



# 2023-2024

# Parent Handbook

**Connection Director:**

*Brian Ohnsorg*

**Assistant Connection & JIVE Co-Directors:**

*Zach Diedrich*

*Katie Peroutka*

**Band Director:**

*Elliot Douma*

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# 2023-2024 Jefferson Choir

## Booster Club Contacts

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### **President**

Kari Vaupel (*parent to Hogan 12<sup>th</sup> grade & Kerris 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)  
theatremd@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

Renee Lawler (*parent to Ava 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)  
renee.lawler@outlook.com

### **Secretary**

Katy Koll (*parent to Ronan 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)  
katiemail@msn.com

### **Treasurer**

Dan Kujawski (*parent to Echo 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)  
danskemail@gmail.com

### **Communications/ Marketing /Fundraising**

Jenn Heron (*parent to Mallory 11<sup>th</sup> grade*)  
herron7@msn.com

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#### ***Dessert and a Show Silent Auction – Chair***

Katy Koll

#### ***Car Wash***

Paul & Heidi Bush (*parent to Ben 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

#### ***Homecoming – Chair***

Renee Lawler  
Lindsey Heisel (*parent to Olivia 10<sup>th</sup> grade*)

#### ***Friends of Show choir***

Deb Rippie

#### ***Showcase and the Banquet – Chair***

Jenna Colby (*parent to Katie 12<sup>th</sup> grade*)

#### ***Chaperone Coordinator***

Paul & Heidi Bush

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Brian Ohnsorg – Director of Connection

Zach Diedrich – Co-Director of JIVE

Katie Peroutka – Co-Director of JIVE

bohnsorg@isd271.org

zdiedrich@isd271.org

612.418.4727

kperoutka@isd271.org

952.688.3847

## **Parent Calendar**

Booster club meetings, competitions, and other important dates

(\*) Dates are to be attended by all parents.

### **2023**

**\*May 1 @ 6:30 – All Parent Mandatory Meeting**

June 20th @ 6:40- Twins Game (singing the National Anthem)

July 8<sup>th</sup>- Parking lot for Car Wash

July 8<sup>th</sup> - Parent Social Event 3:00pm

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday Rehearsals start for Connections

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday Rehearsals start for JIVE

August 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – JIVE Choreography Camp

August 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Connection Choreography Camp

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Monday Rehearsals start for Connections (2:45 – 4:00)

August 29<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday Rehearsals start for JIVE (2:45 – 4:00)

**\*Sept 7th @ 6:30 – All Parent Mandatory Meeting**

**\*????? - Homecoming**

November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Show Choir Retreat

### **2024**

**\*Jan 4th @ 6:30 - Mandatory Meeting – Dessert and a Show**

**\*Jan 13th all day - Dessert and a Show**

Jan 27th - Competition: Bloomington Kennedy Gold

Feb 3rd - Competition: Eau Claire Memorial Winterfest

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Competition: North St. Paul Rock the North!

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> - Competition: Naperville North Clash of the Sequins

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – Competition: Hastings Swingin’ on the River

March 15th & 16th – Showcase

April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 – Parent Meeting – Board Elections & Budget

**\*May 2<sup>nd</sup> @6:30 – Parent Meeting for '24 – '25 school season**

### **Optional**

Oct 2@ 6:30 - Booster Club Meeting

Nov 6 @ 6:30 - Booster Club Meeting

Dec 4 @ 6:30 - Booster club meeting

Feb. 5 @ 6:30 - Booster Club Meeting

March 4 @ 6:30 - Booster Club Meeting

**For updated student and parent calendar go to: [Home | Jefferson Choirs \(jhschoirs.org\)](http://Home | Jefferson Choirs (jhschoirs.org))**



## **A Parent's Guide to Show Choir at Jefferson High School**

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Congratulations, you are now a Show Choir Parent! This handbook has been created by the Jefferson Choir Booster Club to help guide you through the show choir season. It is meant to give PARENTS a better idea of what goes on in show choir. Keep in mind that some things change during the season and students will receive "official" information from their directors.

### **What is Show Choir?**

Show Choir is a competitive form of entertainment combining song, dance, bands and lots of creativity. Check out [www.showchoir.com](http://www.showchoir.com) for all things show choir go to YouTube and search Jefferson Connection or Jefferson JIVE for ideas of what a competition set looks like. Jefferson High School has two auditioned show choirs:

**Jefferson Connection** is the Varsity show choir. It is an auditioned group open to sopranos, altos, tenors and basses in grades 9-12.

**Jefferson JIVE** is the Junior Varsity show choir. JIVE is an auditioned group comprised of sopranos and altos in grades 9-12.

**Jefferson Showband** backs up both Connection and JIVE and is made up of students. They rehearse, travel and win trophies along with the Show Choirs. Each show choir competition has a separate award for Best Band!

**Show Choir Crew** is a group of students that assists with costumes, prop pieces, show set up and tear down. There is a crew for each group made up of students who may be members of the other show choir or students from outside the choir. They travel to all competitions.

### **Summer Rehearsals**

Summer months include vocal and choreography rehearsals. The dance rehearsals are intensive, all-day camps. JIVE and Connection have choreographers who create the dances for the shows and these choreographers may not reside in the Twin Cities. During the dance camps, the choreographers spend several days in town teaching. The pace is fast and demanding. Attendance at these rehearsals is **mandatory** and students are expected to make EVERY EFFORT to attend. If a student must be absent, this conflict must be discussed with the director in advance.

Students should bring lots of water to drink, healthy snacks and food for the dinner break or money for going out during the break. The rehearsal room at Jefferson is only moderately air-conditioned in the summer and gets very warm when filled with fifty kids, so water is critical. Students will be tired, yet full of adrenaline. Sore muscles should be expected!

Students should wear workout clothes to rehearsals. Tennis shoes are also necessary. Girls may choose to wear dance or “character” shoes (which are typically worn for competitions). Watch for specific information on shoes needed in the fall!

## **School Year Rehearsals**

During the school year, JIVE meets Tuesdays from 2:45-4:00 and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:30pm. Connection meets Mondays from 2:45-4:00 and Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. These rehearsals are mandatory! Any changes to this schedule will be communicated ahead of time by the director(s). Students should wear workout clothes to rehearsals. Tennis shoes are also necessary. As the year goes on, students may be asked to bring their performance footwear (sneakers, heels, boots, etc.) to rehearsal.

Band weekly rehearsals schedule starts in November on Monday’s from 4:00 – 5:30. As we get closer to competitions the band will also add on additional practices so they can rehearse with the show choir.

## **Attendance Policy**

**Known Conflicts:** On the audition form in April, students were to have listed other activities that directly conflict with show choir rehearsals and or performances. The directors will determine whether or not a particular conflict would be a limiting factor to participate in show choir. Please review the rehearsal and performance calendar together as a family and identify potential conflicts. Please email the directors about any conflicts before rehearsals begin for the season. If a known conflict exists on a choreography camp date, retreat, dress rehearsal, performance or competition, parents and students are asked to contact the directors to see whether or not that absence will be accommodated.

**Emergency Absence:** In the case of illness or family emergency, students should contact the directors via email and include their parents in the email. We do not want students who are physically ill to rehearse, potentially making themselves worse and infecting others. If a student is slightly under the weather or injured, they should communicate with the directors to see if modifications would be appropriate, such as masking up or sitting to the side to observe rehearsal.

**Non-Emergency Absence or Failure to communicate:** If a student fails to communicate an absence in advance, they and a parent will need to follow up with the directors to explain why prior notice was not possible. More than one non-emergency absence that was not communicated in advance may be grounds for dismissal from the group.

## **Costumes:**

The cost of your student’s costumes is included in the fees you pay for show choir. Measurements for costumes will be taken in early June to allow for costume ordering intervals. Please be aware that in many cases these costumes are custom-made to these measurements.

All costumes are selected by the directors and the costume designers based on suggestions made by the choreographer. Students are responsible for maintaining their costumes, including making sure they have all required pieces before and after a competition. A costume may include shoes, costume pieces and jewelry. We do not have extra costume pieces so please be sure your student has everything they need for a competition! Students are responsible for purchasing their own undergarments and in some cases shoes.

After each competition, it is important to take the clothing out of the garment bags for airing and to make sure that all pieces are accounted for. DO NOT WASH OR DRY CLEAN the garments until you know that it

is okay to do so and follow the instructions provided, such as making sure to wash tee shirts inside out and air drying.

Notify the director or chaperone immediately if any sewing or repairs are needed. This is not uncommon. DO NOT cut loose threads on sequined or beaded dresses without asking for assistance of the chaperone or director. Entire strings of sequins or beads may come undone with one simple snip.

Costume items will be returned and checked-in during late May or early June. Students are responsible for returning all of the designated items.

## **Makeup and Hair:**

Stage presence is very important in show choir and that includes makeup and hair. In coordination with the directors, students will determine what makeup will be worn. This may include lipstick, blush, eye shadow, lip liner and eyeliner (these items will need to be purchased prior to competition season and will be coordinated by student leadership). The hairstyle will also be selected in coordination with the director and student leadership teams. Students will receive instruction on how to prepare their hair, what products to purchase if needed, and how to curl (or straighten) their hair. All students will be asked to have hair pulled back from their faces.

Tenor/basses hair is preferably cut above the collar and with bangs out of their eyes. They may be asked to pull their hair back into a ponytail if longer for performances as to keep their hair out of their eyes.



## Competitions

"Show Choir competitions are held at high schools and other venues throughout the United States. Jefferson Show Choirs participate primarily in Minnesota and throughout the mid-west. Competitions are all-day events. Jive and Connection will attend five competitions.

### **Here are some key points to keep in mind before attending your first competition:**

- Competitions generally start between 8-9 a.m., with choirs performing every 30 minutes. The doors will only be open in between choir sets. Competition times are received in advance, but they CAN change, so come early!
- Both choirs travel together. This makes competition days very long (early morning to late night)!
- All choirs will perform during the morning or afternoon. The smaller schools and unisex/prep/junior varsity groups will perform earlier and varsity or larger school groups perform later. The results from the preliminary performances will be announced in the late afternoon. The top choirs will then perform THEIR SAME SET in the evening finals competition. The top six performers in the evening finals competition are generally varsity groups, but some competitions allow the highest-ranking JV group to compete in the finals.
- Competitions have various admission prices, usually between ten and twenty-five dollars. (Hosting a competition is an important fundraiser for the host school.) Some schools offer a price for the day and finals competitions separately, or an all-day ticket, which is generally a better value. When you arrive in the morning, keep in mind that we don't know if our choir will be in the finals, though we are always hopeful. There is usually an optional printed program available for purchase with information on all the attending choirs.
- The first three rows of seats in the audience are reserved for parents and fans of the choir on stage. Clapping and cheering are strongly encouraged during the performance, except during ballads when appreciation is demonstrated by "jazz hands". At the end of your school's set, you are expected to vacate these rows for the next school's fans.
- ALWAYS be polite and respectful to the other choirs while in the audience, while walking around, or wherever you are. Any negative comments about another group's set, costumes, song choices, etc., should be saved for the ride home. You never know who is sitting within earshot. Jefferson students and families have good rapport with other groups and we want to continue that tradition.
- Food and snacks are available at all competitions. There are usually many options to choose from and there is often an evening meal for a reasonable price. Students should be prepared to purchase food during the day, as outside food is often not allowed (unless dietary restrictions).
- Each visiting choir will be given a classroom as its own space to change, relax, sleep, and hang out. Parents are welcome to look for their child in this area but should not expect to hang out in this room. Parents are also not allowed to follow the choir into the warm-up area or go backstage to watch the choir perform. Only chaperones and the photographer may do this.



**Judging:** The host school hires the judges for the competition; therefore, the host school does not compete. They will perform their set at some point during the competition - usually after all the competing choirs have performed and while the results are being tabulated.

Judging is not easy work and requires many judges to watch the complete show. Judges focus on vocals, choreography and instrumental (band). One judge during the preliminary part of the competition will be designated the critique judge for that particular choir. Immediately after finishing the set, the choir and this judge will gather in a room and the judge will offer observations and make suggestions for improvement. One of the benefits of being a chaperone at competitions is being able to listen to these fun and informative critiques. No other parents are allowed into the room at this time.

**Awards:** Awards vary by competition but the most common awards are given for the two best soloists, best Band, Best Crew, Best Choreography, and Best Vocals. Additionally, competitions typically only give awards to the top three prep/JV groups. At the end of finals, the awards will be announced as 5th Runner-Up, 4th Runner-Up, etc. all the way to Grand Champion. This awards ceremony will end late in the evening, usually between ten and eleven p.m.

**Transportation:** Transportation is provided to and from the competitions for all students and adult chaperones on either coach or school buses, depending on the length of the trip. The cost of student transportation is included in your show choir payment. Meals for students, however, are not included and students pay for their own food and beverages when traveling.

Buses will return after the competition to Jefferson to drop off students. Students should wear their show choir jackets (they will receive these in the fall and are included in their fees) and other comfortable clothing on the bus. Very early morning departures and very late night or early morning arrivals are common so students will definitely sleep on the bus. Blankets, pillows and warm clothes are encouraged.

The load times are very important and must be strictly adhered to. The performers are responsible for loading props, instruments, garment bags, etc. They will be assigned a particular bus to ride. Parents are welcome to follow the bus or to depart a bit later on their own.

## Follow us on Social Media

[www.facebook.com/bloomingtonjeffersonshowchoirs/](http://www.facebook.com/bloomingtonjeffersonshowchoirs/)

[www.instagram.com/jeffersonshowchoir/](http://www.instagram.com/jeffersonshowchoir/)

## Homecoming

Show choir sponsors the Homecoming dance. While organized and run by Mr. Ohnsorg and the students, this is a big undertaking and requires the participation of ALL parents. Parents are needed to set up for the dance, chaperone, run the coat check, serve refreshments, park cars (for safety reasons) and do an amazingly fast cleanup.

## Dessert and a Show!

Dessert and a show is scheduled for **January 13<sup>th</sup>** and is the kickoff to the competition season. Connection and JIVE debut their competition sets for a live audience in preparation for their first competition. In recent years, over 1500 people have attended and the members of the community bid on items in an extensive Silent Auction. All show choir families are asked to donate an auction item or basket for the auction (watch for information late October). This event **requires** the participation of **ALL** families to be successful and is by far the largest Booster Club fundraiser. This is a BUSY day and FUN event!

## Showcase

The final big event of the Jefferson choir year is the JHS Showcase, presented over the course of a weekend in March or April. Both Connection and JIVE perform their sets for the last time, the bands are featured, and the departing seniors are recognized.

## End of Year Banquet

A choir banquet is held in May to celebrate the accomplishments of the choirs and the bands and to honor our graduating seniors. Invitations are sent out a month in advance of banquet and both the students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend.

## Auditions

We have now come full circle and auditions for the next school year for JIVE and Connection are held in April or May. The tryouts have both a vocal and dance component. The posting for each group will usually be made late Friday of the audition week. Before one season fully ends, the next has already begun!

## Family Commitment

As you'll soon find out being a member of the Jefferson Show choir team is a large commitment for your child throughout the year. But it also will require volunteer time commitment from the parents of each student. **Each family must commit to the following items each year:**

- Car Wash shift (2+ hours) on Saturday, July 8
- Homecoming set-up (3+ hours) on Saturday
- Homecoming shift during the event (3+ hours) on Saturday
- 2 - Dessert & Show shift (3+ hours) on Saturday, January 13
- Either an all-day Chaperone Shift or a Showcase shift in March.

Besides the volunteer hours you will also be expected to either donate a \$100 gift for the Dessert and Show silent auction or provide a \$100 payment that will go towards the event.

## Parent Leads

The fundraisers and events are coordinated by parent volunteers. Every year we need leads for each of the following areas. If you have interest in one of these areas, please inform the Booster Club President.

- **Costumes** – responsible for the alterations of all the costumes for show choir
- **Car Wash** – responsible for gathering power generator and sprayers, sign-up genius for volunteers, coordinating logistics of the day.
- **Homecoming** – responsible for working with the seniors on a theme, décor, food, etc... ordering all items needed, coordinate details with school staff, sign-up genius for volunteers, get posters and tickets printed, and coordinating logistics on the day of.
- **Dessert & Show** – responsible for coordinating silent auction donations from students, coordinating donations of desserts from local companies, sign-up genius for volunteer shifts, posters and tickets printed, coordinating logistic on the day of.
- **End of Year Banquet** – reserve a location and date, create invitation, décor, collect RSVPs, coordinate a committee for any additional help needed. Program is coordinated by Mr. Ohsorg.
- **Showcase** – coordinate concessions, sign-up genius for volunteers, get posters and tickets printed.



**Check out the show choir website!**

**[www.jhschoirs.org](http://www.jhschoirs.org)**

You'll find information regarding the fees, the choir calendar, announcements, competition information, and other helpful information.

# General information regarding show choir Fees and JCBC:

## Why are there 2 different accounts parents pay into?

Not everything can legally be paid for through the school account which is the ISD #271 account. This is why there is a need for another account which is through the Jefferson Choir Booster Club (JCBC).

## What is Jefferson Choir Booster Club (JCBC)?

The JCBC is a non-profit all volunteer organization that provides communication between the director and parents and to fundraise to supplement essential costs to the show choir program that cannot be paid through the school account. Plus, we love our students so we support them!

## What each account pays for:

### ISD #271

(Jefferson High School)

- Travel
- Hotel
- Costumes
- Competition Fees
- Jackets
- Music Arrangements

**\$1,000 TOTAL**

### JCBC

(Jefferson Choir Booster Club-run by parents)

- JIVE Directors
- Connection Assistant Director
- Choreographer for each choir
- Band Director
- Buttons
- Senior Gifts
- Scholarship aid as needed
- Props

**\$510 TOTAL**

(inc. ticket purchases and silent auction items)

*\*\*Locate Band and Crew Costs on the last page of this book\*\**



## **Show Choir Fees and Costs**

**Choir fees and payment** schedule are provided at the May parent meeting.

Two ways to pay your ISD payment:

1. BY CREDIT CARD ONLINE: Through Infinite Campus Activity Registration  
Option 1: Pay ISD Show Choir fee in full starting in July and due Aug 28.  
Option 2: Pay ISD Show Choir fee in two installments. Starting May. Payment 1 due Aug. 28 and second due Oct. 31st.
2. BY CHECK made payable to ISD 271. Payments can be dropped off in the black lock box located outside Mr. Ohnsorg's office door in the choir room.

If the first \$500 ISD payment isn't made by the first day of school your child will not be able to participate in rehearsals. If the second \$500 ISD payment isn't made by November, your child will not participate in competitions.

Adherence to the fee payment schedule is essential, because the choir program must meet the financial commitments associated with the planned expenditures. If arrangements need to be made for a different ISD payment schedule, a parent or guardian needs to contact the director and create a payment plan before the first rehearsals begin.

Some scholarship assistance is available. Families with specific circumstances /needs must contact the director for alternate payment schedules or to apply for a scholarship that will be reviewed through JCBC. Scholarships are available based on needs and on a first come, first-serve basis.

## **What about the Booster Club?**

The Show Choir fee paid by each participant does not cover the total cost of the show choir program. That is why the fundraising activities of the Choir Booster Club are SO important. The biggest Booster Club fundraiser of the year is Dessert and a Show with Silent Auction. There are other fundraising opportunities which also benefit the general fund.

The Booster Club also is working on grant proposals, corporate sponsorships, and maintaining contact with alumni and alumni parents as a way to raise funds.

Booster Club meetings are generally held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Choir Room from September through May.

Because a student's participation in show choir is truly year-round, families become very well-acquainted and many close friendships are formed. Supporting the kids through the activities of the Booster Club will be a lot of fun.

Information about Booster Club activities, updates, etc. currently come mainly through email from [Jefferson.Showchoir@gmail.com](mailto:Jefferson.Showchoir@gmail.com). Please keep your email address and information current and add this address to your safe list. Don't forget to like us on Facebook under Jefferson Choirs Alumni, Parents and Friends! Or you can follow our show choirs on their Facebook pages:

## Payment Schedule Checklist:



### *JIVE & Connection:*

| What Payment:                                     | ISD #271 or JCBC | Amount      | Due Date             | Paid |
|---|------------------|-------------|----------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> payment:<br>Choreography Camp Fee | JCBC             | \$200       | May 1 <sup>st</sup>  |      |
| Car Wash tickets                                  | JCBC             | \$50        | May 1 <sup>st</sup>  |      |
| 1st Payment                                       | ISD #271         | \$500       | Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> |      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment                           | ISD #271         | \$500       | Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> |      |
| Dessert and a Show Tickets                        | JCBC             | \$160       | Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>  |      |
| Silent Auction                                    | JCBC or items    | \$100 value | Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>  |      |

*Payments are Non-Refundable*

### *Band & Crew:*

| What Payment:  | ISD #271 or JCBC | Amount      | Due Date             | Paid |
|--|------------------|-------------|----------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Payment:<br>Band Membership Fee<br><small>(offset cost of band director)</small> | JCBC             | \$50        | Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> |      |
| 1 <sup>nd</sup> Payment:   | ISD # 271        | \$250       | Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> |      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment:   | ISD #271         | \$250       | Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> |      |
| Dessert and a Show Tickets   | JCBC             | \$80        | Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>  |      |
| Silent Auction   | JCBC or items    | \$100 Value | Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>  |      |

*Payments are Non-Refundable*