Dear Student:
Welcome to chorus! We hope that your time spent singing in the ensemble will be joyful, exciting, and musically fulfilling. Please read this letter in detail with your parent, as it provides very essential information such as program overview, grading system, performance dates, and opera trips.

Choral Program Overview
Stuyvesant High School’s Choral Program currently numbers over 300 students from grades 9-12 and consists of 3 choral ensembles: Male Chorus, Women’s Chorus, and Oratorio Choir. The Stuyvesant choruses have achieved a high level of vocal and artistic accomplishment, and we hope that your affiliation and experiences with these ensembles will prove to be enriching and rewarding. It is the expectation that students who are chosen for a chorus will remain for four years. Those who stay for the entire duration of the program receive certain class exemptions.

We perform at a high musical and vocal level, culminating in at least one public performance each term. We frequently perform with band and orchestra and participate at various in-school and out-of-school musical events. We study and perform a great variety of music by various composers, encompassing major eras and styles. Recent highlights performed at Stuyvesant include selections from Bach’s Magnificat, Handel’s Messiah, John Leavitt’s Missa Festiva with the Stuyvesant Symphony Orchestra, Paul Mealor’s Stabat Mater, and Orff’s Carmina Burana in partnership with CASA and Richmond County Orchestra.

To view some of our recent performances, please visit our Facebook Page (Stuyvesant High School Choruses) and our YouTube Channel (Stuyvesant High School Choruses).

Special Recent Performances:
- Performances with the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
  - Handel’s Messiah – Dec 1, 2013; Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center
  - Verdi’s Messa da Requiem – May 24, 2015; Carnegie Hall
  - Mozart’s Requiem – February 15, 2016; Carnegie Hall
  - “Songs of Inspiration and Hope,” solo performance – June 26, 2016; Carnegie Hall
  - “Reflections of Light” – March 17, 2018; David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
  - Orff’s Carmina Burana – May 28, 2018; David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
- Cornell University Men’s Glee Club (Robert Isaacs, conductor) – January 7, 2019
- Marisa Michaelson’s “Naamah’s Ark” oratorio with Master Voices Chorale in River-to-River Festival (Ted Sperling, conductor) – June 2018; Rockefeller Park, NYC
- Choral Fest at Symphony Space (run by Harold Rosenbaum) – June 2, 2018
- NYC High School Choral Festival at Hunter College (run by the National Chorale) – Spring 2017, 2019.
- Performance of the National Anthem at the Citi Headquarters Plaza and Lobby Opening Ceremony
- Performance of “America the Beautiful” at 9/11 Glade Dedication Ceremony – June 2019
- NYSSMA Festival – Gold with Distinction Award – June 2017

PERFORMANCE DATES for 2019-20 (bolded concerts are mandatory for choristers)
- **Choral Holiday Concert:** Friday, December 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm
- Instrumental Holiday Concert: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm
- **Musical Showcase:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm
- **Choral Spring Concert:** Friday, May 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm
- Spring Instrumental Concert: Friday, May 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm (attendance may be mandatory)
- **Graduation Ceremony at Carnegie Hall:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)
Grading:
Chorus is a performance class. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Please note that this includes after school rehearsals, dates for which will be announced in advance. **Performances account for 30% of the student’s grade** (missing a performance will lower the final semester grade by 30%). In the event of extenuating circumstances, special consideration is always extended to the student. If an emergency situation were to unfortunately occur, please contact Ms. Shamazov as soon as is possible. Special assignments may be given in order to make up for missed performances or rehearsals.

After an absence, a signed parental absence form must be provided. Legal absences of 1-10 per term will be excused without penalty to the student’s grade. Each absence over 10 will result in the lowering of the grade by 1 point. Unexcused absences will have a deleterious effect on a student’s grade: each unexcused absence lowers the grade by 3 points. In addition, unexcused absences/cuts will likely result in permanent removal from the class.

Except for specific situations, all music must be memorized, which usually involves score study. Individual “music checks” will be conducted in class or via internet. If a chorister has not mastered his/her music, he/she will not be allowed to sing in the concert. In such event, the grade will be lowered accordingly.

Attendance, punctuality, proper management of the music folder, effort, and attitude are essential elements of the chorus grade. Disrupting the class (talking during rehearsals, doing homework, using an electronic device, frequently leaving the room, etc.) will result in the loss of points from the participation grade.

Being a member of a performing organization assumes that each individual understands how important he/she is to the success and spirit of the group. Choir works like a sports team, where each member of the choir must be present and fully engaged to achieve success in the performance. Respectful behavior toward other choristers and the conductor is essential to the ensemble’s artistic achievements.

Fees and Concert Ticket Sales:
Each family is asked to contribute $50 (cash or check made out to Stuyvesant High School Music Department). If a family has multiple children involved in our ensembles or if a child is involved in more than one performing ensemble, the family will only make one contribution. This contribution will cover advanced ticket sales. Instead of purchasing tickets at the door, students will receive tickets in their class prior to each musical performance. Additionally, this contribution also covers purchasing and renting sheet music, music folders, rental equipment, instrumental repairs and tuning, and performance props as needed.

Additional Opportunities:
Students frequently take on leadership roles within the choral community. Leadership positions include: Section Leader, Monitor, Stage Crew, Librarian, Executive Assistants, Student Conductors, and others. Speak to Ms. Shamazov if you wish to take on a leadership role. Students frequently assist the department by helping during free periods, exam weeks, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and during instrumental performances. Please consider helping our choral program by volunteering your time and expertise. In addition, opportunities frequently arise where students can participate in extra, non-mandatory performances. Students are encouraged to take advantage of such unique opportunities in order to expand their musical horizons.

**OPTIONAL TRIPS TO THE METROPOLITAN OPERA**
We are proudly continuing our participation in the Access Opera Program of The Metropolitan Opera Guild. Tickets for shows are free. Since we attend final dress rehearsals, these occur during the school day. In order to attend, students are required to submit signed parental and teacher permission forms three days before the trip.

*Porgy & Bess (Gershwin):*
  Thursday, 9.19.19 at 12:45pm (28 tickets available)

*Le Nozze di Figaro (Mozart):*
  Wednesday, 11.13.19 at 10:30am (45 tickets available)

*La Damnation de Faust (Berlioz):*
  Wednesday, 1.22.20 at 11:00am (45 tickets available)

*La Cenerentola (Rossini):*
  Monday, 3.9.20 at 10:30am (45 tickets available)