

Forte Handbook

2018 – 2019



F O R T E

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www.forteacappella.com

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Dear Forte Parents and Students,

Congratulations on making it into the top contemporary a cappella group in the country. There are around 100 students each year at Centerville High School who auditioned for Forte, and your son or daughter is one of the talented few that get to be a member of this ensemble.

This will be the ninth year of Forte's existence as a contemporary a cappella group and in a short eight years Forte has become known as one of the premier groups in the country. Two years ago Forte won the ICHSA (International Championship of High School A Cappella) to be crowned the top high school group in the world. This past year Forte was the national runner-up for the fourth time. Forte has been nominated for and has won numerous Contemporary A Cappella Recording awards, including Best High School Album for their first all-originals album, *Life's So Lyrical* and their third all-original album *Recovery*. Forte had the opportunity to perform backup for pop star Andy Grammer and open up for major acts in the a cappella world such as Sonos, Delilah, The House Jacks, Overboard, transit, and more. They also made a video with Grammy-winner Kirstin Maldonado of Pentatonix as well as Grammy-winner Ben Bram. Forte has also been featured on many "Best Of" CD's, including *Best of High School A Cappella 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and Sing 9 and 11*.

It's due to the talent and hard work of students such as your own that have allowed Forte to reach these heights. We look forward to continuing down that path this year with your kids. Thanks for all that you've done for your kids. Sit back and enjoy the ride that this year will entail.

Sincerely,

Ben Spalding & Kelly Korpusik

www.centervillechoirs.org

FORTE CALENDAR

Forte Camp – Monday, August 6th to Friday, August 10th - 10am-3pm (Concert on Friday, August 10th at 7:30 pm in PAC) Bring in Shams Ahmed & Tony Huerta

Forte parent fundraiser meeting - Thursday, August 9th

Forte family cookout at the Scott's house - Saturday, August 11th from 11:30-3

All choir parent meeting - Tuesday, August 21st

Cookie Dough Fundraiser - starts August 21st, order turn in Sept 4th, delivery October 19th

Disney Registration due - September 14th

Forte Recording – October 5th to 8th

Video – typically a weekend in October

Fall Choral Show (All choirs) – Thursday, October 18th (Dress Rehearsals 6 to 9 Oct. 16th & 17th)

Kettering A Cappella Festival – November 9th and 10th - pending fall musical auditions

Disney Trip (All choirs) – November 18th – 24th

Songs of The Season (All Choirs/Groups) – Tuesday, December 11th

Holiday Extravaganza (Forte/SC) – Monday, December 17th

Choreography Weekend - Kristin Denehy - TBD

Solo & Ensemble Contest – Saturday, January 26th – required for Forte Honors Students

CD Release Concert (Forte/Novae/Summit) – Friday, February 8th (Dress Rehearsals on February 6th & 7th from 6 pm to 9 pm)

Host & perform ICHSA/ICCA – Friday & Saturday, February 22nd & 23rd

All District Choir Celebration (All choirs) – Friday, March 8th – PAC

Wisconsin festival with PBS (Forte) - March 28th -31st

Forte Benefit Concert – Friday, April 5th – Central Theatre

NACC in Memphis, TN – April 25th - 28th

Senior Recognition Concert – (All choirs) – Wednesday, May 15th

All Choir Banquet & Forte Banquet TBD

**This is a tentative schedule and changes can still be made. We also try to add gigs and performances throughout the year.

PARTICIPATION FEES

In order to remain one of the top groups in the country, there are costs involved.

The total Forte fee for 2018-2019 is \$1,500, which is payable in three installments of \$500. This fee covers the cost of the Forte Camp, recording, professional videos, t-shirt, competition fees, clinicians, etc. This fee does not cover travel costs (transportation, hotel, meals).

PAYMENT	AMOUNT	DUE DATE
Payment 1	\$500	June 30, 2018
Payment 2	\$500	September 15, 2018
Payment 3	\$500	January 7, 2019

Please make checks payable to Centerville Choral Boosters.

***ANY STUDENT THAT DOES NOT PAY BY JUNE 30TH
WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GROUP.***

ADDITIONAL FEES

- Each student will need to budget for meals for the trip to our semifinal, should we advance. Travel and competition fees will be covered.
- Each student should also budget approximately \$1,000 for our annual Trip. Forte will be taking a trip the weekend of April 26th to 27th. This will be a required trip for all members this year. We will have **fundraisers all year** to help offset costs.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

All major performances and gigs for Forte are mandatory. Major performances are those that are already on the calendar. If any student misses a major performance without advance notice or “just cause,” you will be removed from the group/class.

BLUE FORM EVENTS

Blue Form Events are when the students are pulled out of classes to perform. Students will need to make plans with their teachers in order to make up assignments. It’s very important that all members of Forte attend these events. As a member of this ensemble, each student is expected to participate, even if it is not “convenient” for the student. Plan ahead.

GIGS

Every performance is technically a gig, but throughout the year I will take gigs that are not on the initial calendar. These are the ONLY performances that are not 100% mandatory. If we are offered a gig at the last minute, I will run it by the kids in Forte before I accept the gig. If we have enough students that can make the gig and make it worthwhile, then I will usually accept the gig. In some cases, I accept these knowing that some students will not be able to attend. Those students are not penalized.

ATTITUDE

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”

- Winston Churchill

Your effort and attitude is a part of your daily grade. Each student will receive two points for every day. Points will be taken off of your grade for lack of effort and/or a negative attitude.

Forte is well known and respected in the community and we want to represent our school and ourselves with class and integrity. Remember to be humble at all times.

FORTE HONORS

Any Forte students can register with their counselor to take the class for honors credit. These students will be responsible for extra requirements.

1. Voice Lessons - Each Forte Honors student must take voice lessons from an approved teacher for the entire school year and must log at least 6 - 30 minute lessons for each quarter. Please see Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik at the beginning of the year to approve your voice teacher.
2. Mentoring - Each Forte Honors student must mentor and log at least 6 - 30 minute mentoring sessions for each quarter. Mentoring can be assisting with other choral groups such as Middle School choirs. See Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik for approved mentoring hours.
3. Perform a solo at OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest in January

DOWNLOADS

DROPBOX

All students in Forte need to download the free software called DropBox. You can get DropBox from www.dropbox.com. DropBox is mainly used to share our music and to have access to learning tracks for our music. There's a DropBox App for both Apple and Android Devices.

Mr. Spalding will send an email to everyone in Forte with an invitation to join a "Forte" DropBox Folder. Important information and music for class can be downloaded from this folder.

FINALE NOTEPAD

All students in Forte will also need to download the free software called Finale Notepad. The Forte music that we learn in class can be played through this software. You can download Finale Notepad at www.finalemusic.com

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

All students will need to sign up for a Forte Google Classroom. We will use google classroom for those students in Forte Honors. We will use google classroom for other handouts and information throughout the year as well.

OTHER INFO

CAMP A CAPPELLA - www.campacappella.com

June 24th to 29th at Wright State University (does not conflict with first session of summer school) This is a summer camp put together by Brody McDonald and Deke Sharon. It's highly recommended that all students attend camp in the summer. The more the students perform, use microphones, etc, the better they will perform and be comfortable in Forte. Feel free to email Mr. Spalding if you have any questions about camp.

RECORDING

Your child will sign up for a slot to record during the weekend of recording. We typically bring in Plaid Productions (Alex Green & Alex Koutzoukis) to do the recordings. It will take place in the back practice rooms in the choir room at the high school. Students will sign up for a time slot but are encouraged to stay the entire weekend, if possible. If they need to come and go a little they can. It's a fantastic experience for the kids and they get to bond with each other the weekend of recording. The more the students hang out and bond the better they perform together on stage. We are planning on only recording four tracks that will be released on iTunes and other digital platforms. As of now we will not print physical CDs.

VIDEOS

Video weekend is another highlight of Forte. We typically bring in Ryan Parma to film three videos with the group. We plan the weeks prior in class with Ryan Parma to come up with the locations, themes, and attire for each video. Depending on the year we collaborate with different musicians so that the students can network and learn from the pros.

COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations have become a big part of the Forte experience. Year after year Forte kids get to meet and sing with some of the best singers in the industry. This is important for so many reasons. Building connections and networking is a huge part of the music industry. There are more students from Forte that make A Cappella Academy each year because of the connections and friendships that we have built over the years. Without these amazing collaborations and experiences we wouldn't have students in so many outstanding things during and after high school. It's also imperative that the students get to work and talk to musicians that are making a living in the music industry so that they can talk and get a better understanding of how it all works.

PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION OUTFITS

There are basically two outfits Forte wears when performing, which have become known as "Forte Fancy" and "Forte Funky."

For important and more formal performances, including competition, "Forte Fancy" is worn. These are approved outfits that are professional, yet stylish looking. For our informal, casual performances "Forte Funky" can be worn. This look is more casual and laid-back, but still stylish.

FORTE FANCY - GUYS

The guys should all be in black pants and the same "Forte purple" shirt, which is available at JCPenney. Mr. Spalding will take everyone shopping one day to purchase the shirts together. Shoes should be black and comfortable enough to move in. No sneakers. The boys can accent or personalize their look with a tie, bow tie, suspenders, vest, etc., as long as they stay with black and/or "Forte purple".

FORTE FANCY - GIRLS

The girls should all wear black. "Forte purple" and/or silver accents and accessories are okay. Below is a list of things to keep in mind when shopping:

1. All black - but Forte purple/silver accents may be acceptable
2. Dresses, one-piece pant jumpsuits, skirt and top, or pants and top are all okay
3. Make sure blacks match if buying separates
4. No strapless (unless you wear a jacket)
5. Nothing low cut or revealing
6. Stay away from any dresses that are short because they just don't work on stage
7. No sneakers - heels and flats only (and make sure you can move in the heels)
8. Think classy and professional
9. No leggings

Blacks will almost certainly be approved. The purples are a different story. Please remember to check before a performance.

PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION OUTFITS (CONT'D)

Everyone usually meets on stage one day (date TBA) so we can see what works and what doesn't work. Try to bring a couple options to choose from. With that in mind, KEEP ALL YOUR RECEIPTS AND DO NOT CUT ANY TAGS OFF in case things need to be returned.

FORTE FUNKY – GUYS & GIRLS

“Forte Funky” allows for jeans. Sometimes it’s just a less formal version of “Forte Fancy.” In any case, everyone still needs to look neat and professional.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik!

OUTFIT ADDITIONS/CHANGES

We know that students may want to change or add to their approved Forte outfit throughout the year. This is fine, **but has to be approved** before wearing the new clothing/accessories for a performance.

YOUR GRADE

Failure to wear approved outfits for a performance may result in points taken off of your grade. This includes forgetting your outfit or wearing clothes that weren't approved beforehand or wearing clothes that were specifically not approved.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

In order for Forte to be successful, parent participation is imperative. Please plan on volunteering in some capacity at each Forte event to ensure its success. We look forward to working with you!

Examples of jobs you may be asked to do:

- Chaperone a trip
- Chaperone a concert, especially a choral concert
- Sell tickets or concessions at an event
- Usher
- Organize a meal for out of town guests and/or Forte rehearsals/performances
- Organize home stays or hotel stays for out of town guests
- Organize a banquet
- Donate food or supplies
- Get raffle basket donations

COMMUNICATION

We use several different ways to communicate within the group and with the parents.

EMAIL

Email is generally accomplished via CHARMS. It is imperative that your information in CHARMS is accurate.

Site: www.charmsoffice.com

REMIND

Remind is an app that we use to send out communication. All you do is take out your phone and text this number 81010 and put @forteca in the message. Then you will start to receive those messages.

GROUP ME

Group Me is an app that the Forte Parents use to communicate with each other. Please see Amy Chico or Niki Lee to make sure you are added to this group.

DROP BOX

All students in Forte need to download the free software called DropBox. You can get DropBox from www.dropbox.com. DropBox will be used for any parent documents. There's a DropBox App for both Apple and Android Devices.

CHOR WEBSITE

Check the choir website for information

www.centervillechoirs.org

TELEPHONE/TEXT

Again, when the need to call occurs, we look for your information on CHARMS.

SUMMARY OF EXPECTATIONS

1. Student attendance at all performances on calendar.
2. Student attendance at all Blue Form events.
3. Good attitude and behavior in class and at events.
4. Adherence to Code of Conduct.
5. Payment of \$500 by 6/30/18.
6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000.
7. Budget for travel expenses for trips, including about \$1000 for trip(s).
8. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit.
9. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year.
10. Update CHARMS with accurate contact information.

The above summary is for your records. Please sign and initial below.

Parent Initials	Student Initials	Expectation
		1. Student attendance at all performances on calendar.
		2. Student attendance at all Blue Form events.
		3. Good attitude and behavior in class and at events.
		4. Adherence to Code of Conduct.
		5. Payment of \$500 by 6/30/18.
		6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000.
		7. Budget for travel expenses for trips, including about \$1000 for trip(s).
		8. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit.
		9. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year.
		10. Update CHARMS with accurate contact information.
		11. Student will attend the Memphis trip in April

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____