COMPETITION PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

First, I will address appearance. People’s first impressions of us will be what they SEE, both on and off the stage. We will look dignified and carry ourselves with pride.

Dress

* Always arrive dressed presentable. No t-shirts. Any jeans worn must be NICE jeans. No holes, no baggy or worn out jeans. No exceptions. Women: dresses or skirts must be finger-tip length. No cleavage. Men: shirts must have a collar.
* Do not wear costumes around school. We will change into them about 30 minutes before warmup, and then change BACK into our dress clothes after our prelim performance. If we make finals, we will stay in costume only after our finals performance if we don’t have time to change before awards or a group we would like to see.
* All costumes must be clean and pressed before each competition. You are responsible for bringing ALL of your costume pieces to each competition in a garment bag. It would be terrible for a judge to miss a “magic moment” on stage because they are commenting on the one performer who is missing a jacket.

Hair

* MEN: Hair must be out of your eyes. We will discuss hairstyles in rehearsal, but be prepared to put some sort of product in it. I suggest finding a fashionable hairstyle to make you appear older. Ask your hairdresser for some help.
* WOMEN: Hair must be poofed and loosely curled. We will have trained members and parents who will be responsible for fixing everyone’s hair. Hair must be fixed BEFORE we get off the bus! Do not cut your hair until after competition season is over, except for trimming split ends. Long hair is a must. A uniform look is what we need. We will tease bangs, pull them back into a poof, curl the rest, and use heavy amounts of hairspray.

Make-Up

* All girls must wear their makeup the same.
* Makeup must be finished before we get off the bus.
* I will give you specific details. Student input is not allowed.

OFF-STAGE PROCEDURES (free time)

* NEVER make a negative comment about any person or choir from another school.
* Always treat others with respect and kindness. Compliment other groups, performers, etc. when you enjoy things they do. Girls, if you see a cute dress or hairstyle…..tell them!
* I’m not interested in hearing about any shady things others have to say. Don’t tell me.
* Unless otherwise noted, you may be in the homeroom, cafeteria, or auditorium. Nowhere else.
* Watch as many other groups as you can. Each competition is about supporting other show choirs as much as it is performing.
* Save your voice and energy. Do not yell/scream or jump around/dance before a performance. Watch your volume level when you talk, especially on the bus and in the auditorium- be careful of trying to talk over outside noise.
* Give EVERY choir you see a standing ovation and be supportive. No one wants to be in a bad show choir and no one wants to put on a bad performance.
* When one Walker show choir performs, the other Walker group is to be the front two rows, making the most noise. Do not cheer excessively to the point you cover up the music. Cheer loud for solo endings, beginnings of dance breaks, and big vocal moments. Be the audience YOU want to perform for.
* PARENTS INCLUDED: Do NOT say anything about competition results until we are ON THE BUS AND HEADED DOWN THE HIGHWAY. The bathroom is not a safe place to discuss results because our competition and judges will use the bathroom too. I’ve heard several stories of people running mouths in bathrooms while the person they were blasting was in the stall (Not from Walker, but from other events).

WARM-UP ROOM PROCEDURES

* NO talking in the warm-up room or on the way to the warm-up room. None. This is our last chance to focus in and mentally prepare for our performance. Do exactly what is asked of you every step of the way. An undisciplined warm-up will result in an undisciplined performance.
* Do not ask me or anyone else how a move goes or how a vocal passage goes. And that goes for the whole day. You should be WELL BEYOND the move or note learning part of the process by then. Also, it looks highly unprofessional and amateurish to ask how a section of a dance/song goes.

HOLDING AREA PROCEDURES

* Talk quietly. No louder than a library voice. This is your chance to focus on what you are about to do as well as loosen up. Be a professional.

PERFORMING PROCEDURES

* We will enter the stage in an orderly fashion. Everyone will have a job. You do your job, check around you to make sure everyone else is ok, and go to your starting spot. Set your costume change in the exact same place every time, and have it labeled well.
* If your costume messes up to a point that it is about to fall off, calmly exit the stage at the most CONVENIENT point in the show (set change) and have it fixed by a stage hand. Return to the stage at the NEXT set change. NEVER cross behind the risers. If you go off to the wrong side of the stage, you are stuck there. If you are late coming on stage, do not enter until a set change.
* NEVER TOUCH YOUR HAIR. Do not fix or adjust costumes until a set change, and do so in a discreet and professional manner. Never let it be obvious that something’s wrong to the audience. Go with the flow and they’ll most likely never know.
* Give 110% energy and effort or stay home.
* Hold all ending poses until the appropriate time to relax.

***OUR BAND IS A PART OF US. BOTH GROUPS BIOS WILL READ: “Encore/Diamonds is comprised of \_\_\_ singer/dancers and 11 instrumentalists.” We cannot do this without them and they need to feel more welcome than anyone else.***

We WILL be the nicest groups at every competition we attend. We will be spirited, complimentary, nice, serious, focused, and fun. In other words, we will handle everything with a graceful maturity. These are the most prestigious performances we will have all year. I expect you to perform and behave at your absolute highest level.

Most people out there won’t know where Jasper is, and unfortunately, some won’t care. It is our job to show them. There will be rude people – parents and students. We will not engage in that at all. Let them be rude.

Last but not least, competition days are long and draining. Get rest the night before, take it easy on the bus, and find some times throughout the day to relax and take it easy. Stay hydrated; avoid unhealthy foods and caffeine (sodas/coffee/tea). Hot honey-lemon water is a very good choice the night before and the morning of. Manage your stress by having a plan of attack for homework/projects. Work on them all week leading up to the competition so you don’t have to stress about them on Saturdays.

I’m looking forward to this competition season and what each group will accomplish. We don’t go to take home trophies, we go to perform in a great atmosphere and share our talents with other musical groups!

Take care,

Mr. Lindsey