



PLATTE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
**VOCAL MUSIC
DEPARTMENT**

*Weekly
Newsletter*

August 24-27, 2021

Welcome!

Welcome to the Platte County High School Vocal Music Department Weekly Newsletter!

Every Friday after school (around 3:00 pm), the Weekly Newsletter will be emailed (through SISK12) to all Choir students and parents. It will also be posted in each Choir's Google Classroom and on our website on the 2021-2022 Season Schedule page.

These newsletters are designed and intended to keep the students and parents informed about all events and announcements for the PCHS Vocal Music Department. There will also be uplifting news stories from around the world, techniques for how to become a better singer and performer, and even funny musings and poignant quotes to brighten your day.

If you have any questions/clarifications that are not already covered within the Newsletters or if you have suggestions on what else can be added, contact us immediately.

Thank you for your continuous support and encouragement as we venture into a new season of making great music and even better memories!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Here is the list of all events for the PCHS Vocal Music Department for the 1st Semester. Events with an (*) are required for ALL Vocal Music students.

September 7	Last page of syllabus (signed) due for full credit
September 7-8	Auditions and Callbacks for <i>Bye Bye Birdie</i>
September 18	District Choir auditions
October 8	Seniors of Concert Choir and Sound Express perform the National Anthem at Homecoming game
*October 13	*FALL CONCERT @ 7:00 pm
October 17	Mattress Sale Fundraiser
October 22	Choir Men's Tour
*October 22	*Level 1 quizzes for Sight Reading Factory due
October 30	All-District Choir Clinic and Concert @ 5:00 pm
November 11, 13	<i>Bye Bye Birdie</i> performances Thursday @ 7:00 pm, Saturday @ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
November 24	Concert Choir performance at Platte City Holiday Lighting Ceremony
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Break
December 3	Concert Choir and Sound Express Holiday Tour
*December 9	*WINTER CONCERT @ 7:00 pm
*December 22	*Level 2 quizzes for Sight Reading Factory due Must have passed Level 1 quizzes to receive credit



On Wednesday, students received the Choir Handbook. This syllabus contains all events for the Vocal Music Department for the entire school year, objectives of the course, classroom expectations and guidelines, grading policies, and MSHSAA Festival eligibility.

The last page (Contract) must be signed by the student and a parent/guardian, and must be turned in before September 7.

Students have the opportunity to earn placement in the Northwest Missouri All-District Choir!

The student must be available on:

- September 18 (auditions at Missouri Western State University)
- October 30 (for full-day rehearsal and concert at Platte County HS)

For these auditions, each student will:

- perform up to 90 seconds of a festival-appropriate art song
- participate in a sight-reading assessment

Art song selection must be approved by Mr. von Glahn.

If you are interested, sign your name on the list outside of the Choir office door by September 1. Be sure to sign under the correct voice section.

Results of placements will be announced September 20.

Juniors and Seniors who make All-District Choir will have the opportunity to earn placement for the Missouri All-State Choir!

**For our concerts this year,
each student must be dressed in formal attire.**

The Vocal Music Department has an inventory of tux jackets, tux pants, bow ties (for guys) and floor-length dresses (for girls) that will serve to accommodate as many students who wish to borrow one for this year's performances.

**Each student and their family have the option to purchase
and own a new full tuxedo ensemble or dress.**

We will be working with Tip Top Tux to purchase these new items. For tuxedos, the availability to purchase individual portions of the ensemble is also open.



During the next two (2) weeks, all Choir students will have their measurements taken during class. If a student would like to borrow one of our inventory tuxedo ensembles or dresses, we will outfit them during class. If a student wishes to purchase a new tuxedo or Lumina-style dress, Tip Top Tux will take extra measurements of the student and create/acquire the necessary attire.

**A full tuxedo ensemble will cost \$96,
and a Lumina-style dress will be \$63.**

Once a student receives their formal attire, they will be responsible for its upkeep and cleanliness during the school year.

**Any borrowed or purchased formal attire may not be kept
in the Choir Room or at PCHS during the school year.**

All items must remain with the student outside of concerts.
After the Spring Concert, all borrowed attire must be returned immediately to be fully cleaned and returned to inventory.



sightreadingfactory.com

All Choir students will soon be receiving a free account subscription to Sight Reading Factory.

This program is designed to provide further instruction toward reading music and allows students to be continually assessed on their progress.

As part of the assessment process for the PCHS Vocal Music Department, each student will be assigned quizzes (of increasing difficulty). There will be 8 total quizzes (2 quizzes each for Levels 1-4) that students must complete and pass throughout the school year.

Using their Chromebooks or phone, the student will login to the SRF website, open the selected quiz, and record themselves singing a randomly-generated 8-measure sight-reading example. Students may take the quiz as many times at their discretion, but will only be allowed to submit their last performance.

It is the expectation for each student to complete these particular assignments outside of class on their own. We will not use in-class rehearsals to complete these quizzes.

Each quiz has a maximum score of 8 points each,
1/2 point for all correct rhythms per measure and
1/2 point for all correct pitches per measure.

The minimum score to pass each quiz is 7 points.

Level 1 quizzes must receive passing grades before October 22.

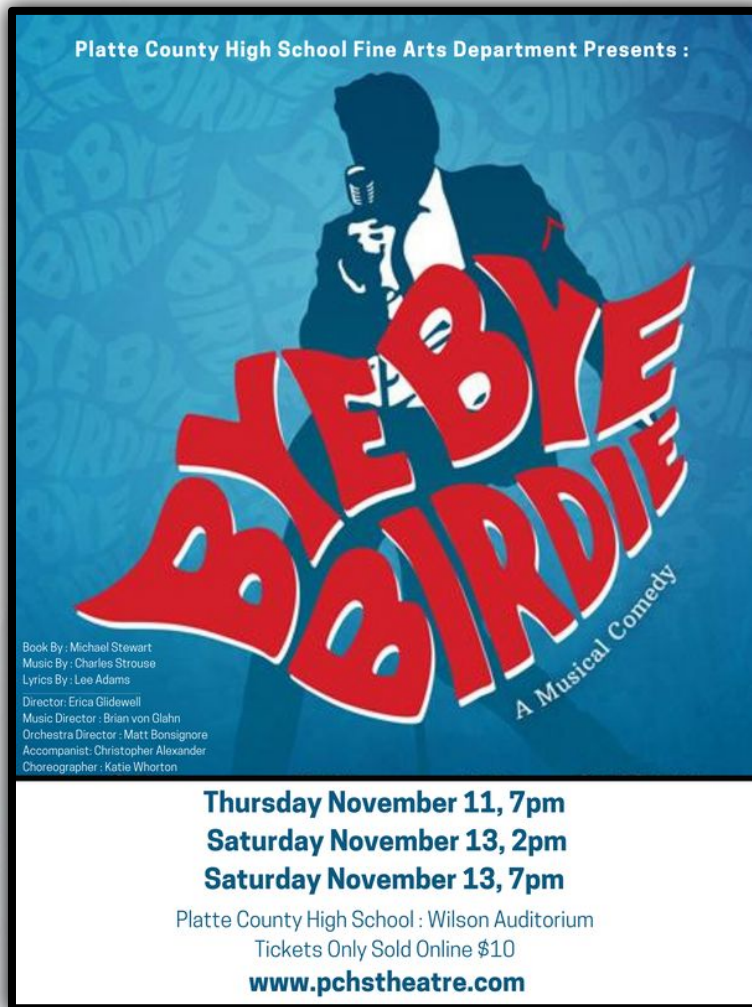
If not passed, quizzes can be reset and tried again though it is the student's responsibility to contact (email preferably) the directors and request a quiz reset.

Level 2 quizzes cannot receive points until Level 1 quizzes are passed.

WHAT A FUN TIME AT THE BBQ PARTY!



The 2021 All-School Musical!



A loving send-up of the 1950s, small-town America, teenagers, and rock & roll, *Bye Bye Birdie* remains as fresh and vibrant as ever. Teen heartthrob Conrad Birdie has been drafted, so he chooses All-American girl Kim MacAfee for a very public farewell kiss. Featuring a tuneful high-energy score, plenty of great parts for teens, and a hilarious script, *Bye Bye Birdie* continues to thrill audiences around the world.

AUDITIONS and CALLBACKS

September 7-8

3:00-6:00 pm

Fall Concert

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

7:00 pm

Wilson Center for the Performing Arts

The Fall Concert opens our 2021-2022 season. The music for this concert will consist of various styles and genres (such as folk songs, spiritual, and sea shanties among others) of the traditional choral music repertoire from composers of the Baroque era to the modern contemporary world.

The goal of the Vocal Music Department is to firmly establish the fundamental basics of the singing performance for each individual student. As the season continues we will further explore the versatility of the human voice through singing more differing styles and genres of music, all originating from the singing foundations established during this quarter.

POSITIVITY INSPIRES POSITIVITY

Here's an uplifting music news story to show the good in the world.

Article derived from Hollywood Life

<https://hollywoodlife.com/2021/08/23/naomi-osaka-beyonce-music-rihanna-mental-health>

Naomi Osaka Shares How Beyoncé & Rihanna's Music 'Helps Dull My Social Anxiety'

by Jason Brow

As Naomi Osaka continues to remove the stigma about mental health struggles, the tennis star shared how Saweetie, Rihanna, and Beyoncé 'inspire and uplift' her during those harsher, anxious moments.

"I hope I was able to help some people and for them to see that even athletes are still humans like the rest of us," said Naomi Osaka in her new feature in Women's Health, "And we all are dealing with something in our lives." Naomi, 23, has been at the forefront of the conversation about athletes and mental health, sharing her own struggles with depression and anxiety. She also shared one of the "unique ways to anchor herself" during those moments of mental turbulence: she puts on her Beats headphones when arriving to play a match. The ritual "helps dull my social anxiety," she tells Women's Health, noting that Beyoncé, Rihanna, and Saweetie are some of her favorite pre-match artists.

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Naomi Osaka received the flame as the last torchbearer for the Tokyo Olympics. The final torchbearer is usually kept a secret until the opening ceremony, and it was revealed that Naomi would do the honor.

Photo Credit: Ciro Fusco

“Music calms me, it silences the noise that won’t help my game,” she says. “For me, music is inspiring and uplifting.” Naomi also notes that she utilized Hyperice, the recovery tech/tool brand. She also “name-checks its Normatec compression boots as crucial to her performance on the court,” which writer Liz Plosser writes is Osaka being “unapologetic about promoting the brands she aligns with and invests in.” That keen eye has also led to her founding the skin-care company Kinlò (“I never imagined how eye-opening the statistics on skin cancer in Brown and Black skin would be”) and focus on efforts beyond the court.

“Now more than ever, I see that you can be more than just one thing. More than just someone who plays tennis,” she said. “The thought that a gesture, an activation, a program can impact and change a life, that’s really powerful to me. Of all the things I do, I find that when I am doing my best to help others, it’s most fulfilling.”

In May, Naomi became the highest-profile athlete to discuss sports’ impact on mental health when she withdrew from the French Open. “I think now the best thing for the tournament, the other players, and my well-being is that I withdraw so that everyone can get back to focusing on the tennis going on in Paris,” she wrote in a statement. “I never wanted to be a distraction and I accept that my timing was not ideal and my message could have been clearer.” She also explained that she’s dealt with long bouts of depression since the 2018 US Open, and she’s “had a really hard time coping with that.”

Her decision was greeted with support from Serena Williams. “I feel like I wish I could give her a hug because I know what it’s like. Like I said, I’ve been in those positions,” she said. Since then, other athletes – like Simone Biles – have been open with their own struggles.



Music is Life



That's why your heart have beats

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Refer to the *Choral Handbook* provided to your student
2. Visit our website plattecountychoirs.weebly.com
3. Follow us on Twitter @PCHSChoirs
4. Follow us on Facebook at PC Pirates Choir Department

Be sure to contact us if you have any questions about upcoming events or even just to brighten our day!

Thank you for your continuous encouragement and support of the Platte County High School Vocal Music Department!



Mr. Brian von Glahn
Director of Choral Activities



Ms. Lily Fisher
Assistant Director



Mr. Christopher Alexander
Accompanist



**EXCELLENCE
IN
CHORAL MUSIC**

