Falls Choir Association Meeting

Sept. 20, 2023, 7-7:50 p.m.

MFHS, Room 165

In attendance:

* Brian Scheehle (MFHS choir director)
* Kelly Francis (NMS choir director)
* Rebecca Stujenske (president)
* Cindy Bugiel (vice president)
* Jody Lau (secretary)
* Priscilla Rollman
* Deb Verville

North Middle School Director’s Update (Kelly Francis)

The school year is off to a good start. There are about 50 students in 6th grade choir, 11 students in 7th grade choir and 34 students in 8th grade.

Frist concert is Oct. 15. With the new school schedule, the students will have had nine rehearsals before.

The Junior Phoenix Football and Cheerleading asked if the North Middle School choir could sing the national anthem at their Saturday home games. So far 9-10 students have sung and it has been very well received. At least one football player asked if they could sing too.

NMS choir is currently planning for the Wisconsin Singers concert on Jan. 19, 2024. They will likely ask the FCA to provide money to pay for a meal. They have two new volunteers and are also looking for another person to help coordinate the event.

The sixth grade choir is only for a semester, unlike the seventh and eighth grade choirs that run both semesters. This happened several years ago. Sixth grade choir parents are the best advocates for a full-year sixth grade choir. Both band and orchestra run both semesters.

Upcoming MFHS events

* Tuesday, Oct. 17 – MFHS concert
* Oct. 13-30 – Kringle sale
* Sunday, Nov. 19 – Jingle Bell Craft Fair fundraisers
* Monday, Nov. 20 – Kringle pick-up
* Solo Ensemble will be held at Sussex-Hamilton High School this year
* January/February 2024 – Coffee sale
* May - Spring Concert
* 2024 – trip (location will be announced in the spring)

About FCA for new members (Brian S.)

FCA supports the Menomonee Falls High School and North Middle School choirs. It fundraises money to provide scholarships for students, purchase equipment and support Solo Ensemble and other events.

FCA is a 501c3 organization with a four member board that votes on how the money is distributed and oversees the FCA. The MFHS choir director only votes in the event of a tie.

The group discussed if choir parents know what FCA is and how to promote FCA. Emails are overwhelming. MFHS’s first concert on Oct. 17 provides an opportunity to reach parents.

1. Deb Verville suggested talking about FCA prior to the concert beginning and including a mention about it in the program. President Rebecca Stujenske will talk about FCA. Brian/Kelly to provide talking points.
2. Deb also suggested including a mention of FCA in the concert program. Jody Lau suggested adding a QR Code to the website in the program and will help create it.

Student trip/fundraising accounts

Each choir student has an account that Brian tracks. The money accrued can be used toward the student trip, sheet music for Solo Ensemble or choir-relate activities. Parents can email Brian to a copy of their student’s balance.

Students can add to their balance through sales (Kringle, bake, etc.) and volunteering at the Jingle Bell Craft Fair. Serving on committees can provide extra credit.

Cindy mentioned the idea of selling Kwik Trip gift cards as a fundraiser and gather more information prior to our October meeting.

The Kringle sale will take place Oct. 13-30, 2023. Pick up will be on Monday, Nov. 20, the day after the Jingle Bell Craft Fair at MFHS. We get 40 percent of the profits from the sale and each student is credited for the corresponding sales they make.

Jingle Bell Craft Fair

Significant fundraising event for FCA, raising about $20,000 after expenses. Roughly 1,700 people attended the Fair in 2022. In August, the board of directors voted to raise the entrance fee from $4 to $5. The vendor fee will remain the same.

Students who volunteer at the Fair receive credit in their accounts - $200 for a three hour parent/student shift. They can earn more by taking on extra shifts, if they are available. Shifts include set up (3-6 p.m. on Saturday and 6-9 a.m. on Sunday), working at the Fair (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday) and clean up (1-4 p.m. Sunday).

Fair subcommittees

* Vendor updates – Anne Kenny (not in attendance)
* New signs – Cindy Bugiel
* Food – Rebecca Stujenske
* Yard signs/raffle committee – Deb Verville volunteered (signs are placed mid-October; taken down Nov. 20)
* Volunteer sign-up – Jody Lau volunteered

Each vendor donates one item valued at a minimum $10. There are three drawings throughout the day and winners need to claim their prize by 3:30 p.m. the day of the Fair.

Subcommittee chairs earn credit toward their student’s account.

MFHS choir concert

* Need parent volunteers to accept donations, hand out program and sit behind the students.

Bake sale (when?)

* Becky Thompson has organized. Choir families are required to donate baked items for the sale. Items need to be put in bagged and priced.

Upcoming meetings

* Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. – FCA member meeting (Room 165, MFHS)
* Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. – FCA board meeting (Stujenske household to review by-laws)
* Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. – FCA member meeting (Room 165, MFHS)
* No FCA meeting in December
* Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. – FCA member meeting (Room 165, MFHS)