



COUNCIL ROCK SOUTH ORCHESTRA



CROPS General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2019 Executive Committee meeting commenced at 7:08 pm, general meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

Executive Committee in attendance: T Stratton, C McDonald, S Dasaka, T Thorwart, B Tiger, J Kopack, R Logan, G Culleton, R Rowlands

Chris Simon, Director

- Comments from Mr. Simon and T. Stratton- thank you to all orchestra family members who contribute donations and time to help support the activities that help our kids....we cannot do it without you!
- **We need your help!** Note that spring is very, very busy with concerts, festivals and events where CROPS will need YOUR help. **All orchestra events and fundraisers benefit ALL of our kids.** The Orchestra Festivals are fundraising events that support all of our kids; **all Orchestra families should plan to help! Festival dates: May 1, May 10.** More details and Sign Up geniuses to come
- Orchestra Festival planning meetings: *Orchestra parents- please mark your calendars and plan to attend.*
 - March 13, 7pm
 - April 30, 7pm
- Last master sectional: Tuesday, March 5!
- PMEA Orchestra Workshop w/Vandercook College Director Charlie Manghini. Even though administration did not allow the entire orchestra to go (snow emergency declared by state); Mr. Simon was still invited and he traveled alone to NP to speak with music teachers. Mr. Simon received a stipend for attending; stipend was donated to CROPS account.
- Philly Orchestra trip- tomorrow- FEBRUARY 7 – Viva Espana! Three bus chaperones are attending. Trip details sent via email to all parents.
- **Spain Preview Night – Monday, February 25 at 7pm.** This is different from the Spain Mandatory Meeting on March 25. This will give parents and students more details of how to prepare for the trip. You will also receive Final Itinerary and Spanish Tour Guide tips as well. Mrs. Weinstock, our Spanish teacher who will help chaperone our trip, is also a flamenco dancer! She will be giving a Flamenco Demo and lesson at 6:30pm that night on stage. Everyone is welcome! The meeting will start immediately afterward at 7pm. Although officially not mandatory, **it is highly recommended that students and parents attend.**
 - Will include maps, Spanish terms, instructions to access google maps, etc. when they are there.
- Orchestra Pyramid Concert March 22 – CROPS will need to supply pizza and dessert for around 250 students – looking to have pizza provided by CROPS at earlier time than typical (serve pizza starting at 5:15pm, with meal running until 5:45pm).
 - **Pyramid Concert on Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm.** The CRSO, HMS orchestra, and 5th the 6th grade string players from each of the 6 feeding elementary schools will perform in a concert here at South. Elementary and Middle school groups will rehearse at 3:00 and 4:00, the CRSO will join them in rehearsal at 5:00
 - *Specific info/times will be released to our students prior to the date*

- CROPS should plan for a game or two. 6 teams (Welsh, Hillcrest, Richboro, Rolling Hills, Churchville, + Holland) compete in one of our orchestra camp type games
- The hope is to have elementary and middle school students AND parents hear the CRSO so that they can see what is in store for them if they are to continue. All parents- *Please be open to talking to the parents of middle school students and discussing the positives of joining CRSO!*
- **Other Spring Activities/Important Dates – The students will be BUSY! 12 concerts!**
 - Churchville Elementary Performance – Friday, March 1
 - Book Bowl March 20, 5-8:30pm
 - School Board performance with small Spain Orchestra – Thursday, March 21
 - CR South Orchestra Pyramid Concert – Friday, March 22
 - Spain Farewell Concert – Friday, March 29
 - Spain Trip! – April 10-18 (Performances in Sevilla, Granada, and Toledo)
 - Pennsbury Orchestra Festival – Wednesday, May 1
 - Orchestra Festival – Friday, May 10
 - Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 22
 - Orchestra Banquet – May 29
 - Senior Recognition performance – TBD (probably week of June 10)

- **CROPS dates for this year:**

August 13	February 6
September 5	March 6
October 3	April 3
November 8	May 8
December 5	June 5
January 2	

- **Spain Updates!**

- Mr. Simon will be putting out a sheet soon to collect dietary restrictions and food allergies for family members only. We will also have a choice of Seafood, chicken, or vegetable Paella at our Flamenco meal and Spain travelers will need to decide which meal they prefer.
 - The Flamenco meal will be a “dress up” dinner, as the kids usually like to dress up once. The packing list will reflect this. (Casual dress up)
 - There will be a couple of other sign ups (based on final itinerary) to ensure all trip activities run smoothly
- Special thanks to Jacki and John Kopack for ordering the tour jacket size run and for making the process as easy as possible!
- Tour jacket sizing needs to be finished this week (as well as picking a name to be embroidered on the jacket). Students were sized 2/5/19. [Tour jacket form is due on Feb. 11.](#)
- [T-shirt order was due 2/5/19.](#) T-shirts will be distributed at the Spain Preview Night on Feb. 25. Collared shirts will also be ordered.
- Mr. Simon asked if any parent was willing to run a blog during Spain trip to provide communication, updates and pictures from touring group to families at home
 - B Tiger stepped up; THANK YOU, Barb!
 - B Tiger can set up a FBook group that students there and parents at home can view for updates

- **CRSO 2019 Spain is the name of the FB group....all CRSO parents and students can request to join now!**
- We will have a special guest perform in our Granada concert. Rafael González Núñez is a young flamenco guitarist local to Granada with a strong following.
- Our Exchange Group in Sevilla is now set - The Orquesta Sinfónica Joven del Aljarafe (Aljarafe Youth Orchestra). We will perform first, then the Sevilla Orchestra, then we will play 2 pieces together side-by-side. The two groups will share a meal afterwards.
- 75 students and 23 family members are traveling to Spain! Six chaperones will be travelling with us – 104 Total Participants! Chaperones are Mr. Simon, Mrs. Gormley, Mrs. Hintenlang, Mr. Frank, Mrs. Weinstock, and Mrs. Collachi (school Nurse).
 - The parent group will be on the same buses, plane and the same hotels as students.
 - Mr. Simon is waiting on official itinerary so that he can provide good estimate to students and parents for preview meeting as to details. The preview meeting will outline trip details, planning and packing suggestions!
 - Bumper stickers (for luggage, instrument cases) are among small items that will need to be ordered. KI will provide passport holders- **The students will be required to wear the passport holders through airports/security.**
 - These passport holders will be a useful way for the students to securely carry debit card and travel money (under his/her clothing) throughout the trip.
 - Travel Bags? There are adequate funds (after all fees are paid) for travel bags (similar to those the students had for the Band trip to Italy and the Choir trip to England)
 - T Stratton has a contact
 - J Kopack can provide a quote as well
 - Mr. Simon will discuss with orch officers and order will be placed for string bags. Mr. Simon will coordinate ordering.
- Students will have a kayak/paddleboard student sign-up soon for our day at La Herradura. 8 kayaks/ 4 paddleboards mean that 20 students can be out at one time. There will be a 40-minute schedule so that all students have the opportunity to participate. There will be 5 additional kayaks available for the family members going on the trip. There will not be a sign-up for family members – they can figure out a schedule once we are in Spain. One lifeguard has been hired to watch from the beach while 2 lifeguard/kayak instructors will be out on the water watching our group and keeping students within a boundary. All kayakers must wear a life vest.
- KI has arranged with the airline to have our oversized checked pieces paid for before we arrive at the airport. This way, Mr. Simon will not need to worry about payment; should streamline check-in process there and home.
- **Recommended that parents/students attending the trip start to contact banks to acquire euros and a gift/debit card that is re-loadable.** Mr. Simon is suggesting that students bring 80 euros and have a gift/debit card that gives parents the ability to refill the account with more money. Recommended to pre-load card with a minimum of \$200. On average, it is estimated that students will need 12 euros per lunch. There are eight lunches in Spain; most cafes will take credit cards.
 - Any additional spending money/souvenir money....recommended to discuss and pre-plan with your student in advance 😊
- Mr. Simon will be using Remind in Spain to give out meeting times during lunch breaks or “free time.” **It might a good idea for at least one person per room to get a good cell plan/plan upgrade, just for the Spain trip.**

Suggestion (coordinate amongst roommates): Contact your cell phone company for international rates. Verizon offers 2 plans for example - \$40 gives you 100 minutes, 100 gigs of data, and 100 outgoing texts (unlimited incoming texts) for one month or you can get unlimited call time, unlimited data, and unlimited texts for \$10 per day (\$80 for the 8 days we're in Spain). Wi-Fi is free in the hotels, so you can get away with Wi-Fi calling using FaceTime, WhatsApp, or Viber. (They do not use data, but you must be on Wi-Fi). Since we will be in the hotels around 10pm to 11pm every night, it will be a good time to FaceTime or connect with students/parents since it will be 5pm or 6pm in Holland, PA.

- Other Spain Info
 - **Spain Mandatory Meeting is Monday, March 25** (The original scheduled date was moved due to the Florida Mandatory Meeting being scheduled on the original Spain Meeting date of March 19)
 - Spain Farewell Concert is Friday, March 29 at 7pm.
- Pizza Nights –March 22 (Pyramid Concert), March 29 (Spain Farewell), May 20
- Mr. Simon thanks Theresa (grocery cards) and Gail and Setoo (assisting with jacket fittings)
- Treasurer Update: In process of reviewing/confirming credits from grocery cards and all trip accounts to justify against the general CROPS account. Setoo will resend the credit reports to Theresa and Teresa. Mr. Simon is confirming all payments to KI are on schedule/completed. Account update will be confirmed; account overview to be reviewed at next meeting.
- T Stratton updates: Thank you for all of the ongoing support. Orchestra Festival- this will be a lot of work; donations and help needed! These fundraisers benefit ALL of the kids in orchestra...**please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to sign up to volunteer.** ACME cards- still some \$100 cards that were compromised may be in circulation- **PLEASE reach out to any family/friends that you ordered cards for, to ask them to check their cards!** T Stratton is continuing to serve as intermediary to ensure rectification and ACME has been helpful in rectifying the situation...**the earlier you check, the easier it is to fix.**
- **Planning ahead:** Nov. 8, 2019 at VFW- booked for Bag Bingo fundraiser for next year

Theresa Stratton - President

Cropmail-Please continue to use Cropmail@gmail.com to email about most business. It keeps us in the loop and it makes sure we can get information to the correct people.

President-----	Theresa Stratton
Vice President-----	Gail Culleton
Treasurer-----	Teresa Thorwart
Secretary-----	Jacki Kopack
Trip Treasurer-----	Setoo Dasaka
Membership/Database-----	Setoo Dasaka
Uniform Co-chairs-----	Celestine McDonald and Setoo Dasaka
Master Sectional/SUG-----	Theresa Stratton
Trip Fundraising-----	Theresa Stratton
Sunshine-----	Rosann Logan
Winter/Spring Concerts Co-Chair-----	Denise Gray and Jeanne Weisblatt
Banquet Co-chairs-----	Celestine McDonald, Dara Zivotovsky, Setoo Dasaka
Orchestra Festival-----	Gail Culleton and Robyn Rowlands
Fall Festival/Hayride-----	Theresa Stratton
Photography Co-chairs-----	Silvia Aquino and Barbara Tiger
Publicity-----	Lisa Woolcott

Respectfully submitted,
Jacki Kopack