

2022-2023 JETS Choral Handbook

JETS Choir

Thompkins JETS Choir is a co-curricular ensemble comprised of students from grades 6-8. Our choir meets during separate periods – 4th, and 6th periods. Depending on roster numbers and balance, there are times when the students may perform as a class. Each class choir is a stepping stone in choral training. All classes will focus on a wide variety of choral literature, employing many performance styles. Much emphasis is placed on vocal development, choral technique and general membership. JETS Choir will continue efforts to improve sight-singing skills and music theory. There are at least two concerts per semester. Some performances are combined with the Central High School Choirs. Our students have many opportunities to be seen performing in our community. Curriculum will be adjusted at the discretion of the director and the guidance of the EVSC Fine Arts Vocal Specialist.

Expectations

As a member of the Thompkins JETS Choir, students represent our school at in-house events as well as community activities. All students are expected to be courteous with everyone with whom they come in contact. Your actions will be considered when planning future program activities.

Always remember:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” ~John Wesley



General Classroom Policies

Mind your manners and make choices that help you and others learn.

Use instruments and materials with care.

Speak, sing, and play when directed.

ImmEDIATELY follow all instructions and participate in activities.

Choose to be your best!

Rehearsal Policies:

- ◆ All choir members will be present for all choral functions.
- ◆ Arrive at all classes, rehearsals and performances on time. Remember: *To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late!*
- ◆ **Listen!** Each student is here to learn and improve. This will be accomplished by listening to:
 - ◆ *the director* – benefit from her experience and knowledge;
 - ◆ *each other* – the success of the choir depends upon this;
 - ◆ *yourself* – apply the things you are learning to your own work and continually evaluate your performance.
- ◆ There should be no talking during rehearsal without the permission of the director.
- ◆ Maintain a **positive attitude** at all times! We have a strong, growing choral program. We must all be engaged in encouraging each other and projecting a positive image to our school and our community.
 - ◆ At no time will ridicule or destructive comments toward students or staff be tolerated. Any problems, suggestions, criticisms, or complaints should be discussed ***in private*** with the director. Do not discuss these things with each other. Let's all work together to keep a positive attitude in our choir!
- ◆ No food, drinks, or gum in the rehearsal/performance facilities at any time.
- ◆ Students not enrolled in a music class should not be in the music area without the permission of a director.
- ◆ During any rehearsal or performance outside of school time, whether at school or away from school, all school rules will apply and will be enforced.
- ◆ Under no circumstances will cell phones be permitted to be used during rehearsals/performances.

Attendance Policies

It is the responsibility of each choir member to attend *every rehearsal and performance.*

EVSC Performance Policy

Performances are required events covered by the EVSC board policy on co-curricular activities and are a part of each student's grade. Except in the case of emergency, the *parent* must notify Mrs. Blanford of an absence from a rehearsal/performance *in writing at least one week* beforehand. Students will be excused for:

- ◆ Illness
- ◆ Religious Holidays
- ◆ EVSC events per student with prior written communication and director approval

Absences from performances will rarely be excused as everyone's voice is needed to complete our choral sound.

If an absence from rehearsal/performance is unavoidable and the student will be unable to attend the entire event, going to be late or leaving early, an excuse form must be on file prior to the absence. The director will determine whether or not an absence is excused. The teachers and coaches in our building work together to split time if TMS extracurricular activities overlap. With that being said, our rehearsals and performances are the priority as the students received a grade for each session together.

Please place our rehearsals and concert dates on your calendar to avoid scheduling other activities during those times. In case of an emergency absence, please contact Mrs. Blanford immediately through the Remind texts or by email.

Grading Policies

JETS Choir grade will be earned based on the following:

- ◆ Daily Rehearsal Grade: 20 points each day
- ◆ After-School Rehearsals (Required): 100 points each
- ◆ Performances (Required): 200 points each
- ◆ Evaluations (Singing/Sight-Reading/Written Exams)

Grading Scale:

A: 90%-100% (Exceptional and Mastery)

B: 80%-89% (Good)

C: 70%-79% (Growth)

D: 60%-69% (Basic)

F: 0%-59% (No Basis for Assessment)

Daily Performance Grade

As discussed earlier, attitude is of the utmost importance to our success as a group. This success depends upon the commitment, desire, and 100% effort of each individual member. To reach our goals, each student must show him/herself to be dependable, respectful, able to accept constructive criticism, and able to work in harmony with others. Anything less than these qualities will greatly hinder our ability to progress.

Talking during rehearsal, disrespect toward others, chewing gum, poor posture, absence, tardiness or any other behavior that is detrimental to the success of the choir will be dealt with by an appropriate action and will have an impact on the overall grade.

A system-wide rubric of measurement of these areas of attitude/participation has been devised by the EVSC and will be used as a tool of evaluation, both by the student (self-evaluation) and the director.

Tardiness/Attendance

A grade is given for each rehearsal and performance outside of regular class time. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will receive no credit for that event. Tardiness will also result in a lowering of the grade.

Singing/Sight-Reading/Written Exams

A grading scale will be given for each singing/written test. Singing tests are based on note accuracy, intonation, and tone quality. We are beginning a new sight-reading program this year. Assignments will be given through the program while scores will be assessed accordingly through the data retrieved.

Missed tests and quizzes may be made up the next time the student is in class if the absence was excused.

Make-up Tests for Excused Absences

Make-up tests due to an excused absence must be schedule with the teacher upon the student's return and completed in a timely manner.

****Unexcused Absences will hinder a student's grade!****

Class Supply List

- ◆ Choir Book Fee: \$10.00
- ◆ TMS Music Department Polo -- \$15.00
- ◆ ½" Black Binder -- Can be purchased in class for \$2.00
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Water Bottle
- ◆ Lined Paper
- ◆ Headphones or Earbuds (on occasion)

Performance Attire

All students are required to have the blue TMS Music Department polo to be worn tucked into black slacks. The polo is made available for purchase at the beginning of each year and costs \$15.00. Returning members do not need to purchase a new polo unless they have grown and need a new size. The polo is available in youth (M-XL) and adult (S-XXL) sizes. Students will also need access to black shoes, black socks, and long, black dress pants (no jeans, leggings, or sweatpants).

Boys: black dress shoes preferred; Girls: black flats or heels. Boots or tennis shoes are not acceptable. If you wear heels, make sure you can stand and walk in them for long periods of time.

****ALL SALES ON POLOS ARE FINAL!****

During **National Anthem** performances, students are to wear their TMS Music Polo with jeans (*with no holes*) unless otherwise noted on the calendar.

For **Spring Sing** with Central High School, attire will adjust with the theme and will be announced closer to the performance date. Students are allowed to wear jeans (*with no holes*) for this performance.



Sign up for important updates from Mrs. K. Blanford.

Get information for 2022-2023 JETS Choir right on your phone—not on handouts.

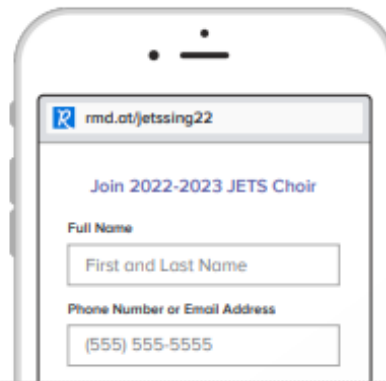
Pick a way to receive messages for 2022-2023 JETS Choir:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/jetssing22

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

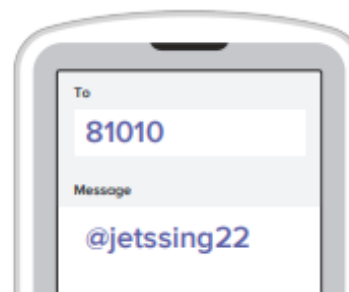


B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jetssing22 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jetssing22 to (484) 241-4261.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/jetssing22 on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Choral Policy Agreement Form

Choral Checklist Reminders:

- * Reviewed all Classroom Expectations and Policies
- * Purchased Supplies from Class Supply List
- * Paid Fees:
 - Choral Book Fee: \$10
 - TMS Music Polo: \$15 (*New members or needing new size*)
- * Filled out the Personnel Google Form on the Google Classroom
- * Added Concert Dates to your Personal Calendars
- * Registered for Remind Texts

I, _____, have read and understand all expectations as a member of the 2022-2023 Thompkins JETS Choir. I adhere to being present, on time, and a responsible member of our choral ensemble. Each day I will choose to be my best while representing our choir in school and within our community.

Student Signature

As a parent or guardian, I have read and understand the expectations and policies for my child as a member of the 2022-2023 Thompkins JETS Choir. I support and will make sure my child represents the Thompkins JETS Choir with the greatest pride during school hours and within the community.

Parent/Guardian Signature

****Signed Policy Form & Fees Due to Mrs. Blanford on Friday, August 19th****

Office Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Grade: _____ Class Period: _____