



October 15th, 2024

Dear Colleagues in Education:

We are writing to you in regards to _____, who is a member of the Pensacola Children's Chorus (PCC), to inform you of an exciting opportunity that has been extended to them on **Thursday, October 31st**.

The student mentioned above is a member of Young Singers, one of many choirs that we have at PCC. On the aforementioned date, Young Singers will have just completed two performances of *Hauntcert*, a family-friendly Halloween show that is set to take place on the campus of the First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola on Monday, October 28th and Tuesday, October 29th. In the spirit of community engagement, this choir has been invited to perform selections from *Hauntcert* for elementary students at three different Escambia County schools on Thursday, October 31st. Throughout the day, Young Singers will engage with thousands of students in Pre-K through 5th grade, about 54% of whom are economically disadvantaged. Each performance will include a Q&A and other opportunities for our singers to interact with the elementary school students.

As you may know, PCC has done a live performance of *Christmas on the Coast* for an audience of ECSD 3rd graders at the Saenger Theatre every December for the past 30 years. There are always many children in the audience for whom this is their first time attending a live musical performance, which can be a transformative experience. For many young people, such performances serve as the initial catalyst that inspires them to explore the performing arts themselves. With the upcoming *Hauntcert* performances on October 31st, we will have an even broader reach than we do with our December performances, and because we are traveling to just one school at a time, there is greater potential for genuine connection between our singers and the elementary students. The value of a high school student setting a positive example and sharing a meaningful interaction with a younger child cannot be overstated, especially if that child comes from an under-resourced background or has never had any exposure to the arts. We are proud to offer our members this chance to be part of something that is sure to leave a lasting impact on the younger children in our community.

Young Singers have been asked to arrive at the first school on their itinerary at 8:15am on the 31st, and their final performance is expected to conclude at 2:00pm. Therefore, **we humbly request that you excuse the absence of the student named above on Thursday, October 31st** so that they can participate in this special endeavor. PCC is a strong supporter of our singers' academics, and we only request this excusal because of the important nature of this event.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank you for your support,

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