Middle School Parents,

**OPUS Honor Choir** is a talented group of students selected through an audition process to rehearse and perform in concert. Students selected to the OPUS Honor Choir demonstrate excellent skills in the areas of

* singing in tune with good tone
* rhythmic accuracy
* musicianship (phrasing & dynamics)

It is an extreme honor as a student to be selected for this honor choir. This year any Nevada Middle School student, enrolled in choir or general music, with the desire to attend FOUR rehearsals will make a preliminary recording on their chromebook. Following the student recordings and analysis if it is necessary, students may also be asked to make additional audition recordings during or after school. Directors are only allowed to send twelve recordings per category to be screened in the audition process. After gathering all recordings made by students with support in the music room, I will send the top twelve best recordings to be screened for the honor choir. OPUS music rehearsals will be scheduled by voice part and students will have the opportunity for lessons during 7th period, cub pride time, and after school.

Selection to the OPUS Honor Choir can be difficult as *thousands* of audition recordings are made across the state of Iowa and sent to the judging committee to be reviewed. Students selected for the honor choir will miss one day of school (excused absence) on **Thursday November 15th** to attend rehearsals and perform in the OPUS concert at CY Stephens Auditorium in Ames.

I encourage *any* student that likes to sing to attend practices and make a recording. The process involved in practicing and auditioning for OPUS is a terrific learning experience for students by helping them grow musically, put forth dedication, and be part of a true choral setting. While every effort is made to help students grow musically and make the best audition recording possible, it’s even more important for both students and parents to understand the main purpose of this opportunity at Nevada Middle School is educational. It’s easy for students and parents to get wrapped up in the competitive part of this process. I allow students of all ability levels to participate if they desire. At rehearsal, the emphasis is placed on students making personal growth musically. Please help your student to keep the competitive aspect in perspective.

All rehearsals are in the Nevada middle school vocal music room. Unfortunately, there is no bus transportation for students to get to and from after school rehearsals. It is highly encouraged for students to carpool. It is critical that all students are picked up *timely* from after school rehearsals, as I need to get my own children picked up timely from daycare. Please discuss this musical opportunity with your student.

Mrs. Lisa Ott

Vocal Music 5-8 Nevada Middle School lott@nevadacubs.org

**5/6 OPUS practices**

Monday August 27th 3:30-4:10 pm after school

Tuesday August 28th 2:50-3:18 pm cub pride time

Wednesday August 29th 2:50-3:18 pm cub pride time

Thursday August 30th 3:30-4:10 pm after school

Tuesday September 4th 2:50-3:18 pm cub pride time

Wednesday September 5th 2:50-3:18 pm cub pride time

Thursday September 6th 3:30-4:10 pm after school

Monday September 10th 3:30-4:10 pm after school

Must attend a minimum of FOUR rehearsals

Audition RECORDINGS will be arranged starting Sept 10th – Sept 21st

**AT HOME PRACTICE**

Go to the website [www.musicmrsott.weebly.com](http://www.musicmrsott.weebly.com)

OPUS tab – 5/6 recordings to listen and practice with **Password: cubs**

**7/8 OPUS bass clef choir practices**

Tuesdays 7th period and Fridays cub pride time … for TENORS

Thursday 7th period and Fridays cub pride time … for BARITONES

minimum of FOUR practices

Audition RECORDINGS will be arranged starting Sept. 10th – Sept. 21st

**AT HOME PRACTICE**

Practice tracks will be emailed to you … based on your voice part

**7/8 OPUS treble clef choir practices**

Mondays 7th period and Thursdays cub pride time … for Soprano 1

Wednesdays 7th period and Thursdays cub pride time … for Altos

Friday 7th period and Thursdays cub pride time … for Soprano 2

minimum of FOUR practices

Audition RECORDINGS will be arranged starting Sept. 10th – Sept. 21st

**AT HOME PRACTICE**

Go to the website [www.musicmrsott.weebly.com](http://www.musicmrsott.weebly.com)

OPUS tab – for recordings to listen and practice with

**Password: cubs**

After this permission form is signed and returned to me, I will do a few exercises to determine which part fits best in the student’s vocal range. Students are encouraged to practice with the recordings on my webpage (www.musicmrsott.weebly.com).

Students will receive their own copy of music to keep. It does not cost to audition.

**OPUS 2018 Permission Form**

\*\* Return this form to Mrs. Ott by Friday August 31st

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ **HEIGHT** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Names \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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preferred contact email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOUR STUDENT PRACTICES AFTER SCHOOL**: How will your student be getting home after rehearsals?

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I enjoy singing.

I will practice my OPUS audition music often.

I will be a good listener during OPUS rehearsals and work to improve my singing skills.

I will try my best.

Student Signature

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My student has permission to practice OPUS audition music according to the rehearsal schedule.

**5/6 ONLY**: I understand that Mrs. Ott has a commitment to pick her children up at daycare and cannot be responsible for my student if I am excessively late. I will arrange transportation for my student if they stay for an afterschool rehearsal.

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_