Students and Parents of Varsity Singers

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the start of your summer break! It is hard to believe that we are welcoming in yet another new class of students to the Varsity Singer program so quickly. This is also an exciting time as we are all resting and preparing ourselves to come back to school in the fall.

Speaking of the fall, there are a few things that I would like to talk with everyone about:

1. Students, in this email/mail attachment, you will find two pieces of choral music that I would like to have you study over the summer.
	1. Recordings for these have been created to help you in your study.
	2. ***It is the expectation that every incoming Varsity Singer will know these songs by the first day of school so that our first rehearsals together are productive (not memorized)***
	3. This next year we will be expecting our singers to take on a stronger command of their practice outside of the classroom so we can grow as an ensemble during our class time.
2. Students should also find some links to sight-reading practice on the website and in this letter. These sites will help you keep up on your sight-reading skills. We will start sight reading together as a group on day one, so be prepared by keeping up with your skills (min of one sight reading a day will help keep you up to snuff).
3. This year we will have our very first choral retreat at the outdoor education center in Dowling, MI. This has been approved by the board of education and is scheduled for Sept. 9th, 10th, and 11th. ***We expect that every student make plans to attend this event (please speak with me students if you are unable to attend).*** This retreat will be designed to build our unity as a choral ensemble and work intensively on all of our music for the first semester of the year.
	1. The cost for each student will be $90 and will cover all of our meals and stay in the cabins for the weekend. Money will be due the first week of school for this event. Please see the attached worksheet for payment information and camp release forms.
4. We will discuss plans for our spring trip when we get back to school.

***Parents, we will be having a meeting for all parents of choral students on Wednesday, September 14th.***  This meeting will be designed to talk about our plans for our student’s financial success as a program and will end with us talking about the large trip plans for 2018. It is highly encouraged that we get ALL parents in attendance for this so we can get everyone involved in the future plans of the choral program.

***Parents, please also look at the attached camp information and send back the release forms and payments to the addresses on the forms.***

This year is going to be full of exciting events, music, and opportunities that will grow each of us as musicians and people. I’m looking forward to seeing you all this fall and hearing the Varsity Singer “sound” for this year. If you have any questions throughout the summer, please do not hesitate to contact me with the information below.

My best wishes for you all,

Mr. Callaghan

Director of Choral Activities

Hastings Area Schools

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