ALL TIMES. Ladies should plan to wear character shoes at 90% of Encore rehearsals (even the cheap, black choir ones will work for fall rehearsals). If you do not have shoes or proper attire at rehearsal, you will be sent home to get the proper attire. We also encourage you to bring a water bottle (with your name on it) to every rehearsal.

All blocking and performance spots are subject to director and choreographer placement and may change at any time. Swings may be moved permanently into a regular singer-dancer's "spot" at any time.

Respect from others is a reflection of what you give. Support one another in all efforts, both during and outside of performances. In a group, you are only as good as the person next to you. Prepare for each and every rehearsal. In order to be at your best, you will need to work on individual issues with the material outside of rehearsal to ensure that all time spent with the group is as productive as it can be for all members.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The show choir season lasts throughout the school year beginning with summer activities and our "camp" week of July 16 thru July 20. The dates listed below are some of the most important dates for the choir this year. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances listed below is mandatory to be a member of the group:

Fall Choir Concert - October 11, 2018

Encore Showstoppers - October 28, 2018

- Every singer in Encore will present a musical theater solo or classical song in a recital

Holiday Choir Concert - December 6, 2018

Elementary Assemblies and Sing Out During School Day - December 7, 2018

- These are required - Encore members should keep up with grades in other classes

Encore middle school fundraiser - December 8, 2018

Saturday pre-competition rehearsal - January 5, 2019

Competitions will be on Saturdays during the months of January, February, and March

Encore Dinner and a Show - January 17, 2019

Medina Midwest Showcase Set-up - February 15, 2019

Medina Midwest Showcase - February 16, 2019

Winter Choir Concert - March 12, 2019

Showtime - week of May 6-11, 2019

If you have any conflicts with these dates, please bring them to the attention of Mr. Skidmore at your vocal audition. Depending upon what you will miss, you may still be eligible for participation in the group (at the discretion of the directing staff). Attitude is the key in making this experience successful for you. What you get out of your participation is a product of the attitude you bring and the effort you exert, and has an impact on those around you.

It is a privilege to be a member of Encore, and there are many students who would love to be in the ensemble that do not ever get the opportunity to become a member of this prestigious group. Likewise, many students and their families make considerable sacrifices to make membership in Encore a possibility for them. As such, it is important that all members honor this commitment to full participation.

PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

Each performance is important and is to be the very best experience our audience can have. Be excited and physically involved. Be artistic, expressive, and worth watching and hearing every time you are on stage. No performance is any more or less important than any other. Because of that, students should tend to their appearance (hair, makeup, and uniforms) in the same way every time they are in front of an audience so that our looks will not in any way take away from the audience's focus on our performance. (The directing staff will clearly communicate any exceptions to this policy.)

Members are responsible for ALL costume pieces purchased and assigned. Garments and accessories must be cleaned and complete for EACH performance. You will not perform if this condition is not met. All assigned jewelry and garments (and undergarments) shall be worn appropriately for performances, and no unassigned jewelry or clothing will be permitted. Students should be clean shaven (guys: NO facial hair with the exception of eyebrows and eyelashes). Hair should be worn out of the face (more details will be provided for girls - in general hair should be grown out), and girls should wear stage-appropriate makeup.

COMPETITIONS

Competition days usually consist of an all-day (and sometimes even an all-weekend) commitment. We will travel together by bus and arrive early enough for set up and preparation. This will include the awards presentation and possibly a performance in the evening finals. Before and after our performance, we will

support the other show choirs in attendance. Please plan your day accordingly. Some general guidelines for competitions:

1. We attend competitions to watch other groups in addition to performing ourselves. Therefore, the homeroom will be locked when not in use preparing for our show.
2. Encore represents our families, MHS, and our community at all times, not just during the performance. Please be organized, well-mannered, well-groomed, and polite for the duration of the contest.
3. After we have completed our preliminary performance, the student members will go directly to the homeroom and reset all garments for the next performance. Do not leave any articles of clothing misplaced or off of a hanger outside of your garment bag. Any loss of garments could result in removal from future performances and/or expensive replacement costs.
4. Support other groups and their efforts. Remember: Judging other groups does nothing to help our performance. Please be respectful of all others in attendance. Do not speak negatively about choirs, students, schools, parents, judges, etc. Rather, choose to celebrate the accomplishments of others. (This applies to both students AND adults representing MHS!)

Encore members always let their performances do the talking. Our show will be kept a secret until we display parts of it for performance. Do not share music, choreography, or set information with people outside of our organization. Avoid participating in online discussion groups with other show choir members as a representative of Encore (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). Always be positive, professional, and humble as we perform and compete with other schools. As a rule, do not talk about Encore on social media. Exceptions include inviting friends to concerts. If inappropriate communications are reported to our staff, this could be grounds for dismissal from the group.

PARENT/FAMILY INFORMATION

The effort of many parents and volunteers is essential to maintain The Encore Entertainment Company as a smooth running organization. Encore parents/guardians will be asked to help in various capacities throughout the year (may include ushering, chaperoning, costume/set work, food preparation, food donation, fundraising, etc.). We would appreciate your support in these efforts. The choir boosters, Harmony Helpers, assist in a variety of Encore-related capacities throughout the school year and depend upon help from all parents. Most parents find volunteering as much as possible to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Examples of Encore events that involve parents are:

- Fundraising
- Summer training camp (snacks and meals)
- Summer Encore Picnic
- Chaperones at choir concerts
- Fall Showstoppers
- Chaperones at Encore competitions or overnight travel (background check required for travel)
- Medina Midwest Showcase competition
- End of the year banquet

Harmony Helpers is committed to fundraising to help offset the expenses otherwise incurred by families and students for Encore activities. However, we have in the past asked families to contribute a membership fee of around \$50-75 to help defray some expenses such as group dinners, competition snacks, banquet, and other miscellaneous treats for your children. Information on payment of this fee will be available at the family information meeting. All incoming Encore members and their families should plan to attend an important informational meeting on ****MAY 30 at 6:30 PM** in the main cafeteria. We will

share summer fundraising and schedule information and allow you to meet other Encore members and families. Regular Harmony Helper board meetings occur monthly throughout the school year (usually on Monday).

A NOTE ABOUT THE MEDINA MIDWEST SHOWCASE

The Encore financial engine does most of its strongest running on ONE day - the day of the Medina Midwest Showcase, a full-scale show choir competition at MHS. This year's Showcase is on **February 16, 2019**. Each student member of Encore (singer-dancers, pit band, and crew) is required to work the full event (set up on Friday evening and the full day on Saturday). Parents or a representative family member of each student is required to work at least ONE shift during the event. Please mark this date on your family calendar now and inform our staff of any potential conflicts BEFORE auditioning for the group. Failure to participate may result in immediate removal from the group.

COSTS AND COSTUMES

We have always sought to keep Encore's costs as low as possible for the operation of a successful competitive show choir. Some of the groups we compete against ask for nearly \$2000 from students annually - we do not. This plan is only possible through support of our fundraising events and timely payment of fees.

Fees vary slightly from year to year, but this is how fees currently look:

Pay to participate fee (paid directly to Medina High School) - \$100 for class choir and \$110 for Encore
Travel (hotels/meals) - (we typically use school busses to help defray driving cost) - \$250 estimated
Costumes - around \$600 for each singer-dancer; around or less than \$100 for pit band and crew
Membership Fee - \$50-75

\$150 COSTUME DEPOSIT and ~\$50 MEMBERSHIP FEE - DUE AT JULY CAMP REHEARSALS
\$150 SECOND PAYMENT - DUE IN OCTOBER

Remaining money owed will be invoiced near competition season.

Membership fees, costume fees, and travel fees are all paid directly to Harmony Helpers. Payments should be given to appropriate booster officers or placed in the black, locked mailbox in the choir office only. Checks are preferred.

Recognizing that this is a considerable cost to any family, we will continue to work diligently to provide fundraising opportunities for students to be able to offset the costs associated with Encore. As is established policy, no student will be excluded from the activity for reasons of financial hardship. Please communicate financial need to director as soon as it is known. PLEASE NOTE - we cannot refund fees for voluntary or involuntary removal from the group. In many cases it is not even possible to reduce fees for those removed from the group. Once costumes are ordered, fees must be paid.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

During the winter months, Encore will travel to competitions across our region. These trips may or may not require overnight stays in hotels. As we prepare for our travels, keep in mind the purpose of each trip. Making music of the highest caliber is our first priority. Encore represents our school, communities and state as musical ambassadors. As such, we carry great responsibility, both individually and collectively. We are called upon to demonstrate for the duration of our travels the very best in personal behavior, integrity, group/team attitude, and, of course, musicality, which is, in turn, representative of the highest

standards. By behaving responsibly and mindfully, and by planning ahead, we will all have a GREAT experience. Some specific guidelines:

1. Be early to the bus so that we may depart on time. Detailed itineraries will be provided, and students are expected to follow them. To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late. A cardinal rule of touring is that you NEVER keep the group waiting.
2. Our bus time is best used to rest the voice, visit with your neighbor, read, watch a video, and relax. Please avoid shouting. Our busses are monitored for video and audio - all bus rules are in effect.
3. Please remember that the bus is our home on the road for the tour, and that each member will be responsible to take care of his/her belongings, space and any trash. We are guests on the bus and must treat the vehicle and our space accordingly.
4. Attire for traveling is to be neat and clean. Assume that we will wear either Encore spirit wear or nice dressy outfits while we are together representing the group in public. Spirit wear may include blue jeans, black shirt, gym shoes and black Encore jacket. The director will be clear as to when there might be exceptions to this policy.
5. You must be quiet in public spaces such as hotels or meeting rooms. Please respect the space of other travelers, and of anyone else sharing a room, bus or restaurant, etc.
6. THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE RULE FOR ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE. No tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes/vapes, narcotics, or anything that affects your cognitive state! Any person who violates this rule will be sent home at their expense, and be prosecuted to the fullest extent of school conduct code and the law. While there will be chaperones present throughout a trip, it is expected that parents send their children on tour only after discussing responsible choices and behaviors. Parents accept full liability for injuries, accidents and events brought about by the behaviors and actions of their child.
7. The director makes all room assignments in advance. No changes will be made unless initiated by the director. Students are NOT allowed in rooms of the opposite gender at any time! Each evening, curfew will be established by the director as dictated by the hotel and our evening activities. For your safety and for the integrity of the choir, curfew means to be in your room for the night. After curfew, questions such as "May I go to the vending machines?" or, "May I go to ___'s room?", etc. will be answered simply, "No." Any disturbance in hotels or public areas which in any way compromises our roles as musical ambassadors for MHS will not be tolerated.
8. There will be travel expenses - we will attempt to fundraise as much of these costs as possible, but please anticipate room costs for 4-6 nights in hotels (divided among 3-4 people). More information will be available as we finalize our performance schedule for the year. Meal costs at competitions will be the responsibility of the students.
9. In general, be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there, doing what you are supposed to do, in the way you are supposed to do it. ALL SCHOOL RULES ARE IN EFFECT AT ALL ENCORE EVENTS.

SUMMER PREPARATION

Dance workshops (required of new singers, partial requirement of returning singers) - June, 6, 13, 20, 27

MANDATORY SUMMER CAMP (camp is held in MHS Choir Room)

9AM-5PM (lunch will be provided) - **JULY 16 THUR 20**

We will have other brush ups on Wednesdays after camp.

In addition to our mandatory rehearsal week in July, we anticipate all singer-dancers are getting into shape for the physical and performance demands of show choir. Additional music and dance activities in addition to individual exercise are highly encouraged. Showchoir Camps of America provides a great week of show choir experience and training. Information is available from the director, and all new

members are highly encouraged to attend. Ask directors about possible Harmony Helpers scholarships for SCA.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Thank you for considering becoming a part of Encore. We hope that the information in this packet is helpful in knowing better what to expect as a part of this team. We have been fortunate to work with many outstanding students over the years and put many great shows on the stage. We hope that YOU can be a part of this legacy.

All policies and their administration are at the discretion of the director with no exceptions. If you have any questions or concerns about the above guidelines, please contact our directing team before committing to the ensemble.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

Singer-dancers interested in auditioning for the 2018-2019 Encore Entertainment Company must complete a dance audition (Monday, May 14, 3:30-5:15 PM in the MHS Choir Room) and a vocal audition (each student signs up for a 5 minute time slot on either Monday or Tuesday). The dance audition requires students to perform a dance sequence that will be taught during the time block indicated above. Bring a positive attitude and come dressed to move. Auditions do not have to be perfect - just do your best.

For the vocal audition, students will prepare an excerpt of an art song (classical or folk style) AND a Broadway song. Excerpts should be no longer than 1 minute in length - choose the parts of the song that you sing the best. Directors may choose only one of the two songs for you to perform at your audition, but you should be prepared to sing both. Bring sheet music (with your cuts marked) if you would like to have a live accompanist. You may also bring a device to plug into the sound system (traditional headphone jack) or your own bluetooth speaker for accompaniment recordings. We are looking for confident singing with good stage presence. Scheduling will be done via a Doodle site - a link will be e-mailed to the addresses provided on the Google form (see the cover for link).

Placement in the group will be based on the following four criteria: vocal performance, stage presence, dance ability, and grades/class work ethic. Auditions will be closed to outside public.

The results of this competitive audition will be available on Wednesday afternoon - posted in the Medina High School choir trophy case. Denial of membership certainly does NOT indicate a lack of musical ability. Audition with a positive attitude and use auditions as learning experiences.

Pit Band auditions will be held on Friday, May 18 from 2:30-9:00 PM in the Studio Theater (Black Box) at the high school. Auditions will involve a three step process: 1) a prepared piece of your choice showcasing your abilities; this doesn't need to be long...1 minute at most, 2) sight reading, and 3) a brief interview. Any questions can be directed to Mr. Bonezzi at bonezzit@medinabees.org. The results of auditions will be posted on Monday, May 21 in the Medina High School choir trophy case.

FREQUENTLY ASKED ENCORE AUDITION QUESTIONS

1. *I'd like to be in Encore, but I also would like to play sports. Can I do both?*

In most cases...yes, it may be possible to participate well in both activities. We have and have had

singer/dancers, pit and crew members representing nearly every sport and activity at Medina High School. We ask that individuals notify the coaches/directors of these activities of their Encore obligations and work out a schedule that is fair and equitable to both organizations. Most MHS coaches and directors are cooperative and willing to work with the Encore organization to provide our students with a wide variety of experiences and opportunities to develop their talents to the fullest. Activities or organizations that are not a part of MHS are more likely to present schedule conflicts, and students selected for the Encore organization are advised to avoid participation in ones that pose a conflict.

2. Will I be able to keep up with homework and participate in evening rehearsals?

We will begin learning our competition show in the summer and will typically rehearse Monday and Wednesday evenings once school starts. With organization and planning, this schedule allows students the opportunity to keep up with their studies. We have many members over the years who are at the top of their class academically.

3. I've heard that it is expensive to be in Encore. What if I can't afford it?

Student expenses typically include pay-to-participate fees, costume purchase, and any trips we may take during the year. As of now, pay-to-participate fees are paid to the school to cover costs of school supplemental contracts, school transportation, and facility usage. These currently include \$100 to participate in a daily choir class and \$110 to participate in Encore. Costume expenses are typically around \$600 per singer/dancer. We offer individual fundraising opportunities in the summer and encourage students to creatively raise the money to cover their Encore fees. Many show choirs cost \$1,200 or more per student per year. We attempt to keep costs as low as possible by fundraising for many of our larger expenses like choreography, equipment, and arrangements in other ways.

4. I like to sing, but I'm not a great dancer. Do I stand a chance?

Yes, audition results are based on the following four criteria: vocal performance, stage presence, dance ability, and grades/class work ethic. Vocal performance is based on the overall quality of your vocal sound and the performance of your selected solos. Stage presence refers to the appearance and expressivity of your face/body while you sing and dance. Dance ability is determined at the dance audition through observation. We understand that you will have more than the half-hour provided at the audition to learn the choreography for our competition show, so we do keep the dance audition in proper perspective. Grades and class work ethic are determined based upon your responses on the audition application form, observations in class, and grades pulled from our school computer system.

5. What should I wear to the auditions?

For the dance audition, wear comfortable clothing that will allow you to move freely. If you have dance wear that you typically use for auditions, that's fine. Jazz or character shoes are a good idea for the choreography audition; tennis shoes will work as well. Do NOT dance in bare feet or wear sandals or flip-flops. For the vocal auditions, students often dress in nicer clothing. You should seek to distinguish yourself as a professional during the auditions.

6. When and how will I know if I make it?

The audition list will be posted by the end of the audition week in the Medina High School choir trophy case.

7. How many spots are available?

All spots are open for audition. Returning members must audition to keep their spots in Encore. We will

look to have an even number of boy/girl singer-dancers not including the potential addition of swing members.