

Obra D. Tompkins High School



Choir Handbook

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OBRA D. TOMPKINS HS



CHOIR HANDBOOK

Welcome to the state recognized Tompkins High School Choir Program! By accepting membership in this organization, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the directors in making this year's choir the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. We do not expect every person in the choir to be a virtuoso musician or performer. We do expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions – and lots of hard work! Report promptly to all rehearsals, classes, and performances. Practice sufficiently to be able to perform your part well, and give it your “best shot” – every time, all the time!

The success of any organization is dependent on the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies and procedures are necessary to ensure that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize each choir member with: (1) the general operation and procedures of the Tompkins Choir program, and (2) the standards by which all choir members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the choir this year.

We cannot fail to mention what an amazing opportunity this year provides for the students to be a part of the Tompkins Choir program. Remember students that YOU are what makes the choir! The hard work, diligence, and time you dedicate will pave the way for the future of this program and for your own personal growth. We look forward to establishing new traditions and creating lasting memories!

Sincerely,

Christian De la Cruz & Kristin Killingsworth

OTHS- Choir Directors

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PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Choir Placement

Students are placed in the choir that is most appropriate for their learning. 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
- Tone Quality
- Pitch Accuracy
- Pitch Memory
- Tuning Ability
- Academic Eligibility
- Experience
- Attitude
- Conduct & Commitment

Ensembles

FORTE - Tenor Bass Choir* consists of a wide ranging 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 - SJV Treble Choir* consists of young women whose choral techniques and/or sight-reading skills need specific development. Students are required to participate if Bella Voce 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- JV Treble 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, vocal and ensemble 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 the 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 - Varsity Mixed Choir is 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. If a student cannot fulfill these expectations, they cannot be a member of Chorale- this includes regular Monday night rehearsals and follow the procedure outlined for absences.

SOUND FX - Show Choir/Advanced Mixed Chamber 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.

Grading Template: High School Choir

Katy Independent School District

Grades earned by High School Choir students will fall under the following three categories:

- Major – 50% of the six weeks average
- Minor – 35% of the six weeks average
- Other – 15% of the six weeks average

Student assessment will follow the guidelines outlined below.

Major Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as major grades by choir directors:

- Performances
- Tests (performing large sections of music, All-Region/State music, sight singing melodies, OR written tests)
- Daily classroom engagement in skill development
- After school engagement/attendance/participation/preparation

Some ensemble and individual required activities may be governed by TEA/UIL eligibility rules. Instructors assessing these activities must provide a TEKS-based alternative for ineligible or non-participating students. Please note that different ensembles have different course expectations and responsibilities. Failure to fulfill course responsibilities/expectations may result in loss of position in ensemble.

***Tests are understood to be assessments of an extended length and for which students have received notice well in advance of the assessment.*

Minor Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as minor grades by choir directors:

- Quizzes (performance assessments or written assessments)
- Concert/Performance Attire and Punctuality
- Sectionals/Rehearsals

Some ensemble and individual required activities may be governed by TEA/UIL eligibility rules. Instructors assessing these activities must provide a TEKS-based alternative for ineligible or non-participating students. Please note that different ensembles have different course expectations and responsibilities. Failure to fulfill course responsibilities/expectations may result in loss of position in ensemble.

*** Quizzes are understood to be assessments of shorter length for which 0 – 24 hours notice has been given.*

Other Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed in a category other than major or minor grades:

- Daily skills
- Preparation – materials, music, etc.
- Written homework
- Classroom/Event procedures

ELIGIBILITY

- Senate Bill 1 mandates that students who participate in extracurricular activities such as select contests and field trips must receive a grade of no less than 70 in each of their classes. Grades will be checked at the end of each six weeks grading period. **At that time, any student who fails a class will not participate in any field trip or select contests for the next three week period.** After three weeks, grades for these students will be checked again. If the student is passing ALL classes at that time, they will become eligible at 2:35pm seven days after the grades are checked. If all grades are not passing at the three week progress report time, the student remains ineligible for the remainder of the six weeks. (KISD has approved a list of advanced placement classes that are exempt from this eligibility rule)
- Unless an admission fee is charged, all choir concerts fall under the category of co-curricular activities (part of the course requirement) and are not subject to eligibility requirements. The following choir activities are considered extra-curricular and eligibility becomes an issue: talent show, school musical, events associated with the All-State Choir Process, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest, spring trip, singing at football games, etc.
- Statistics have shown that students involved in fine arts generally make one letter grade higher than most other students and also perform well above average on achievement tests. However, if you are having trouble in a class, PLEASE let us know! Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help.

CHOIR CODE OF CONDUCT

- Any organization is judged, in the eyes of others, by the actions of its individual members. Whenever you dress in a choir uniform or wear other choir identification (letter jacket, choir shirt, etc.), your actions reflect on the entire choir. ALWAYS conduct yourself in such ways that bring only CREDIT to yourself and your choir. ALWAYS conduct yourself with pride.
- **Selected Performances** – If, as a member of the Tompkins Choir, you have earned a position in an honor group (Region Choir, All-State Choir, etc.), all Tompkins Choir rules, regulations and guidelines will apply to that function.
- **Classroom Conduct** – Self-discipline is critical to the success of the OTHS Choir Department. Choir students are expected to follow these guidelines:
 - Be on time. Class begins as soon as the bell rings
 - Students are expected to be in their designated spot on the risers when the bell rings.
 - Follow instructions the first time
 - No use of vocal inhibitors such as food, gum, or candy during rehearsal
 - Use appropriate language and demonstrate good manners at all times
 - (No cursing, fighting, inappropriate gestures)
 - Disrespect to the director, adults, or classmates will not be tolerated
 - Come prepared to class with all appropriate materials (music, binder, pencil, etc.)
 - Not achieving proper classroom conduct & standards will result in grade deductions
- **Electronic Media** – Any member of this organization representing themselves, or the group, in an unfavorable, questionable or illegal manner through electronic media (i.e. websites, personal home pages, blogs, Facebook, text messages, chat rooms or similar websites/files accessible through a server or internet) or using telecommunication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on their organization or members of any other school organization including themselves (i.e. camera phones, digital photos, electronic descriptions) will be subject to the disciplinary actions determined by appropriate school officials and/or the directors, including probation or dismissal from the organization.
- **Telecommunication Devices**- Cell phones and other devices are to be on silent/vibrate mode and placed in the designated area upon entering the classroom. The usage of all devices is prohibited during class time unless approved or requested by the teacher. If a student is using their device without proper permission, the student will be asked to put the device away in their backpack or designated area and a discipline referral may also be issued. Phones should never be used during a concert by performers or audience members.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- *Class Attendance* – Unlike individual activities such as an academic class, it is impossible to make up activities that occur in a choir rehearsal. It is important to consider this when approaching events/concerts. Appointments and absences should not occur during choir classes in the days prior to our concerts and most especially on concert day!
- *Additional Rehearsals/Activities* – Students will be given adequate notice of all additional rehearsals and activities outside of the regular class period. These rehearsals and activities are course requirements and are vital to the success of the choral program. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of out-of-class time required. Therefore, unexcused absences from these activities will be treated in the same manner as an unexcused absence from class, and will affect the student's grade. Unexcused absences include work.

In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the sponsors for the activities. The sponsors will then determine the student's obligation.

- *Concert Attendance* – Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of preparation and class work. Choir members are expected to be present for the entire duration of each required concert. An unexcused absence from a concert will lower the student's grade dramatically. Absences and tardies will be excused for cases of medical emergency or death in the family. **Prior notification** of any conflict with a required concert or rehearsal is required with **adequate notice**. Students are held responsible for keeping up with the dates and times of scheduled activities. Notification must be sent via email to both directors in order to be considered for excusal.
- *Excused Absences* – It is impossible to replicate what happens in a concert or rehearsal, therefore it is imperative that each student attend. Anyone receiving an excused absence from a concert or after school rehearsal will need to arrange with the director an appropriate assessment to serve as their make-up grade. The student will need to be prepared to perform any and all pieces demonstrated at the rehearsal/concert. An excused absence consists of personal illness or unforeseen family emergency. **Any excused absence must be approved prior to the performance through email.**

Submission of the absence does not guarantee excusal from the rehearsal or guarantee full credit or restoration of full credit for the missed rehearsal.

**** Students who miss concerts regularly cannot effectively fulfill the requirements of the course or standards of the program and therefore should not be in choir. Missing multiple concerts may be cause for a change in program or removal from the program.**

- *Unexcused Absences* - An unexcused absence from a concert or mandatory after school rehearsal will result in an automatic zero for a grade. There will be no option for a make-up grade. Any student in a competition choir who consistently misses concerts and/or rehearsals may be demoted to an entry level choir. Unexcused absences from the concerts will result in a conference with the directors to determine the student's continued participation in the class/program.
- *Chorale Expectations* – Chorale members (4th period) are expected to be at all after-school rehearsals, performances, and events. Unavoidable absences must be emailed to both directors. Upon submission, the directors will determine if your absence can be excused. All unexcused absences will affect your grade. Conflicts must be submitted with adequate notice. In addition, an email must be sent on the day of the conflict for our records.

TARDIES

Choir students are considered tardy if they are not in the choir room when the bell rings. Students not in their designated spot on the risers at the tardy bell may be counted tardy.

- 4-7 tardies in choir = N in conduct thus loss of exemption for choir final exam.
- 8 tardies (+) in choir = U in conduct meaning a loss of exemptions for ALL classes.

SUPPLIES / FEES

- Each student will be supplied with his/her own copy of all music to be rehearsed and/or performed. The music should be **kept neatly in a choir folder (1 inch Black binder - initially provided)**. Music will be checked out to the student and must be returned in good condition. Any music that is lost or returned in damaged condition must be replaced at the current market replacement cost for the music.
- Students will be issued an OTHS Choir Garment Bag. All Tompkins Choir uniforms should be transported using this bag to ensure the longevity of our uniforms. Each child is responsible for the care of their assigned bag and is solely responsible for returning it in proper condition at the end of the year. The student is financially required to replace or repair any Tompkins Choir Garment Bag that is returned in a condition that is not acceptable or if the bag has been lost or destroyed.
- Each student must pay a **\$150.00 Activity Cost**. This payment is made through the Booster Club Activity Account. It covers the following (but is not limited to):
 - Uniform usage, and cleaning
 - Choir composite picture sitting fee
 - Choir T-shirt (1st year choir members only) with personalized name
 - Garment Bag Rental Fee
 - Purchasing of music/materials
 - Black music binder
 - Accompanist, Choreographer, and Clinician costs for standard concerts
 - Technology and Sound Equipment Purchases
- Additionally, there is a **\$50.00 Course Fee** that is required to be enrolled in a choir class. This payment must be made through the district RevTrak system. This covers the following types of expenses related to choir participation:
 - Bus costs for transportation to non-UIL related events and activities
 - Printing costs done through the KISD Print Shop
 - Supply orders placed with the KISD Warehouse
- Each student will be issued a **black 1" 3-Ring Binder with a clear plastic cover**. This folder may be stored in the folder cabinets provided in the choir room. Students are expected to keep these binders in performance-ready condition throughout the year. Students are responsible for replacing any binders that aren't kept up to performance standards.
- Students must have a pencil with an eraser for all rehearsals.
- Students who participate in individual solo competitions are responsible for submitting the appropriate fees/forms that are required per competition. These materials will always be distributed prior to each event.
- Choir students who choose to go on the Choir Spring Trip are responsible for paying their individual cost for the spring trip. All outstanding choir-related fees/costs must be paid before a student is permitted to attend the Choir Spring Trip. Payments made towards the trip will be allocated towards any outstanding balances until they are satisfied.

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

CHOIR ACTIVITY COST

Online Collection of an initial **\$50 program fee** will take place during our **Mandatory Choir Parent Meeting** date on **Monday, August 26, 2024**. We will be available at any point during this timeframe to collect payments and assist with merchandise purchases. The remainder of the **Choir Activity Cost (\$150.00)** will need to be paid by **Tuesday, October 1st, 2024**. Money will be collected in the form of **cash and checks ONLY**- made payable to: TCBC (or) Tompkins Choir Booster Club.

MERCHANDISE

Additional choir t-shirts (for family members, friends, and supporters) will be available for purchase online through our Brammers Online Store which will go live on the Choir Parent Meeting and Mini Concert. ****APPAREL ITEMS ARE ONLY ORDERED AT THIS TIME FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR**

ALL OTHER FEES & PAYMENTS

Any fees/ forms that are associated with any competition or event must be submitted by the student by the designated due date, following the proper FEE DEPOSIT PROCEDURE (listed below). **Failure to do so may result in the student's inability to participate.**

FEE DEPOSIT PROCEDURE

All monies being turned-in by students must be submitted in the deposit form to the Choir Safety Deposit Box which is located in the Choir Library. Students will need to fill out a Deposit Slip that indicates important information related to the payment. ****Please do not submit money to the Director or Parent Volunteers unless you are instructed otherwise by the Director.**

All forms related to registrations and payments must be turned-in to the Director unless specific instructions state otherwise on the form.

TOMPKINS CHOIR- DEPOSIT SLIP	
Student Name: _____	Circle one: Cash Check
	Check # _____
Please list Item(s) or fee(s) this payment covers below. Use the back of this envelope if you need more room.	
EX: Choir Fee \$100	
District Audition Fee \$20	
Item or Fee	Amount
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
[Office Use: Date of Deposit _____ Deposit # _____]	Total \$ _____

CARE OF FACILITIES

- *Refreshments* – No gum, food or drinks (with the exception of bottled water) are allowed in the choir room except when authorized by the director.
- *Litter* – All trash is to be deposited in the waste baskets provided.
- *Vandalism* – Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every choir member is responsible to help the director monitor and control vandalism. This includes, but is not limited to, writing or carving on walls, destroying music, damaging equipment/materials used by the director and our voice teachers, or the breakage of school property.
- *Practice & Ensemble Rooms* – Are designed for practicing, not social gatherings. Anyone caught misusing these rehearsal spaces may be barred from using them in the future and are subject to disciplinary action. Activities regarding vandalism of these rooms will be dealt with harshly. **NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED.** Personal belongings may not be stored in the practice rooms.
- *Office* – Our Office is open for questions and conversations when the blue light is on. The Office is closed for a parent conference or other pressing issue when the red light is on. Please be considerate and courteous when knocking on the door especially when the red light is on.
- *Office Phone* – If the phone is not in use and it does not inconvenience the music staff working in the office, you may use the office phone *with the director's permission*.
- *Stage/Auditorium* – You are not to be on the stage or in the auditorium unless you are accompanied or been given permission by one of the fine arts directors.
- *Audio Equipment* – Audio equipment may be used by students with these guidelines: You must use it for rehearsal purposes or for specific listening work once you have obtained the director's permission. Groups of students are encouraged to rehearse All-State music in the choir room with the stereo. Only serious practice will be allowed.
- *Pianos* – We are fortunate to have a baby grand piano in our choir room, as well as upright pianos in several of the Choir Practice Rooms. Never set your personal belongings, OR BEVERAGES on these instruments. Students may play the piano only before and after school and only with the *director's permission*.
- *Bulletin Boards* – These boards are used to share information about upcoming events and audition information. Do not make marks on any materials posted on these boards. Inappropriate markings or damage on these materials may result in disciplinary action.
- *Rolling Chairs* – Chairs with wheels are for director use only. Students are not allowed to sit in or touch rolling chairs unless given specific permission by the directors.

PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

- Each student will be issued a performance uniform. Students are responsible for returning the complete uniform intact at the end of the year. Hemming and alterations will be performed **only by our in-house seamstress** to ensure uniformity across all groups. When possible, the same uniform will be issued each year, so alterations may only be needed once. ***PLEASE do not alter uniforms!***
- During the year, students are expected to maintain the uniform on their own. The choir program will have all uniforms properly cleaned at the end of the school year. Should a parent decide a uniform requires intermittent cleaning, **they must be DRY-CLEANED only!**
- Students who lose or damage the uniform will pay the replacement cost of the uniform. Dress uniforms are the property of KISD. They are considered equipment and are only to be worn in performances.
- Upon issue, students are responsible for keeping track of their uniform pieces. If items are mistakenly mixed up with other students and then returned, the student is still financially responsible for the uniform pieces that were originally issued to them at the beginning of the year. If not all of the student's original pieces are properly returned, they must pay for the replacements.

FORMAL UNIFORM

- The formal choir uniform consists of several parts, some issued by the choir and others that must be provided by choir members. It is important that all parts be standardized or "uniform" within the choir. It is our position that the condition of one's uniform reflects the pride one has in our program.
- Students are responsible for the uniform and its appearance at all times. If any part of it is lost or damaged, the student must pay to have it replaced or repaired.
- Uniforms must be kept neat and clean while in student's possession. When not in use, the uniform is to be hung neatly (preferably in the Choir Garment Bag).
- When wearing the uniform, female students may only wear small stud earrings. **No personal necklaces, watches or bracelets will be permitted.**
- Hair shall be clean, well groomed, and out of the eyes. **Hair must be in an up-do for females.** No bows, scrunchies, or ornaments shall be worn in hair during performances.
- Students may not wear cologne or perfume of any kind during performances. Hair spray, nail polish, etc. should not be applied around other people. This is a courtesy to the many people who have allergies/asthma.
- Violations of the above standards of grooming will result in a deduction of points for performance and may result in loss of performance privileges or removal from a competition choir.

** Tompkins Choir students who are performing, attending an event, or travelling as a group must remain "in-uniform" for the entirety of the event which includes the return trip home! It is important that we maintain a good image anywhere we are seen in order to represent our district, campus, and program with the utmost quality and pride. Examples of this would be: ladies keeping their hair intact and gentlemen keeping their shirts tucked-in/tux coats on, etc.

UNIFORM PARTS PROVIDED BY FEMALE STUDENTS

- Black Closed Toed Shoes
- Off Black Panty Hose

UNIFORM PARTS PROVIDED BY MALE STUDENTS

- White tux shirt with lay flat collar
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes

INFORMAL CHOIR UNIFORM

- Choir T-shirt
- Dark Blue Jeans (without holes)
 - Director may choose to have students wear Khaki pants instead of jeans depending on the performance venue.
- Closed toed shoes
 - Shoes must be clean and well-kept
 - Certain brands of shoes may be clean but appear to be tattered and unkempt. These styles should be avoided for a performance in your informal uniform
 - Ex: Tom's, Crocs, etc.
 - If a student would like to wear a shoe in one of these styles and is uncertain of whether it is appropriate, they must ask the director for approval.
- Students wearing chains, bulky bracelets and jewelry, or anything else that detracts from the group's overall uniform appearance may be asked to be removed.

OFF CAMPUS PERFORMANCES & TRAVEL

When the choir travels as a group, the following guidelines must be observed:

- **Conduct** - School-sponsored trips are an extension of the school day, and all KISD and OTHS regulations are in effect for the duration of the trip. This includes the use of alcohol, drugs, etc.
- **Uniform**- Tompkins choir members will remain in uniform **at all times** unless indicated by one of the directors. The way we present ourselves is extremely important and is a reflection of our program and our school. Maintaining uniformity and pride in our appearance is one way we can project a good image of the Tompkins choir program. For ladies, this includes the formal hairstyle that may be required for an event.
- **Bus Procedures** - All choir members will travel to and from each event by bus. If another arrangement is necessary, this must be discussed with the director in advance, but choir students will not be released to anyone other than their parents without principal approval. The following procedures are in effect:
 - Stay seated when the bus is in motion. Nothing is to be thrown from the bus windows. Refrain from loud talking/singing, etc.
 - The Director or Chaperone will check roll each time the bus is boarded.
When roll is being called, everyone is to be seated and silent.
 - No glass containers are allowed. Trash is to be placed in the bags provided.
Each choir member is responsible for keeping the bus clean.
 - All members are responsible for taking their own equipment to the designated loading area or on the bus with them.
 - Katy ISD, the Tompkins choir director, or the Tompkins Choir Booster Club cannot and will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items left on a bus.
- **Travel Reminders:**
 - Be on time for all trips or be left behind.
 - Use proper etiquette.
 - All students making the trip on the bus will return on the bus unless a parent is present and there is a good reason to return with the student's own parent. **This MUST be cleared in writing with the proper documentation and approved by the director prior to the trip.**
 - Students are NEVER to get into any vehicle other than KISD designated transportation or in a vehicle driven by his/her own parent.
 - Students must remain in groups no smaller than 3 when on trips.
 - Students are not to leave an assigned area.
 - Students will obey the director's/ chaperone's instructions

VOICE LESSONS

- The Tompkins Choir program offers the opportunity for students to take part in the KISD Private Lessons Program. It is not required, but is a valuable resource for students to work directly with a qualified and approved voice teacher.
- The voice is an instrument and as such it is important that each individual avail himself or herself of the opportunity to learn how to use their instrument. While each Choir class will devote time to vocal development, it is highly recommended that singers study privately either through the KISD Private Lesson Program or with other teachers in Katy or Houston.
- All voice teachers who teach on campus are contracted by KISD. Students pay the teacher directly. The fee per half hour is determined by the credentials of each teacher including degree level and years of teaching experience. The breakdown of rates is below. Each teacher will provide a studio policy detailing the preferred method of payment and attendance guidelines. The KISD voice teachers will teach lessons in the choir practice rooms at school.
 - Tier 1- Non-Degreed or 0-4 years experience: \$22.00 per half hour (*not offered*)
 - Tier 2- Bachelor Degree or 5-9 years experience: \$24.00 per half hour
 - Tier 3- Master Degree or 10-14 years experience: \$26.00 per half hour
 - Tier 4- Doctorate Degree or 15+ years experience: \$28.00 per half hour
 - All Voice Teachers at Tompkins are Tier 4 teachers.
- The object of the voice lesson is for students to learn good vocal technique and how their individual voice functions. Students will build a repertoire that may include art songs, arias, musical theater, pop music, or vocal jazz. Students may study the All-State Choir repertoire or prepare for UIL Solo & Ensemble competition. They may also choose to prepare audition material for events like Coffee House, Singing Valentines, or Pop Show. In order for the student to be successful, it is crucial that he or she practice between lessons.
- Students who wish to take part in the KISD private lessons program must complete the student application and email it to the choir director. Students will be placed with a voice lessons teacher and their contact information will be sent via email. Additionally, a **deposit in the amount of \$92.00 must be received by the assigned voice teacher prior to the student being placed in a private lessons studio.** *Studio availability is limited and lessons are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- It is important that the student/parent obtain all contact information from the instructor (phone, email, etc.) in the event a lesson must be missed. Unexcused absences from voice lessons will be charged the full lesson price. Communication regarding attendance should occur directly with the voice teacher, not the choir directors.

SIGN-UP PROCEDURES

- 1) Submit the following items to the Director:
 - **Private Lessons Program Student Application**
 - Indicate any regular weekly conflicts
 - Lessons are only offered after school.
 - Include a BLANK check in the amount of \$92.00 for the 1st month's deposit.
 - The Director will assign the check to the appropriate voice teacher once the student has been placed in the program.
- 2) Confirm with the Director when your first lesson will occur.

KISD CHOIR LETTER JACKET CRITERIA

- One of the privileges of choir membership is the right to wear a Letter Jacket. A student must earn 15 points to receive a letter jacket. All points are cumulative within a year and carry over from year to year. A music student moving into KISD from another Texas public school will have points assigned based on the KISD point system after verification by the previous director.
- Senior students earning jackets through participation in a particular organization must fulfill all obligations pertaining to that organization throughout the entire senior year, or forfeit their award jacket. The director of the organization will reclaim the jacket.
- Any choir student that quits the choir program before the end of his or her senior year is ineligible to receive a letter jacket if participation points were used toward their letter award.
- Students earning jackets will be measured in early September and early March. Point totals will be calculated prior to each date.

CHOIR PARENT SUPPORT

- The success of the choral program is dependent on parental support. The Tompkins Choir Booster Club is an organization of volunteer parents who support the choir in countless ways. The purpose of the group is to encourage the students by assisting in payment of various student fees, assist in payment of accompanist fees throughout the year, plan social activities, organize chaperones, provide publicity, help with costuming, and various other activities. Please join the OTHS Choir Boosters and become an active participant in the OTHS Choir.

2024-2025 BOOSTER CLUB OFFICERS

President	Angela McClinton
Vice-President of Membership / Secretary	Marcie Payne
Vice President of Special Events	Traci Brown
Vice President of Publicity	Claudia Hernandez
Vice President of Fundraising / Treasurer	Derek & Amber Alfonso

BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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