



CHOIR CONCERT

September 29, 2020 • 6pm

For Distance and In-Person Learners

Performing is an important part of being in a choir class. Not only is it a TN State Standard to be assessed, performing is also one of the memories that students take with them well beyond their high school years.

The current pandemic presents significant challenges when thinking about performances:

- How can we perform while maintaining social distancing?
- How can we perform while adhering to the RCS time limitations on indoor singing?
- How can we create a performance opportunity that is equitable between in-person and distance learners?

We believe that performing is so important that we will find ways to make it work. As such, we will have our first choir concert on Tuesday, September 29 at 6pm for all students (with a required dress rehearsal on Monday, September 28). This document explains specifics regarding logistics and safety of this event.

SAFETY OF STUDENT PERFORMERS AND AUDIENCE

At Stewarts Creek, student safety is our #1 concern, even during a ‘normal’ year. During this pandemic, we are blessed to have Fine Arts spaces (choir room, theater) where students can maintain social distancing at all times. Here are the ways we will make this concert safe for all involved:

1. Controlled arrival. On the afternoon of September 28 and 29, in-person learners will go directly to the theater from their last class, complete the health screening (see #2 below) with a choir director, and sit in their assigned seats (which are socially distant – see #3 below). Distance learners will enter through a special door open just for choir students, complete a health screening with another choir director, and immediately enter the theater. Both choir directors will maintain visual contact with students during this entire arrival process to make sure that students do not congregate together. All students will stay at least six feet apart at all times.
2. Health screenings. Pursuant to RCS policies, all students involved in after school activities must complete a health screening. Choir directors will take the temperature of each student with a touchless thermometer, ask each student a series of questions to identify

possible symptoms, and keep a paper record of each student's responses and temp. **All students are required to wear a mask for the duration of their time in the building.**

3. Socially distancing at all times. As mentioned above, students will be monitored upon arrival and in the theater. During the afternoons of the 28th and 29th, students will alternate between the theater seating and the cafeteria seating (see #4 below), both of which have marked seats that are at least 6 feet apart. Because of the precision of these markings, **all students will remain socially distant at all times.**
4. Time limits on indoor singing. RCS has wisely dictated that indoor singing should never exceed 30 minutes; this policy is in line with the recent, seminal study from the University of Colorado which studied the effect of singing, atomization of aerosols, and the transmission of COVID. As leaders within the Tennessee Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, an organization that helped fund this study, both Dr. Kelly and Dr. Russell have been following the recommendations of the Colorado study all year. As such our afternoons on the 28th and 29th will alternate between the theater and cafeteria, singing for 30 minutes in each space while allowing the air to recirculate in the unoccupied space. This time limit, combined with masks and social distancing, virtually eliminates the chance of transmission via aerosols.
5. No in-person audience. With students in the theater audience seating (and conductors on the stage facing the students), there obviously will be no room for in-person audience members. As such, we will live stream this concert so families and friends can watch from around the globe. We have secured copyright permission to broadcast all pieces that will be performed in this concert.
6. Controlled dismissal. Following the end of the concert, we will dismiss the students by row to the cafeteria where they will remain socially distant. Students who will be driving home will be dismissed first to go home. One choir director will remain in the cafeteria with those who are car riders. The other will go outside to a special car-rider pickup area that is separate from the rest of the school (see maps below); as parents drive up they will tell the director whom they are here for, that student will be called for via walkie-talkie or cell phone and dismissed. At no time during dismissal will students be allowed to congregate, take off their masks, etc.

LOGISTICS OF EVENT

LOGISTICS FOR AUDIENCE

Families will be able to purchase an access code (ticket) to the live stream via www.StewartsCreekChoirs.com. These 'tickets' will go on sale on Tuesday, September 22.

Concerts are our only fundraising activities and provide necessary financial support for the choral program. In a normal year, tickets to a choir-only concert are \$5 per person; for this live stream, **tickets are \$10** per household. In other words, your \$10 admission to the live stream will give anyone in your home access to the live concert. If family from out-of-town want to hear the

concert, they'll need to purchase their own access code. The live stream cannot be accessed without purchasing the ticket, and the concert will only be available live; copyright restrictions forbid us from making a recording of this event available afterwards. Should technology fail and the live stream malfunction due to school internet issues (something we don't anticipate given the network will not be widely used at 6pm on a weeknight), your access code will grant you permission to watch a recording once after the evening of the concert – we'll give details if that becomes an issue.

If your child is a car-rider, please watch the entirety of the concert from your home, then drive to pick him/her up at school. We will stay with students until everyone is picked up, but **please arrive to school no later than 7pm** in order to respect the time of your choir directors.

LOGISTICS FOR STUDENTS

Schedule

Time	Monday, Sept 28	Tuesday, Sept 29
3:30pm	In-person students' health screening; report to theater	
3:45 – 4:00	Distance learners arrive; health screening, report to theater	
4:00 – 4:30	Rehearsal in theater	
4:30 – 5:00	Rehearsal in cafeteria	
5:00 – 5:30	Rehearsal in theater	
5:30 – 6:00	Rehearsal/Break in cafeteria	
6:00	Rehearsal in theater	Concert in theater
6:30	Dismissal to cafeteria; drivers dismissed, car-riders dismissed	
7:00	All students have been picked up	

Attire. Students must wear

1. Solid black top. Can be short sleeve, long sleeve, polo, t-shirt, blouse, dress shirt, etc. The only requirement is that it follows SCHS dress code (for length, coverage, etc)
2. Muted bottoms (no shorts). Muted = no crazy colors or designs that would call attention to an individual during this group activity. Can be pants, skirt, jeans, leggings (when following SCHS dress code policies). The only requirement are to not wear shorts and that to follow SCHS dress code.
3. Muted shoes. Muted = no crazy colors or designs that would call attention to an individual during this group activity. Can be dress shoes, sneakers, flats, heels, etc. Again – must follow SCHS dress code.

Grading. **This is a graded assignment and required of all students.** In order to participate in the concert, students must attend both the Dress Rehearsal (Sept 28) and the Concert (Sept 29). Per

the Choir Handbook, students should not be tardy to the 4:00 call time (see above) – being tardy by one minute reduces the grade by 15%, with a 1% reduction for each minute following. If you know your child might be late due to an unavoidable conflict, please email kellysu@rcschools.net or russellb@rcschools.net at least 48 hours in advance and we'll offer grace or opportunities to make up that lost rehearsal time.

Per the Choir Handbook, students who cannot attend the concert for any reason (sickness, death, in the family, etc) are offered another opportunity to be assessed on the performance standard. This alternative assignment seeks to assess students the two primary skills developed in a group performance – performing and real-time assessment – while making it similar in scope to the performance. As such, students who choose to complete the alternative assignment:

- will write a guided assessment (about 250 words) on a recording the choir directors will provide, using a rubric employed by our regional and statewide music associations;
- will videorecord themselves individually singing their part to all music on the concert with a recording the choir directors will provide. Directors will assess the correctness of pitch, rhythm, vocal technique, and physical presentation.

We know there are some distance learning families who will want to weigh the benefits of performing in-person vs. completing the alternative assignment. It is our hope that, with the above safety protocols in place, you will choose the in-person performance with assurances from your directors that students will be 100% compliant. The in-person performance not only gives a more complete and authentic learning experience, it will also be a memorable moment – singing with friends in a safe manner amid a school year changed by a global pandemic. However, we respect those families that will choose not to participate in the in-person concert and offer the alternative assignment that will serve as the performance grade for this grading period.

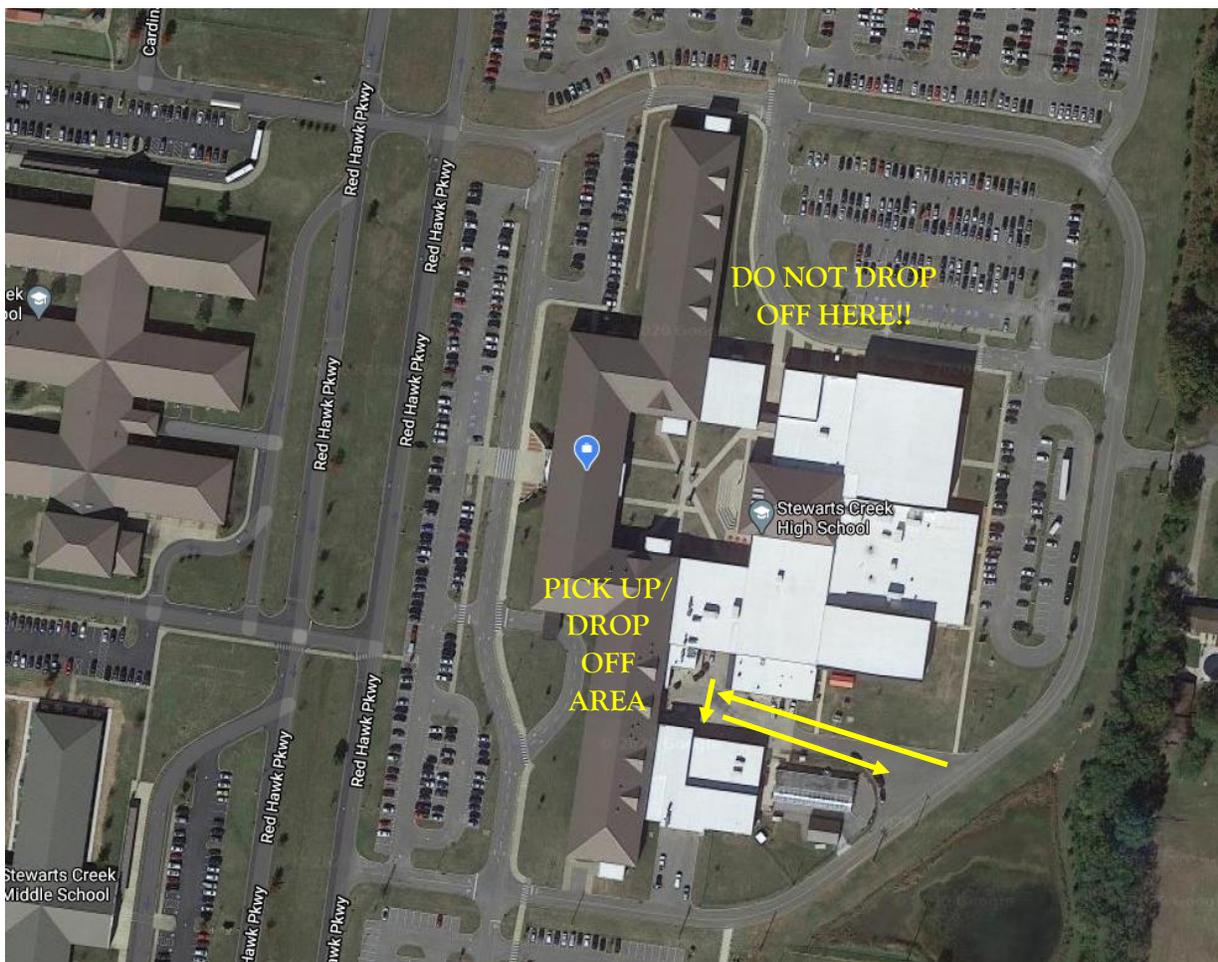
ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR FAMILIES:

- Clear your calendar for September 28 and 29 from 3:30 until 7pm;
- Parents – check www.StewartsCreekChoirs.com on September 22 to purchase an access code to the live stream;
- Secure your concert attire (solid black top, etc) before the concert;
- Check out the maps below so you'll know where to drop off and pick up your students;
- If you know you cannot attend the concert, please email kellysu@rcschools.net or russellb@rcschools.net so we can get you the alternative assignment.

PICKUP AND DROPOFF (NEW AS OF 9/23)

DropOff for Distance Learners. **DROPOFF IS IN THE SAME LOCATION AS PICKUP.** Please have your student in the building by 3:55 so that we can begin the rehearsal promptly at 4pm. **IT WOULD BE BEST TO ENTER SCHOOL FROM THE MORTON LANE SIDE AS THE NORTH SIDE WILL BE BUSY WITH BUSESSES.**

Pickup – the facilities loading dock near the greenhouse/small animal (goats/chickens) area. Please arrive by 7pm.





Theater Seating

8' distance side to side



Theater Seating

6' distance diagonally/front to back



Cafeteria Seating

1.42 'Dr. Kelly' distance side to side

(we forgot to bring the tape measure)