

Forte Handbook

2020 – 2021



FORTE

Director: Ben Spalding

Associate Director: Kelly Korpusik

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www.centervillechoirs.org

August 2020

Dear Forte Parents and Students,

Congratulations on making it into one of the top contemporary a cappella groups in the country. There are around 100 students each year at Centerville High School who audition 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 eleventh year of Forte's existence as a contemporary a cappella group and in a short ten years Forte has become known as one of the elite groups in the country. Forte has won the ICHSA (International Championship of High School A Cappella) to be crowned the top high school a cappella group in the world. Forte has also been the national runner-up four times. 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 been featured on many "Best Of" CD's, including *Best of High School A Cappella 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019* 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

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PARTICIPATION FEES

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

The total Forte fee for 2020-2021 is \$1,500, which is payable in three installments of \$500. This fee covers the cost of recording, professional videos, t-shirt, face mask, competition fees, clinicians, etc. During this year of being online to start, we will still learn a lot of great music from top arrangers. We will also plan to record tracks as well as make a music video.

PAYMENT	AMOUNT	DUE DATE
Payment 1 (arrangements /clinicians)	\$500	August 31, 2020
Payment 2 (recording fees)	\$500	November 1, 2020
Payment 3 (music video)	\$500	January 10, 2020

Please make checks payable to Centerville Choral Boosters and mail to:

Attn: Ben Spalding
Centerville High School
500 East Franklin Street
Centerville, OH 45458

OR

Submit payment via paypal to
centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com

*Money is more important than ever this year in order for us to be able to continue the fun things that we do. If we don't make a music video everyone will not be asked to pay payment 3. Also, if for some reason we are unable to record we will not take payment 2. However, if we do all of the things that we normally do that our fees pay for, each member will still be asked to pay the full amount.

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 we 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 six 30 minute lessons for each quarter. Please see Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik at the beginning of the year to approve your voice teacher. **OR** Mentoring - Each Forte Honors student must mentor and log at least six 30 minute mentoring sessions for each quarter. Mentoring can be assisting with other choral groups. See Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik for approved mentoring hours.
2. Perform a solo at OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest in February

OTHER INFO

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. Justin Crichfield and Mr. Spalding may also record the group at times. It will take place in the back practice rooms in the choir room at the high school. Students will sign up for a time to record. We are planning on only recording 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 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

HOLD OFF ON THIS FOR NOW

For all important and more formal performances, including competition, “Forte Fancy” is worn. These are approved outfits that are professional, yet stylish looking. **Once an outfit is approved it cannot be changed unless you get future approval** (this included jewelry and hair style). For our informal, casual performances your Forte t-shirt that is given to you at the beginning of the school year will be worn.

FORTE FANCY - GUYS

The guys should all be in black pants and the same “Forte purple” shirt, which is available at JCPenney. 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

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.

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. This includes changing your jewelry and hairstyle.

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 – maybe the Covid skies will clear up and we will be allowed to travel... 😊
- Sell tickets or concessions or usher at an event – some events may be held online this year
- 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 the best way to communicate with us. We generally email via CHARMS. **It is imperative that your information in CHARMS is accurate.** Site: www.charmsoffice.com

PLEASE DO NOT TEXT OR REACH OUT TO THE DIRECTORS IN ANY SOCIAL MEDIA APPS. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

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. We recommend all Forte parents and students sign up for this app.

SLACK

Slack is an app that is similar to email that we will use to communicate with the students about assignments as well as music, etc.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM & GOOGLE DRIVE

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE: hb4bi2v

We will use google classroom as well as google drive to store all music and learning tracks for the students. For this the students need to know how to utilize their school email addresses so that they can login properly to google classroom and google drive.

CHOIR 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 8/31/2020.
6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000, unless we are unable to do a video or record music.
7. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit. Hold off on this for now.
8. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year. To be done once we can meet in person.
9. 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 & Blue Form events
		2. Fill out google form listed below
		3. Good attitude and behavior in class and at events.
		4. Adherence to Code of Conduct.
		5. Payment of \$500 by 8/31/2020.
		6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000.
		7. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit *once we say to do this*
		8. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year.
		9. Update CHARMS with accurate contact information.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Please fill out the google form today. It's imperative we receive this prior to Monday, August 31st. You must use students school email to fill out the form.**

<https://forms.gle/PGAqrv1zhUsL65GA>