

Kansas Youth Chorale Handbook 2019-20

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kansas Youth Chorale is to expand the experiences of young singers in musical excellence and to be united in the common goal of bringing joy to others through music.

ATTENDANCE

KANSAS YOUTH CHORALE (KYC) members are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. The rehearsals are sequential, each building upon the next leading up to performances which cannot be complete without the voice of every choir member. The KYC schedule is posted early in the year to ensure that events can fit into busy schedules. In order to ensure the choir's success, the following Attendance Policy is in place.

1. For an anticipated absence, parents must notify the Director or Choir Manager by telephone, e-mail, or by note prior to the absence in order to be excused. For an absence due to sudden illness or emergency, the parents should notify the Director or Choir Manager as soon as possible. Make-up rehearsals may be arranged for choir members who have excused absences either before or after regularly scheduled rehearsals or at a time set by the Director.
2. Only two unexcused absences are allowed per semester. A make-up rehearsal may be arranged for choir members who have missed rehearsals either before or after regularly scheduled rehearsals or at a time set by the Director. If there are more than two unexcused absences within a semester, the musician will face possible termination from the choir unless arrangements with the Director or Choir Manager are made. The Director will decide whether the musician is adequately prepared to continue in the choir and to perform in concerts.
3. Dress rehearsals and the Concerts are mandatory. Singers must attend the dress rehearsal in order to perform in a concert.
4. If the choir member has a stuffy nose or a scratchy voice and is fever free, he/she should still attend rehearsal even though he/she may not be singing.
5. Please arrive to rehearsals on time! Rehearsal can only be successful when everyone does their part to be there from the start. Tardiness can result in the choir member being dismissed from the choir at the discretion of the Director.
6. Choir members are eligible to perform or go on tour only if they are in compliance with the Attendance Policy.

REHEARSAL AND CONCERT ETIQUETTE

1. Cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted during KYC rehearsals. Electronics will be placed in a designated area to be picked up at the end of rehearsal.
2. The restroom will be used prior to rehearsal time.
3. No gum or soda will be allowed at rehearsals. **Water bottles during rehearsals will be encouraged.**
4. Singers will be in their seats, prepared and ready for rehearsal to begin 5 minutes prior to start time.
5. Singers will be respectful of the rehearsal time, of the Director and other singers.
6. Appropriate concert etiquette will be addressed by the Director.

FEES

TUITION FEES help to cover expenses such as music and supplies, instrumentalists and general operating expenses. Tuition for the Kansas Youth Chorale is **\$200** for the year.

PAYMENT OPTIONS are as follows for 2019-2020:

- One payment of \$200 plus the cost of the required t-shirt due at the KYC Retreat on August 24, 2019 or
- Two payments of \$100(+t-shirt cost) – one due on August 24, 2019, with the balance due before November 4, 2019.

➤ Families with more than one singer in the Chorale will pay the full fee for the first child and half of the fee for the second/third singers in the same household.

➤ If your family is in need of scholarship assistance, contact Laura Richardson (Treasurer) or Connie Baer (Choir Manager).

A \$10.00 late charge may be assessed for each month that tuition is past due.

If, for whatever reason, a singer resigns or is asked to leave the choir:

1. Prior to October 7, 2019, tuition will be refunded accordingly LESS \$50.00 for initial startup fees (music, folders, instruction, etc.), or
2. October 7, 2019 or after, no tuition refunds will be made.

Should extenuating circumstances arise, an appeal may be made to the Board. All accounts must be kept up-to-date according to the payment option. Failure to do so may result in the singer being denied the opportunity to participate in concerts. Contact Laura Richardson (Treasurer) or Connie Baer (Choir Manager) if you need to adjust the payment options.

3. Other fees and expenses

- a. Music folders must be returned to the director in a timely fashion at the conclusion of a concert. Music is expected to be in good condition. A replacement fee for missing or damaged music will be collected. Music is very costly!
 - b. Travel. Fundraising will cover as much as possible.
4. KYC Concert Tickets - A packet of 8 tickets will be sent home with your singer. The idea is that you will sell these tickets to family and friends. Please return the unsold tickets. You are asked to buy tickets for your family.
- a. Concert tickets are \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance.
 - b. Children 12 and under are admitted for free.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Formal concert attire will consist of the following:

- a vest and tie (provided by KYC),
- a white, long-sleeved, (Oxford-style) button-down shirt with button down collar,
- **black** shoes and **black** socks, and **black** slacks. Girls are permitted to wear a **black** skirt, **black** tights and **black** shoes. (The hemline of the skirt must be below the knees and **black** tights must be worn.)

Casual concert attire will consist of the following:

- KYC t-shirt (Returning singers may not need to purchase.) We will use the same t-shirt as last year.
- Orders made by new singers will be distributed at the retreat.
- black slacks unless the director communicates otherwise.

REPERTOIRE

The music for the choir is chosen at the discretion of the Director and may include music of diverse religious and non-religious cultures and traditions. Choir members are expected to accept and respect the choir's music repertoire from an artistic standpoint. All music will be memorized for performance.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the Topeka USD 501 schools have closed or are closing due to bad weather, Kansas Youth Chorale rehearsals/performances will be cancelled as well. In a rare case whereby the weather would get better by evening, make sure to check e-mail before heading out to a rehearsal and/or performance. If you travel more than 20 minutes to arrive at rehearsal, please contact the Director or Choir Manager before leaving home.

COMMUNICATION

In order to save on the environmental and financial cost of using paper, we will do most of our communicating with you via e-mail and the website. Please keep us informed of your most current contact information.