

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

## Choir Placement

Students are placed in the choir that is most appropriate for them. They are placed in the group that will provide them the best balance in terms of challenge, growth-potential, and overall success.

Several factors are considered when determining a student's placement in choir.

- Sight-reading ability
- Pitch Accuracy
- Tuning Ability
- Academic Eligibility
- Tone Quality
- Pitch Memory
- Attitude
- Experience

## Ensembles

**FORTE- Men's Choir\*** will be comprised of quite a spectrum of young men who are either experiencing choir for the first time, whose voices and/or sight-reading skills need strengthening, or as a preparatory group to the Chorale Mixed choir. Students are required to participate if the Men's Choir competes in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Members may choose to participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process and UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest.

**BELLA VOCE- Women's Choir\*** is comprised of young women whose choral techniques and/or sight-reading skills need specific development. Students are required to participate if the Women's Choir competes in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. They may also choose to participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.

**CANTABILE- Women's Choir\*** consists of young women who have experience in choral ensembles and perform at the intermediate/advanced level. The members have a firm foundation in their sight reading and vocal skills. This choir consists mostly of upperclassmen and students who have shown exemplary ability as singers and students. Cantabile will compete at the non-varsity level at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Members are encouraged to participate in both the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process and in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest as well as all other applicable choral activities.

**\*There are no regular rehearsals scheduled for the above groups, but rehearsals may be added in preparation for a concert or contest if deemed necessary by the discretion of the director.**

**CHORALE MEN & CHORALE WOMEN** are the varsity ensembles who perform separately and combine to form the Chorale Mixed Choir. Singers in this choir are advanced musicians who have strong mature voices and sight reading skills along with a good academic record. These students display a great aptitude for musical understanding and singing capability. Their work ethic in and outside of the choir room is to be an example of excellence set for other choir members and their peers. Chorale will compete at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest as the Varsity Mixed and Varsity Men's/Women's choirs. Members of this ensemble are required to participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process at the District and Region level (should they advance) and are encouraged to enter the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Members are required to attend a weekly regular after school rehearsal throughout the year (See Calendar). Chorale members have the distinct privilege of singing the national anthem at all home football games which serves as a performance assessment for the class.

**SOUND FX- Show Choir** is a small ensemble of men and women that specialize in pop, jazz, madrigal, Broadway repertoire, and choreography. This ensemble is active throughout the year with many performances both at school and in the community. Members must be enrolled in both Sound FX and Chorale choir classes. Membership is determined through a rigorous audition process and is only reserved for the most experienced of students within the Tompkins Choir program. During the audition process, it is up to the discretion of the Director to determine if the applicant meets the requirements of the sight-reading element of the audition as well as behavioral expectations, commitment, and overall experience necessary to be a potential member.