

INDEPENDENCE CHOIR 2018-19 HANDBOOK



**Know your part.
Know what you are a part of.**

This information, and much more, can be found at

WWW.KNIGHTSINGERS.COM



Classroom Rules

I WILL:

- **Be Present**
 - both physically and mentally.
- **Be Prepared**
 - with music, a pencil, and any other class materials in my seat when the bell rings.
- **Be Respectful**
 - of the teacher, other students, and the music we are preparing.
- **Be Courageous**
 - by opening my mind to new ideas and not being afraid to make confident mistakes.
- **Be Dedicated**
 - to the music we make and to those around me, knowing they will do so for me.
- **Be Driven**
 - to be better today than I was yesterday, and better tomorrow than I am today.
- **Be Excellent**
 - by constantly striving for perfection.
- **Be a Problem-Solver**
 - by using common sense and logic at every opportunity.

Grades

I. Major Grades (concerts, formative assessments) 50%

Attend concerts for full credit

II. Minor Grades 30%

Attend Required Sectionals (rarely)

Demonstrate mastery of skills below:

prepared with music, respectful attitude, no gum/food, pencil in hand, talk at appropriate times, correct singing posture, enthusiastic and energetic participation, music marked with measures numbered and indications from the director

Sight-reading tests/Quartet tests

Pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, intonation, phrasing, diction

III Daily Grades 20%

Bellringers

Theory, Vocabulary, Writing, and/or Concept work

Contacting the Director

Independence Choir Office: 469-633-5433

Mr. Draper Email: draperr@friscoisd.org

Opportunities to Connect

facebook.com/knightsingers

Twitter: @KnightSingers

Instagram: @KnightSingers

Remind Group: Text @indychoi to 81010 to receive important updates

Attendance

A grade will be given for each performance. An absence from a performance will result in a “zero” Major Grade for the six weeks in which the absence occurred. Leaving during a concert, for any unexcused reason, will result in a “85” as your performance grade. Being late to the call will result in “10” points off your performance grade.

You will always be given ample prior notice of rehearsals and concerts, and you will be expected to make arrangements with your employer to attend these rehearsals and performances. Also, many of you are involved in other IHS and community activities that will, from time to time, conflict with our rehearsals and performances. You are expected to do all in your power to make arrangements to attend these required events. Teachers will work together so please let us know there is something to work out.

Special Circumstances

If you have extenuating circumstances and cannot attend the rehearsal or performance, you must personally submit your reason for needing to miss to the director in writing prior to the rehearsal. If you are absent from school the day of an after school rehearsal or performance, you must contact the director prior to our performance for the absence to be excused.

Attendance at department concerts is mandatory for all students and is not excused for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Absences may be excused only at Director’s discretion.

If you need to speak with Mr. Draper about special circumstances regarding yourself or your children (i.e. can’t pay fees all at once, missing rehearsals/performances, questions regarding policies or activities, etc.) please contact the director.

Independence Pillars

We will do our best not just to try to uphold the six pillars of Independence High School but to become examples of them. We will exhibit Integrity in how we are both inside and outside of this classroom. We will show Unity of purpose both in choir and in school. We will demonstrate Loyalty to our fellow choir members, because it is essential to what we do, and to the school as a whole because it is OUR SCHOOL. We will show Courage in this room, by singing confidently at all times, and outside of this room by standing up for what is right. We will show Perseverance in our efforts here and elsewhere. Finally, we will perform Service because those of us who can help need to always be ready to help those in need, be they classmates or not. It is in service to each other that we show our humanity.

Departmental Overview

The choral students at Independence High School will learn to appreciate and perform music in varying styles, from an array of cultures, and at appropriate difficulty levels. We will present concerts and perform throughout the year. We will also be an active department socially. The elected leadership will help select and organize our social activities. Some social activities will be for all members, and some for the varsity choir....membership has its privileges!

Each student in a choir will be responsible for learning a solo and performing it individually at some point this year. Options for satisfying this requirement include but are not limited to auditioning for the talent show, All-Region Choir, the Dessert show, the musical, or the Spring Show. You may also elect to learn a vocal solo and perform for the director, for the class, or at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. If you sing a solo at church, please bring in the bulletin or program and you may satisfy the requirement that way, as well.

We will be active participants in the Musical each year which will be produced by the Fine Arts Department and Co-Directed by Mr. Draper and Mr. Butler. The musical will be open to the entire school but the choral department needs to be well-represented in the cast. Well-represented in no way means participation in the Musical is a mandatory commitment. What it does mean is that we are the singers....we should want to sing in the show!

The Acappella Choir Officers and non-varsity leadership council (members elected by the JV choirs in the first few weeks of school) will help the director in leadership, decision making, communication, and labor. Strong leaders, who are not afraid to work, are asked to consider running for and serving on the leadership council. Election information will be forthcoming in class and on the choir website.

We will, above all else, work to make ourselves better singers and musicians. We will strive to become independent musicians who understand advanced musical concepts and who perform challenging and worthwhile choral literature.

Choir Evaluations/Auditions

Evaluations are used to determine membership in select choirs and will be based on the following criteria:

Sight-reading test	100pts.
Sight-reading Yearly Average	100pts.
Vocal Quality	100pts.
Rehearsal Participation	100pts.
Homework Grades	100pts.
Grades	5pts per 6 weeks eligible (25max)

Extra credit: (Points)

IHS All-Region Audition (5)	UIL Solo and Ensemble (5)
All-Region Audition (5)	UIL Solo/Ens 1st division (10)
All-Region Choir Member (10)	Spring Show (specialty act only) (5)
Top 10/All-Region (10)	Audition for the Musical (5)
Area Audition (20)	Participate in the musical (cast 20, chorus 10)
All-State Member (40)	Attend concert off campus (5)

Knight Club and Ladies Knight

Membership will be determined by an audition procedure which will be posted in advance on the choir website and the choir bulletin boards. The student will need to prepare two solos accompanied by cd or digital file. If you require a live accompanist, you must make arrangements for one. The solos need to show a contrasting style, i.e. one fast and one slow. No acappella singing is allowed. The director will choose students for call backs on the following criteria:

Vocal Ability	40pts.
Stage Presence	40pts.
Song Selection	20pts.

During callbacks, each student will sing the IHS Alma Mater on his/her own part with a group of auditioning students as well as learn a song on the spot. At this audition, the director is listening for a group blend and is looking for a group that looks and sounds appropriate together. Members of the group will be held to the highest standards of excellence and attendance at rehearsals will be treated as attendance of a concert.

Uniforms

Women: Black choir dress issued by IHS Choir, **BLACK dress shoes (closed toe)**

Men: Tux, tux shirt, tie, and vest (issued). **Black dress shoes and black socks**

The uniforms will be worn at most concerts and all competitions. Choir uniforms will be due back to the choir department prior to May 1, 2018. If a student is out of uniform at a performance, he/she will not be allowed to sing and a performance grade of "zero" will be assigned. If a student needs another size uniform, it is their responsibility to notify the directors at least one week in advance of a performance. We will not address uniform issues the day of the concert. Those students not returning uniforms at the end of the year will be placed on the Hold List until they are returned; graduating seniors will be blocked from graduation. Girls will need their dresses cleaned at least once during the school year and any dress/tux with strong, discernible, body odor or stains will be considered damaged and a fine will be assessed.

DRESSES/PANTS NEED TO BE HEMMED APPROPRIATELY.

DO NOT LET SEAMSTRESSES/ TAILORS CUT ANY MATERIAL FROM UNIFORM!

Facilities

Independence High School is virtually brand new and in outstanding condition. We will work to keep the school, especially the Arts facilities, in that condition. We will use trash cans for trash and all food. Absolutely no food or drinks (other than bottled water) may be on the choir risers or in the auditorium at any time. Frisco ISD has given us the finest facilities in the district and we honor that commitment to our program by treating the rooms and equipment with respect.

Music

Each student will be issued a numbered folder and sheet music. This music is our textbook and students will be responsible for lost and/or damaged music. Remember that having music is also criterion for the rehearsal performance grade. If you can't find your lost music, you will be responsible for the cost of replacing it. Treat your music with respect...do not roll it up, tear it, bend it backwards, fold it into origami art, or light any part or all of it on fire. Only mark in music in pencil and, though your artistic skills may be wonderful, refrain from doodling on your music.

Choir Trip

Each year we travel and sing/compete somewhere and that destination changes by the year. This year the Independence Choir Spring Contest Trip will be local here in Dallas, TX. More details on the trip will be presented in class. April 12 is the date of the local trip.

Music Enrichment Lessons

Music Enrichment Lessons are offered to all interested choir students. Lesson fees vary depending on teacher degrees and certification and range from \$18 per lesson to \$20 per lesson according to the FISD Music Enrichment Policies set by the district. ME lessons are an integral part of our choral program and are highly recommended for any student desiring to excel. Every student can benefit greatly from this one-on-one instruction.

Costs to be in Choir

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Uniform and Activity Fee | <u>REQUIRED All Choirs</u> |
| \$60 JV, \$75 Acappella | |
| 3. Music Enrichment Lessons | Open to all, Recommended |
| \$76.00 -\$84.00 a month | |
| 4. Region Choir Auditions | Open to all, not required |
| \$15.00 (only if you DNA, otherwise no charge) | |
| 5. Solo Contest | Open to All, not required |
| \$25.00 (accompanist, \$35 if you DNA) | |
| 6. Spring Trip | Open to All, not required |
| \$75.00 | |

Fundraising

The Independence High School Choir does fundraising throughout the year in many forms. We will begin the year with passbook sales. Choir uniform and activity fees can be paid using fundraising profits from this sale. The Independence Choir Booster Club will do additional fundraising throughout the year with ornament and yard-sign sales, a silent auction at the Broadway Show, ticket sales to special choir events, and various other methods.

No money collected in fundraisers may be refunded to a student if it is not applied towards fees. The only money that may be refunded is money paid directly to the program for trip payments, and then only according to the trip payment schedule.

Fees

Uniform Fee/Activity Fee due Sept. 14, 2018

\$60 JV, \$75 Varsity

Checks payable to IHSCB

Charms Information System

We will contact groups and manage student information through Charms. Please log in to Charms and update the student and at least one parent/guardian profile.

Link from www.knightsingers.com or go directly to charmsoffice.com

The Parent/Student Login is independencechoir

Your password is your student ID#

Independence High School Choir Boosters

This is a service organization dedicated to supporting the students and promoting the activities of the Independence High School Choral Department. The goal of the Choir Boosters is to aid in the activities of the choral department in varying degrees of time/energy commitment. We have elected officers, who help shoulder much of the burden, but we also need parents to get involved and help in both large and small capacities...all the way down to folks who will distribute programs at concerts...very small time commitment during an activity you'd (hopefully) already be attending. We will need to raise funds, as needed, for departmental activities but the goal is not to be a money-generating machine. When we need something, we'll make a plan of how to get it, but mostly you'll be in a supportive role at concerts and activities. More information will be sent home and made available on the choir website about this organization.

OFFICIAL 2018-19 IHS Choir Calendar OFFICIAL

Date	Event	Location	Time	Call Time	Who
9/4/2018	Talent Show Auditions	Choir Room	After School	After School	Any Interested
9/6/2018	Tailgate Party (IHS vs. Memorial)	Toyota Stadium	7:00 PM	5:30 AM	All
9/11/2018	Talent Show Rehearsal	IHS Auditorium	4:30 AM	4:30 PM	Talent Show Acts
9/11/2018	IHS Talent Show	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM	6:00 PM	Talent Show Acts
9/13/2018	Knight Club/Ladies Knight Auditions	Choir Room	Before and After School	8:00 AM/4:20 PM	Any Interested
9/15/2018	Region Mini-Camp	Independence HS	8:00 AM-3:00 PM	8:00 AM	Region Candidates
9/25/2018	Phase 1 Auditions	Williams HS-Plano ISD	After School	2:00 PM	Region Candidates
9/28/2018	Homecoming Pep Rally/Game	Ford/Toyota TBD	10:25AM/7:00 PM	8:00 AM/6:30 PM	Acappella
10/1/2018	Fall Concert/Picture Day	IHS Auditorium	7:00:00 PM Concert	After School	All
10/2/2018	Phase 2 Auditions	Little Elm HS - LEISD	After School	2:00 PM	Region Candidates
10/12/2018	IHS v. LSHS Football Anthem	Ford Center	7:00 PM	6:30 PM	Acappella, NMS Singers
10/16/2018	Acappella @Main Event	Main Event - Plano	7:00 PM	6:30 PM	Acappella
10/17-18/2018	Dessert Show Auditions	Choir Room	Before and After School	Before and After School	All
10/20/2018	MS Solo Contest	IHS	8:00-4:00	7:30 AM	Volunteer Workers
10/23/2018	Region Sectional	Frisco HS	After School	2:00 PM	Region Choir Members
10/27/2018	All-Region	Stonebriar Comm. Church	All Day	8:00 AM	Region Candidates
10/29-30/2018	Musical Auditions	IHS Auditorium	After School	After School	All School
11/1/2018	Dessert Show "Grammy Knight"	IHS Cafeteria	7:00 PM	After School	All
11/2/2018	Musical Callbacks	IHS Auditorium	After School	After School	Those Called Back
11/6/2018	Pre Area Auditions	McMillen HS- Plano ISD	After School	2:00 PM	Pre Area Candidates
11/10/2018	Canned Food Drive	IHS Choir Room	8:00 AM-3:00 PM	8:00 AM	All
11/27-12/5/2018	Holiday Showcase Rehearsals	IHS Auditorium	TBD	TBD	All/TBD/Schedule to come
12/6/2018	IHS Fine Arts Holiday Showcase 1	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM	After School	All
12/10/2018	IHS Fine Arts Holiday Showcase 2	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM	After School	All
12/11/2018	NMS/SMS Choir Concert	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM	6:12 PM	Acappella Officers
12/18/2018	Festival Pre-Rehearsal	LTHS	7:00 PM-9:00 PM	7:00 PM	Festival Singers
1/12/2019	Area Auditions	UT-Arlington	All Day	6:00 AM	Area Candidates
1/18/2019	FISD Choir Festival Retreat	Stonebriar Comm. Church	9:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:30 AM	Festival Singers
1/19/2019	FISD Choir Festival	Stonebriar Comm. Church	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	8:00 AM	Festival Singers
1/24-26/2019	West Side Story	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM Thi-Sat/2:00 PM Sat	5:30 PM	Cast/Chorus/Crew/Pit
2/2/2019	Solo and Ensemble	Plano East HS	All Day	Varies	All Solo Singers/Small Ensembles
2/13-16/2019	TMEA	San Antonio, TX	All Day	7:00 AM	All-State Choir
2/21/2019	IHS Choir Movie Night	TBD	TBD	TBD	All
3/21/2019	Pre UIL	Heritage HS	7:00 PM	6:12 PM	All
4/3-5/2019	UIL	Memorial HS	TBD	TBD	All
4/12/2019	Choral Festival/Skating Party	Mesquite Arts Center	TBD	TBD	All
4/23-24/2019	Spring Concert Auditions	Choir Room	Before and After School	Before and After School	All
4/27/2019	Region 24 MS All-Region Clinic/Concert	IHS	All Day	7:30 AM	Volunteer Workers
5/7/2019	Spring Show - Icons and Divas	IHS Auditorium	7:00 PM	After School	All
5/20/2019	Choir Banquet	IHS Cafeteria	6:30 Dinner/7:00 Program	6:15 AM	All