

Horizon High School Choral Department

Dear Horizon Choir Parent,

Let me begin by telling you how glad we are that your son /daughter is a part of our Choir Program here at Horizon High School. We strongly believe that our program offers high school students a quality musical education, and performance opportunities that very few high schools provide. We hope that your child has an incredible learning experience while he or she is a part of our program, and that they build memories to last a lifetime.

As you may know, Arizona is ranked forty-ninth in the nation in school funding and sadly, we do not receive a great deal of financial assistance from the state or district to give opportunities to students. Because of this, we have to rely upon individual choir families to help pay for things such as costumes, accompanists, travel and tours, festival fees, and even music. We understand that these fees can seem overwhelming, even more so to families with a tighter budget. It is our desire that the lack of finances not be a limitation to a student's participation. We do the very best we can to accommodate each family's specific needs and to work with your ability to contribute financially to the costs. Unfortunately, we cannot have a quality program and offer the opportunities that we do, without the cost that accompanies them. For those that may need assistance, we will help to the best of our ability, and will try to keep the request as confidential as possible. In making these accommodations, however, we do have a few guidelines that we ask each family to agree to in return.

They are as follows:

1. Please fill out the attached Scholarship/Payment Plan Application. We need brief description of your financial situation and what your needs are. On the form (or on an attached sheet), we ask what you can afford to pay towards the choir expenses. We do ask each family to contribute as much as possible. Even students can earn something to apply towards these costs. We will find an agreeable monthly payment (if needed) and that is what we would expect you to pay. We request that you be responsible for paying these amounts in a timely manner. We are always willing to work things out, but you must keep us informed of what you can do so that we can determine how we can help. Please help us to help you by making these payments a priority.
2. All students on assistance must actively seek out tax credit donations from friends, neighbors and family in the State of Arizona. Married couples filing jointly can now give \$400 per year, single individuals can give \$200. All donors receive a 100% TAX CREDIT (not simply a deduction)! See the form for details or ask your tax advisor if you need further information. We ask that you and your student solicit these donations. We know it can sometimes be awkward asking, but we have found that most people are willing to participate as it's a wonderful win/win situation for all. Many students have been able to fully pay for tour, school activity fees and other applicable fees through this State of Arizona Tax Credit. **PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT AND USE IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.** Donation forms are available in the school bookstore & tax receipts are issued by our bookstore.
3. All financially assisted students must participate in all choir fundraisers. Any money that they earn will go towards the unpaid balance due of their choir fees.
4. All financially assisted students must be available to give of their time and talent as much as possible! We understand that you may not always be able to give financially, but you can give of your service. Many times throughout the year, the Choir Department needs help with various projects, such as preparing for concerts, filing music, cleaning the room, organizing costumes, etc. We ask that all students, and their parents, be willing to volunteer their time and services towards these projects.

During the year, if your financial situation changes, we ask that you keep us informed. If you find that you are suddenly able to afford to pay the fees, please do so. If you have an even greater hardship and cannot keep up with the agreed-upon payment plan, let us know and we can make the necessary adjustments. Communication is the most important part of this partnership. We are always willing to work things out, but you must keep us informed of what you can do and how we can help. If payments are not made and the above stipulations are not met, we will contact you to remind you of this agreement. If a student continues to ignore his or her part of this agreement, they will not be eligible to continue in the Horizon Choir Department. As stated before, we are willing to help each and every student so that they can participate, but we need families and students to do their part in return. If you have any questions, please contact Kathrine Kouns, HHS Choir Director, Suzanne Block, ACCENTS President, or our ACCENTS Treasurer. We appreciate your talent and involvement in the program.

Sincerely,

Horizon High School Choir Directors
Kathrine Kouns
Phil Goldblatt

The ACCENTS Board
Candy Meiss, President
Sandy Vasseur, Treasurer