

Music Opportunities & Event Explanations

Private Voice Lessons

If you have a goal of singing a solo at contest, acquiring lettering points, getting a role in the musical or simply growing your voice, private voice instruction is the way to do it! Students are welcome to secure their own instructor or ask the director for suggestions. If you are interested in taking private lessons, contact Ms. Peterson for recommendations.

AP Music Theory

This academic class is ideal for the serious music student pursuing collegiate study in music to further explore the analytical and formative components of music.

KMEA Middle Level Honor Choir

9th grade students may audition – see Ms. Peterson/Mrs. Hill for details. Parents will be needed to assist with supervision. Transportation will be provided for students who need it; however, parents can drive students to/from the event. Auditions are recorded (singing “Dona Nobis Pacem” on an mp3). Ms. Peterson & Ms. Hill are happy to help with the recording – please set up a time with one of us OR make recording with your voice teacher. Information about this choir is available at <http://ksmea.org/mlchoir/>. Auditions must be completed by Thursday, SEPTEMBER 27 and submitted to Ms. Peterson

NAfME All-National Honor Choir

10th & 11th Grade All-State Honor Choir Members are eligible to audition. Students are responsible for all expenses associated with this honor choir; however, they can use fundraising money. See Ms. Peterson in late February for audition details

National ACDA 2019 Conference – In Kansas City

All students enrolled in choir may audition for this choir. There are honor groups for every age. For information, go to https://acda.org/ACDA/Conferences/National_Conference/ACDA/Conference/National_Conference.aspx. The conference will be in KC, MO February 27 – March 2, 2019. Students are responsible for all expenses associated with this honor choir; however, they can use fundraising money. Some money may be available from the school to assist with these choirs, but initially do not count on it.

Choir Leadership Team

Choir Leadership Team is made up of students selected by the director from an interview process and are determined in the spring of the previous year. Students who are new to OS, including freshmen, can apply in the fall. Selected students are in place to provide leadership, plan events for choirs and to work with/assist the OS Choir Director and Choir Boosters. Choir Leadership Team members are expected to attend all scheduled, required meetings and events.

All Choir Ice Cream Social

Parents, choir students and ALL family members are invited to attend. We ask for a donation of \$1.00 per person to assist with covering costs. It is not essential, but we welcome the support.

Uniform Checkout:

- Students will be fitted for uniforms during class (the first few weeks of school).
- On this assigned uniform checkout evening, parents and/or students need to come to the choir room to PAY for, make payment ARRANGEMENTS, and/or take uniforms home.
- This evening is the FINAL date for parents/students to pay for uniforms and/or set up a payment plan to pay for the uniform ASAP.

OS Choir Boosters

The booster organization supports OS Choir students...this is their #1 job! In the past, they have served meals/concessions at choir events, supported OS Choir Fundraisers for trips and equipment needed in the department. Boosters meet ONCE per month and parents are NEEDED to participate. Please get involved in two awesome ways: a) Donate Booster Dues – Recommended donation is \$40; OR
b) Serve as a member of the organization.

South Area Men's Festival

All middle level and high school choir students come together at OS. OS Men provide activities and make music with the feeder Middle School Singers. It is a great time for camaraderie and to allow fellow male singers understand what choir at OS is all about once they graduate 8th grade.

Star-Spangled Banner – OS Homecoming

Each year the members of choir are featured singing our country's National Anthem at the Annual Homecoming Football Game (usually at ODAC - 20925 159th St, Olathe, KS 66062). Plan to attend and support the school's football team, dance team, cheer squad, and the OS band. There will be a required call time, but as needed students are free to leave once are done singing.

OSD Masterworks Performance & Rehearsals (Every other year – Odd Years)

Chorale and Southside Singers will participate. All rehearsals and performance take place at ONW. All five OSD high schools participate in this event that features a masterwork from a famous composer, as well as the All District & State Choir Audition pieces. An outside clinician is hired to run rehearsals and the performance. Professional instrumentalists are hired to play for this outstanding and momentous event.

Choir Trips

Every THREE years, with the permission of the OSD Board of Education, members of the auditioned choirs at OS take an educational trip out-of-state. In March 2017, 56 parents and students traveled to Orlando, FL for the choir trip. Students are offered opportunities to earn monies toward the trip, which are sponsored by the OS Choir Boosters. All monies earned for the sake of this trip will go into student accounts that are kept by the boosters (and accounted for using our CharmsOffice.com software). Students will determine where we will take the trip, based on 3 different locations provided by Ms. Peterson, prior to the trip date.

KMEA District/State Building Auditions – HS Mixed & Treble Honor Choirs

Each year, the East Central KMEA District allows each participating school to send 40 students to District auditions at OE (10 soprano, 10 alto, 10 tenor, 10 bass). If there are more than 10 students per section that want audition, building auditions will be held. The process is very similar to the EC District audition process. Each interested student will use music to sing some portion of the 2 audition pieces. The excerpts will be selected by Ms. Peterson using the “accompaniment track” found on <http://systems.ksmea.org/hschoir/>. Prior to building auditions, students should practice with these tracks so they are very familiar with the tracks and they can be most successful. Please visit with Ms. Peterson if you'd like additional information. These pieces will be rehearsed and featured on the Fall Choir Concert. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible and should strongly consider auditioning for the District and All-State Choirs. OS pays for student participation in these groups. Transportation provided.

KCDA Treble Choir

This honor choir is only open to 9th grade students at OS. Students audition with “Alleluia” which we practice in class (Aug. & Sept.). Students submit an a cappella recording on/before the last Thursday in September, along with the supplied paperwork. If selected, students will be required to work with Mrs. Hill to prepare the music for the day-long clinic. Students are expected to practice at home and with Mrs. Hill, so that they know the music before going to KMEA in February (end of the month). OS pays for student participation in these groups. Transportation provided.

KMEA Middle Level Honor Choir

This honor choir is only open to 9th grade students at OS. Students audition with “Dona Nobis Pacem” which we practice in class (Aug. & Sept.). Students submit an a cappella recording on/before the last Thursday in September, along with the supplied paperwork. If selected, students will be required to work with Mrs. Hill to prepare the music for the day-long clinic. Students are expected to practice at home and with Mrs. Hill, so that they know the music before going to KMEA in February (end of the month). OS pays for student participation in these groups. Transportation provided.

Fall Choir Concert

The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. The HOUSE is always open to parents 20-30 minutes before the event begins. We never charge admission fees, but do accept Free-Will Donations. Parents/Community Members – please be patient and plan to enter AFTER the doors have opened.

Students in choir will be required to show up well in advance of the concert time. Many concerts will feature several/some of the choirs working together on songs (i.e., OS Alma Mater, The Star-Spangled Banner) and there is a need to practice before the show starts so we can get everyone together for a rehearsal and to provide students the highest chance at success!

Fall Concert (continued)

The fall concert is typically 90 minutes in length and it features ALL the OS Choirs (Falconettes, Chorale, Southside Singers, Concert Men, Concert Women, Misto Coro). Students will wear their formal attire for this event – all pants and dresses MUST BE hemmed appropriately for this event!

Olathe All-District/All-State Prep Clinic

Only students who auditioned for AND were selected to represent OS (the 40 singers from event above) are expected to attend this clinic. It is a very valuable experience...singers will meet at OS in the choir. All five OSD high school singers are invited to do “mock” auditions (some portion of all three audition songs, as well as Sight-reading will be assessed). During this time, audition rooms will be set-up and you will be adjudicated by one of the Olathe Schools’ teachers and you will receive comments and a score so you know what to work on for the actual auditions.

Winter Musical

Each year, the OS Theatre Department puts on a main-stage musical. Choir students with an interest in musicals and acting should definitely audition for the show. Each show features an individual audition, as well as callbacks. Interested students should start listening the musical as soon as they know what the show is going to be. Callbacks will ALWAYS feature music from the actual show, so the more you know, typically...the better you’ll do! See Mr. Hastings or Ms. Peterson for additional information! The show is performed in late January/early February. Major commitment with significant after-school rehearsal time.

All-District/All-State Choir Auditions

Only students who auditioned for and were selected for this event should plan to attend. Auditions will be held at Olathe East High School. Each school is assigned either a morning or afternoon time (7:30am-12 pm OR 12:30-4pm). During this time, students will practice the audition excerpts. Then, students will be called by voicing to the hallway where they will go into the room to sing the audition pieces. After singing the excerpts, you will perform the 4-measure sight-read example. Once you’ve sung your audition (excerpts and sight-singing), you are free to leave! Students in grades 9th-12th may audition if they are members of one of the OS Auditioned SATB Choirs or recommended by Ms. Peterson/Mrs. Hill

BNW Chamber Choir Invitational (Southside Singers)

The event is hosted by and held at Blue Valley West High School (16200 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66085). Students will drive themselves to the event and should arrive 45 minutes before it starts. Formal choir attire is expected.

Late Night at OS Gym

The start of the winter sports season features a great night of camaraderie. The night starts with all the members of choir singing The Star-Spangled Banner. Once we have sung, choir students are free to leave; however, I would encourage you to stay and support the teams! We will wear jeans and our choir t-shirt (the new one you receive in Sept/October).

Polar Express (Southside Singers only)

Southside Singers only and it is done in conjunction with Arbor Creek Elementary. Students should plan to arrive at OS Choir room by 7:15 a.m. and should be back in time for 6th hour. Students dress in special costumes to be revealed only to Southside, closer to the event.

All-District (East Central KMEA) Honor Choir Festival

In Sept., you competed against classmates for the 40 audition spots. In November, you went to OE to audition. If you are selected for the All-District Honor Choir, you will have the opportunity to sing with outstanding singers from the Northeast KMEA District (to see participating counties...go to www.ksmea.org/ne). In December, usually the 1st Saturday of the month, all the NE KMEA choir members gather at Shawnee Mission NW to rehearse with an outstanding clinician and give a concert for parents. Admission to the concert is \$1.00 per person and it is a concert you won't want to miss – great energy and wonderful musicality takes place here!

Holiday Magic / Winter Concert

This is our annual winter concert event with holiday tunes and the week of music/theatre festivities. Make sure you see the OS Bands, Choirs, Orchestras and Theatre classes share the Performing Arts Gala Week. You won't want to miss...it's time to get into the Holiday Spirit!

Community Luncheon (Southside Singers only)

This is a community event during the day. Formal attire will be necessary and mostly, students will only miss class time; however, they miss a few minutes on either side of 5th Hour block.

South Area Middle School Festivals (Southside Singers only)

Southside Singers will travel to IT, CST, and FT to visit with and perform for all Middle School and Elementary School Feeder programs. Students should return in time for part of 7th hour. We will "activity" shirts for the day to show students who are attending that choir students are involved in numerous activities in HS.

Forever Falcon Senior Meeting

Senior choir members are invited to help with planning for our Spring pops show (Forever Falcon). During this time, students volunteer to assist with all aspects of the show.

Harmony Explosion

Mid-November students will have the chance to sign up for quartets, which will prepare 4-part a cappella barbershop music. Students can create their own groups OR Ms. Peterson will help assign students groups. In January/February, the quartets must practice on their own and with Ms. Peterson so that the group is prepared for the event in February. Harmony Explosion is a day-long event where quartets select their own outfits that fit their selection and enjoy/present barbershop harmonies. Lunch is provided by OS Choir/OSD District funds.

KMEA Convention

Annually, the Kansas Music Educator's Association presents an annual convention. The convention hosts clinics, honor choirs for all grade levels. Choir students have the chance to make several groups: KMEA Middle Level Choir (7th-8th-9th grades), KCDA Treble Choir (5th-9th grades), KMEA HS Mixed Choir (10th-12th grades, and the KMEA

HS Treble Choir (10th-12th grades). The group will provide details about what to wear closer to the event. OS Choir funds are used pay for all aspects of these honor groups. These are the highest KS honors a student can earn within the state. Also, performing groups are selected to perform at the conference (Southside in February 2018).

Choir Placement Auditions

Each year, all members of choirs are re-evaluated to determine what group they should be placed in the subsequent year. Auditions include sight-singing, rhythm reading, and a cappella selection to be sung, as well as tonal/ear-training patterns. All auditions are completed during class time, except if a student coming into choir for the first time wishes to audition. Auditions must be complete prior to spring break.

Southside Singer Auditions

Any student who qualifies for Chorale is offered the opportunity to try-out for Southside Singers the next year. The audition requires no additional preparation; however, students MUST be there on the night this audition is offered or there is no way he/she will be considered for Southside. The audition is based upon a desired choral sound expected by the director (Classroom behaviors and Chorale auditions scores/results will also figure into the final "formula." Auditions are 90 minutes in length on this night in March.

Singing at the Kauffman

Either Chorale or Southside Singers will be selected to perform in this concert. We received an invitation from KU to join them on their free concert, held at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts. Our choir will perform 2-3 pieces and then, we'll all sing together on a final selected. Other area HS will also participate. The event takes place on a Sunday. Transportation will be provided & formal attire will be worn. More information will be shared closer to the date. There will be a dress rehearsal prior to the concert event. Concert begins at 3:00 p.m.

Freshman/Sophomore Festival (other grades will be included, but it is for our younger choirs to prep for contest)

Hosted by OS at OS...choirs from all Olathe High Schools will come to OS to sing for each other and two judges/clinicians who will offer a rating, as well as comments on ways the choirs can improve. Formal attire. Event lasts from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 am and students will miss their classes during the morning.

9th Grade Solo Festival

This event is held at ONW and involves only 9th grade singers. Singers prepare ONE song from specific songbooks because the accompaniment for this festival is "SmartMusic." SmartMusic is a recorded track that students can use for practice, as well as performance. Students will sing for a judge and receive a score & comments, as well as a few minutes to work with the judge face-to-face (offering immediate verbal feedback). Students are responsible for their own transportation, but there is no cost to participate. The festival runs 4-8 pm. Let Ms. Peterson know if you need a specific audition time (i.e. after sports practice, etc.) and we'll make it happen. Please plan ahead!

Forever Falcon (Spring POPS Show) Auditions

Auditions are early in the spring and there are TWO Rounds – first one to select the acts that are best prepared & best fit the theme/programmability of the show. Round 2 are callbacks – solos/duets/small groups may be eliminated if they are not prepared (2 weeks before the show). This round includes staging, memorized final product and having rehearsed with your accompaniment (Bonnie, guitar, ukulele, etc.). If this is not put together, the act will be cancelled. Anyone in the choir program can audition for Forever Falcon. We only allow a certain number of acts so it's important that all rules (sent home with students in the spring) are followed. Acts are can only be 2½ minutes in length...work with Bonnie to make cuts.

Pre-Festival Choir Clinic

The purpose of this clinic is to best prepare our classes for State Large Group Contest. We hire a clinician to come to OS and work with our groups...1 hour for each group that will be attending Large Group Contest. Attendance is very important!

Pre-Festival Concert

All groups who are going to State Large Group Contest perform on this concert. This concert also features several small ensemble groups who have not performed in public their pieces before contest. Concert admission is free. Also, we do this concert so that parents can hear our contest music. Since State Large Group is held during the day, most parents can't take off work to hear this music. This concert and contest are the only times we perform this music.

Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest

This festival is held in the spring each year on a Saturday (also the same date as the April ACT date). Ensembles will be determined by the vocal music staff & are voluntary (except Misto Coro). Soloists must prepare two contrasting pieces and audition locally for the limited number of spots available. Additional fees may be required to participate in this activity. Students who receive a 1-rating at Regional Festival are eligible to participate at the State Festival. This festival is hosted at OS and parents/community will be recruited to assist with all aspects of running the event. Please sign up to help when emails are sent out for parent volunteers.

State Large Group Contest

This event is the equivalent of the State Assessments...ours is sponsored by the KSHSAA and is the biggest event we attend all year. Student groups (we take 3 of them) perform in front of area high schools, as well as THREE judges who assign our choirs scores, assessing our success as an ensemble. We also receive written and verbal comments for our performance. The event is during the school day and students will miss school. It is possible that we will be scheduled/need to leave BEFORE the school day begins & we may go later than the academic school day.

Uniform RETURNS

As soon as your child finishes with their last CONTEST event, please get uniforms dry-cleaned (I will have robes cleaned at one time – no parent responsibility here, unless your child has misplaced the assigned robe or it has been “messed up” in any way – REPLACEMENT costs for robes = \$140.00). When returning your tux parts, dresses, etc., the MUST be returned in the original dry-cleaning bag AND have the receipt on it that shows when you paid to have it cleaned. This is essential because the uniforms are property of the school and we check them out each school year. It is imperative that we keep uniforms in great condition. The rental fees you paid are used to keep our inventory up-to-date and to keep them in good repair.

Forever Falcon Dress Rehearsal

Choir Banquet/Dinner

Choir Awards Reception

Forever Falcon (Spring POPS Show)

Each year our spring show features group songs, as well as solo/duet/small group acts. The style of music featured on this concert is POP and “easy listening” for a different “flavor” of choral music at the end of the year. Included with this music is movement/choreography on-stage to add another musical element to performance. This concert is the longest one of the year and requires students to stay and help at the end (moving all the equipment for performance). It is also one of the most energetic and important one we do because we recognize all the students, but esp. seniors – many have been in our program for 4 years and this is their last “hurrah” so we celebrate, cry and treasure this moment.