

# Forte Handbook

## 2021 – 2022



**F O R T E**

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[www.centervillechoirs.org](http://www.centervillechoirs.org)

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 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 twelfth year of Forte's existence as a contemporary a cappella group and in a short eleven 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 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 also been featured on many "Best Of" CD's, including *Best of High School A Cappella 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018*, 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](http://www.centervillechoirs.org)

# FORTE CALENDAR

Forte 1<sup>st</sup> payment due \$500 / May 31<sup>st</sup>

Forte 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due \$500 / June 30<sup>th</sup>

Forte 3<sup>rd</sup> payment due \$500 / July 31<sup>st</sup>

Forte Camp / Monday, August 9th to Friday, August 13th / 10am-3pm (Students must come to camp with music already learned)

Forte Camp Concert / Friday, August 13th / 7:30 pm in the PAC

Cookie Dough Fundraiser / Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> – Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Forte Performance at Stubbs Park / Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> / time TBD

Forte Recording / October 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> / CHS choir room

Fall Choral Show (All choirs) / Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> / 7:30 pm (Dress Rehearsals 6 to 9 pm Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>) in the PAC

Forte Music Videos / November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (Mark out the whole day for all of the dates)

Kettering Acafest (Forte, Prime, Novae) / November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> / Kettering High School

Songs of The Season (All Choirs) / Tuesday, December 7th / 7:30 pm in the PAC

Holiday Extravaganza (Forte/SC) / Monday, December 13th / 7:30 pm in the PAC

Honors Recital / Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> / 1 pm in Central Theatre / required for Forte Honors Students

Nordonia Acafest (Forte, Prime, Novae) / February 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> / overnight trip to Nordonia HS

Video Release Concert (Forte) / Friday, February 25th / 7:30 pm in the PAC (Dress Rehearsals on February 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24th from 6 pm to 9 pm)

All District Choir Celebration (All choirs) / Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> / 7:30 pm in the PAC

NACC trip to Orlando (Forte) / March 22nd -March 29th / final schedule to come

Senior Recognition Concert (All choirs) / Wednesday, May 11th / 7:30 pm in the PAC

Forte Concert (Forte) / Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> / 7:30 pm

All Choir Banquet / Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> / time TBD

Forte Banquet / Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> / time 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 2021-2022 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	May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
Payment 2	\$500	June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Payment 3	\$500	July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

Please make checks payable to Centerville Choral Boosters and drop in lock box in the Choir room or mail to the high school

Ben Spalding, 500 E Franklin St. Centerville, OH 45459

OR you can submit via PayPal to  
centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com

***ANY STUDENT THAT DOES NOT PAY IN FULL BY JULY 31, 2021  
WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GROUP.***

### ADDITIONAL FEES

- Each student should also budget approximately \$2000 for our NACC Trip to Orlando. We are planning on traveling with Forte this year. We would love to have families join us on this trip. We will have **fundraisers during the 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 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.

### **OR RESEARCH PAPERS**

Each honors student must write two papers for each quarter on specific vocal techniques given to you by Mr. Spalding or Mrs. Korpusik.

### 2. **PERFORM A SOLO** at the Honors Recital Concert on Saturday, January 29th at 1pm.

# DOWNLOADS

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

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

# 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 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 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 OUTFITS

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. 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. 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
- Sell tickets or concessions or usher at an event
- 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 use the email you have on file with CHS.

**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 I will use to communicate with the students about assignments as well as music, etc.

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM & GOOGLE DRIVE

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](http://www.centervillechoirs.org)



## 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 5/31/2021.
6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000.
7. Budget for travel expenses for trips, including about \$2000 for the trip.
8. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit.
9. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year.
10. Submit google form with accurate information

The above summary is for your records. You will sign off on the below via the google form.

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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 5/31/2021.
		6. Payment of additional fees of \$1000.
		7. Budget for travel expenses for trips, including about \$2000 for the trip.
		8. Purchase of Forte dressy outfit.
		9. Prior approval of ALL clothes worn on stage throughout the ENTIRE year.
		10. Fill out google form with updated information
		11. Student is willing to travel for our Forte trip

**\*Please fill out the google form today, Wednesday, April 21st. It's imperative we receive this prior to Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. You must use students school email to fill out the form.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfONfij1Rga6K0Zk4AnAEuddKLAIH7xCw5QZ6qvlTpat8VqNw/viewform>