

THE CHORUS LINE

WWW.DECATURCHORUS.COM

NOVEMBER 2013

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**December 8th, 2:30 pm
First Baptist Church**

Concert Attendance:

Please note that the Christmas and Spring Concerts count as the semester exam for all chorus students. Therefore, participation is mandatory. Concert attire will be checked at each performance. Students not in compliance will receive a maximum performance grade of 50 (F). Since performance grades are a major portion of the nine-week's grade, a student could fail for not wearing proper attire.

Concert Attire:

The dress for any chorus performance is as follows:

Boys: black shoes (no tennis shoes), black socks, black pants and chorus shirt. Hair must be neatly secured out of face. No earrings or other piercings.

Girls: black shoes (no tennis shoes and no open toed shoes), black hose (no bare legs or feet), black pants, chorus shirt. No earrings or other piercings. Hair must be neatly secured out of face.

Volunteers Needed

We need about 35 volunteers for the Christmas Concert so be on the look out for an email from Karen Spearman!

TICKETS

Are available now in the Chorus office for your child to pick up for \$3.00 each, cash or check.

CD's and DVD's

Are great mementos of your child's Chorus Concerts and can be ordered at the concert.

Shop with Scrip!

Help raise money for Chorus by purchasing gift cards to businesses where you regularly spend money and a portion will be returned to your student's account!

Visit www.shopwithscrip.com choose the cards you want and text your order to

Missi Cranston, 318-230-5435, or email

Dr. Davis, Carl.Davis@dcs.edu, with:

1. your name
2. your child's name
3. exactly what gift cards you want and their dollar amounts
4. Send your check made payable to "DHS Chorus"

Chorus Calendar 2013-14

December

- 3 Oak Pak Christmas Concert, Chamber Chorus only, 6:00 pm
- 4 Civitan Performance, Chamber/Concert Chorus only, First United Methodist, 12:00 noon
- 5/6 Christmas Concert dress rehearsal, all choirs during school
- 8 Christmas Concert, First Baptist Church, 2:30 pm
- 19 Lights of Love, Chamber Chorus only, Decatur Morgan Hospital 5 pm
- 20 Last day for students

January

- 7 First day for students
- 21 Talent show auditions
- 23-24 AVA Honor Choir, Renaissance Montgomery

February

- 7 Talent Show during school

March

- 10 State Choral Performance Assessment, Southside Baptist Church
- 19-23 Spring Trip to Chicago!
- 24-28 Spring Break

April

- 3-5 All State Chorus, Samford University
- 27 Spring Concert, all choirs, First Baptist Church 2:30 pm

May

- 15 Chamber Chorus auditions start at 3:30pm, chorus room
- 18 Baccalaureate, volunteer to sing
- 20 Developmental Center Graduation, volunteer to sing

Calling all Seniors

Apply for the 2013 Chorus Scholarships! Four scholarships will be awarded.

Forms and requirements available online at www.decaturchorus.com/scholarships.

Chorus scholarship applications should be turned into Krista Givens (DHS room 102) by **Friday, February 28, 2014.**

CHORUS BOARD MEMBERS

Director	Carl Davis
Assistant	Ginny Matherly
President	Kati Davis
Secretary	Leah Archer
Treasurer	Elaine Knight
Spring Trip	Drama Breland, Julie Cochran, Kristi Overbee
Chaperones	Karen Spearman
Robes	Debbie Smith, Tonya Jackson, Melinda Baker
Concerts	Kathleen Megehee
Talent Show/ Scholarship	Krista Givens
Transport./ Prof. Leave	Sarah Henderson
Mailouts	Tonya Jackson
Newsletter	Nancy Petersen
Website	Ellen Didier
Publicity	Wendy Lang
Fundraising	Susan Neil
♦Pansies	Sue Powell
♦RADA	Tonya Herda
♦Scrip	Missi Cranston

A big **THANK YOU** to Andrea Baker and Matona Moebes for chaperoning students to All State Auditions!

WAY TO GO CHAMBER CHORUS!

41 students and 9 parents traveled to the University of Mississippi October 5th to participate in the 2013 Ole Miss Choral Festival. DHS Chamber Chorus represented Decatur City Schools well. With adjudicators from Westminster Choir College (Princeton NJ) and Ole Miss Voice Faculty, Chamber Chorus scored three Superior Ratings -- 90, 95, and 95.5!

Twin National Merit Scholarships

Program honors pair of brothers at Decatur High School

The Decatur Daily, Thu Oct 3, 2013.

By Deangelo McDaniel, Staff Writer



John Godbey/Decatur Daily

Jonathan and Nathan Whitley both have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program, the only two such students from Morgan, Limestone and Lawrence counties. Jonathan, the youngest of the twins by two minutes, is a National Merit semi-finalist. Nathan is listed as a commended student, meaning he is worthy of recognition, but barely missed the next level.

Other than the clothes they wear and one set of braces, there are few differences between identical twins Jonathan and Nathan Whitley.

Both seniors are honor students and Decatur High band members. Both have narrowed their college choices to the same universities and their favorite classes are math and science.

And both have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program, the only two such students from Morgan, Limestone and Lawrence counties.

Jonathan, the youngest of the twins by two minutes, is a National Merit semi-finalist. He will continue to compete with about 8,000 students nationally for \$35 million in scholarship money.

The program, which recognizes academically talented seniors, listed Nathan as a commended student, meaning he is worthy of recognition but barely missed the next level.

The brothers said they are OK with how things turned out because both likely will receive academic scholarship offers.

For mother, it's a different story.

"Oh my, where do I start?" Leslie Whitley said. "It tugs at you because one of your kids is moving on and the other is not. But I'm extremely proud of both of them."

The twins understand their mother's feelings, but are determined to write their legacies at Decatur High, a school with Whitley family ties to the 1970s.

Their father, Dr. Bill Whitley, graduated from the school in 1974, older brother Andy in 2010 and sister Maggie in 2013. All were honor students.

The twins shy away from claiming the title as smartest, but at times, they fiercely defend each other's academic record before defending their own.

Take the only time Jonathan made a "C" in school, on an English assignment.

Nathan was quick to intervene and point out that his semester grade was an "A" and mentioned that both have on rare occasions made a "B" on an assignment.

"Very rare," he said.

Decatur High librarian Jennifer McCain has known the Whitley twins almost since their birth.

She describes them as "two of the most self-motivated students I have ever seen" and is confident both are destined for great things.

"All you have to do is be around them for a little time and you will know what I am talking about," McCain said.

"Nothing seems to bother them. They are focused on their academics."

Just how focused they are was evident when both enrolled in online advanced placement courses they didn't need to graduate, as electives.

Jonathan dropped his library aide class for AP computer science, and Nathan enrolled in AP statistics.

To them, it didn't seem like a big deal then, and it doesn't now. They attribute their academic drive to parental support and self-respect.

"We have always pushed ourselves to do well," Nathan said.

Besides the usual questions identical twins get, such as, "Have you posed as one another or tried to fool girlfriends?" they regularly field a less common question:

"Will you become doctors?"

The late Dr. E.C. Whitley, a grandfather who died in 1988 before the twins were born, brought the family to Decatur from Douglas in 1955 to practice medicine.

Their father has practiced in Decatur since finishing medical school in 1986.

The 2014 Spring Trip is to...

CHICAGO



March 19–23, 2014

Possible Activities to include:

- ♦ **Dinner Theater**
 - ♦ **Navy Pier**
- ♦ **Willis (Sears) Tower**
- ♦ **Shopping on the Magnificent Mile**
- ♦ **Chicago Cubs game**
- ♦ **Museum of Science & Industry**
- ♦ **Harbor Cruise**

Payment Schedule

October	\$100.00
November 15th	\$150.00
December 15th	\$150.00
January 15th	\$150.00
February 15th	Remainder of the Balance is Due

Approx \$650

Spring Trip Payment & Refund Policy

1. All Cancellations must be received in writing prior to **December 16th** deadline. December 16th is a “use it or lose it” date. Any student with a balance of less than \$400 on December 16th forfeits all monies. The funds become non-transferable to another student on this date.
2. As of December 16th all monies paid on each student account become non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Full payment must be received by February 15th. Failure to have all monies paid by this date will result in cancellation of your student’s space and any money already paid will not be refunded and cannot be transferred to another student.
4. If a student must cancel after December 16th (having greater than \$400 balance), that student may transfer any money paid to a “new” student. This cannot be a student already booked on the trip, in other words this “new” student must be a student who will take the place of the student who is canceling. This request must be submitted in writing. NO refunds or transfers of funds will be allowed after December 16th.
5. Regardless of when a student cancels, all fundraising money is nonrefundable but is transferable subject to the terms and conditions above.
6. If the director removes a student from the trip, for any reason, then all funds will be refunded (except funds generated through fundraising).
7. The only exception to the above policy would be in the event of a school related conflict which occurs after payments have been made. In this case the decision to refund will be determined by Dr. Carl Davis; however, no fundraising money is refundable for any reason (Alabama State Law).
8. To receive a refund for any overpayment you must submit a request for refunds in writing to the treasurer before the end of the school year in which the trip was taken. You may find a link to this form under the “forms” tab on the chorus website.

www.decaturchorus.com

CHARMS

New financial software is being used this year. If you were at the Greece trip meeting you received your www.CharmsOffice.com log on information. If you were not it was mailed to your house. Please follow the directions to log onto your account. If you need more info email us at Carl.Davis@dcs.edu . The School Code is DecaturHSChoir.

All **Chicago** and **Greece** trip participants are ***required*** to log on and update your information.

No account balances are available on the chorus website this year. You must log on to your student’s Charms account to view balances.

Decatur High Chorus
Decatur City Council of PTAs
302 4th Avenue NE
Decatur AL 35601

BULK RATE
US
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No.
669

Mailing Address
Street number and name
City State 98765-4321

Spring Trip March 2015 to
GREECE

Approximately \$2900/person
\$200 monthly payment plan available for
students and adult chaperons

Check CharmsOffice.com to see your account balance
(more info on CharmsOffice.com on page 5)

Visit the Decatur High School Chorus website at
www.decaturchorus.com and link to our
shutterfly account using password "Sing".