



Media Release

Contact: Michael Barber
Director of Communications
(941) 720-1734

NEW SCHOOL YEAR TO KICK OFF WITH BUS SEND OFF

(Bradenton, FL – September 19, 2022) A first-of-its-kind performing arts event will be held at **Manatee High School** on **Tuesday, September 20, 2022, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.** The School District of Manatee County (SDMC) Men's Choir Festival will feature a concert by 100 male choir students from all seven high schools.

The all-day event includes a choral clinic for students led by Manatee High School Choir Director, Tommy Jomisko, and Braden River High School Choir Director, Steve Armstrong. It will focus on teaching ensemble and performance skills development specific to male voices. A professional development workshop for the county's high school choral directors will provide conducting techniques and teaching strategies for their choral classrooms.

Funds provided by the voter approved extension of the one-mill referendum will be used to help cover the costs of the clinic. Manatee District arts programs were added to the list of district priorities to benefit from the additional mill, along with increasing pay for teachers and other instructional personnel, adding 30 minutes to the school day and enhancing science, technology, engineering, math and career and technical programs.

After an intensive day of rehearsals, students at Tuesday's clinic will perform the new music they learned. Families, staff and community members are encouraged to attend the concert.

Choral directors/choir students participating in SDMC Men's Choir Festival include:

Alexis Pletincks, Bayshore High School
Steven Armstrong, Braden River High School
Rebekah Lester, Lakewood Ranch High School
Tommy Jomisko, Manatee High School
Helene Franco, Palmetto High School
Kerrie Carrier, Parrish Community High School
Michelle Norman-Webb, Southeast High School

The goal of the event is to make a positive impact on music students and showcase SDMC Visual & Performing Arts.