TPSD
SHOW CHOIR
POLICIES

AUDITION EXPECTATIONS

Auditions are an exciting opportunity to show who you are as a performer and teammate. We want you to feel confident, prepared, and supported throughout the process. Please keep the following expectations in mind:

Be Prepared:
Know what is expected of you before arriving. Review audition materials thoroughly and ask questions if anything is unclear—don't assume.

Be Early:
Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled audition time. This allows time to warm up, calm nerves, and be fully present.

Be Supportive:
We create a positive and uplifting environment. Negative comments, competitive attitudes, or judgmental behavior have no place in our department. Celebrate each other's efforts.

Be Respectful:
Use good manners—raise your hand, say please and thank you, and treat others (including audition staff) with kindness.

Be Brave and Have Fun:
Everyone involved in auditions wants you to succeed. Take a deep breath, give it your all, and enjoy the moment.

See the included audition rubric for a detailed breakdown of what is evaluated during auditions.

Audition Philosophy and Rubric

Auditions are not limited to a single day. Every rehearsal, performance, and interaction is an opportunity to demonstrate growth, commitment, and character. **In our program, every day is an audition.** Returning students will be scored on a rubric that includes talent and all policies/expectations.

Out of District Students

Students wanting to audition to participate in this program are encouraged to speak early with a director about their interest. These students will be given an opportunity to audition in July on a case-by-case basis once they are enrolled in the district.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Academic success is a top priority in our show choir program. Students are expected to maintain open communication with their classroom teachers regarding assignments, absences, and requests for help—whether related to show choir or not. High School students are encouraged to attend any THS bootcamps or remediation during Wave Time. The student is expected to communicate those absences per our communication policy.

To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a C average or higher in all classes.

Grade checks will take place at each progress report and report card. If a student has a grade below a C average in any class at one of these checkpoints, they will be placed on academic probation.

While on probation, students may be required to sit out of specific roles, performances, or other responsibilities as deemed appropriate by the director. These measures are in place to prioritize academic improvement.

To be removed from probation, the student must raise the grade back to a C average or higher by the next grade check.

In addition to official grade checks, teachers are encouraged to notify the show choir staff at any time if concerns arise regarding a student's academic performance or behavior in class. Early communication helps us better support each student's success.

Support for Academic Success:
We are here to help you succeed. If you feel overwhelmed, communicate early with your teachers or directors for support. Don't hesitate to ask for help or clarify any concerns you may have about balancing your academic responsibilities with your show choir commitment.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance is of the utmost importance in this department. As a team-based activity, it is imperative that we have all members present and fully engaged. Your number of absences and reasons for those absences each year will be taken into account for your next year's audition.

School Attendance:
In accordance with TPSD Board Policies, students must be in school for at least 60% of the day to attend a rehearsal or performance.

Allowed Absences

Students are allotted up to 4 excused absences in the fall. During the months of January, February, and March, which make up our competition season, any absences will be reviewed and addressed on a case-by-case basis by the directors. After the competition season to the end of the year, students are allotted up to 3 absences.

These allotted absences are intended for emergencies and unforeseeable circumstances—not casual use. All absences must be discussed and pre-approved. Once a student exceeds the allotted absences, consequences such as removal from songs, solos, or even dismissal from the group may occur at the discretion of the directors.

Choreography Weeks

The only acceptable reasons for an absence during choreography camps are a death in the family, emergency surgery or injury, contagious illness with a fever, or school-sanctioned mandatory events. Missing any part of choreography week for other reasons will result in immediate dismissal from the group.

Week of Competitions

Only absences for death in the family, emergency surgery or injury, contagious illness with a fever, or school-sanctioned mandatory events that are the only opportunity to attend will be excused.

Competition Weekends

There are no excused absences on competition weekends. Missing a competition for any other reason will result in immediate dismissal from the group. If another school-related activity has a game/event in the same area as a competition and both can be attended, it will be approved, but the parent or guardian is responsible for getting that student to all events.

Other School Activities

We work with other school activities to the best of our ability. However, excusals depend on the time of year, number of absences, and impact on the group. Every effort will be made to accommodate school-related conflicts, but approval is not guaranteed.

Non-School Activities

Absences due to non-school activities (e.g., club sports, studio dance) are extended as a courtesy when possible. However, these must be discussed and pre-approved, and approval is not guaranteed.

Rehearsal Participation

Students may not leave rehearsal early unless it is an emergency. If a student is present for less than 60% of rehearsal, it will count as an absence.

Sickness Policy

If a student is sick but does not have a fever or a contagious illness, they are expected to attend and observe rehearsal.

Academic Class + Remediation Attendance

Students are expected to attend all academic classes and may not use show choir as a reason to miss unless there is a scheduled performance or trip. Students may not use other class time to prepare for show choir (e.g., hair, makeup). Preparation should be done before school, during lunch, or after school. Students are expected to attend any and all remediation recommended by the district. Directors are not responsible for students choosing not to attend remediation, as the expectation is clear that they should attend.

Failure to Communicate

Absences should be communicated before the day or rehearsal of missing. Not communicating previous to the day of can result in more severe consequences, which may include removal from the group without refund.

Missed Rehearsal Requirements

If a student misses rehearsal, they are responsible for all missed material. Upon return, the student must:

- Obtain notes from a teammate
- Review any rehearsal videos or materials
- Learn all missed choreography, music, and staging independently
- Check in with a director before participating

Failure to meet these expectations may result in removal from portions of the show or other disciplinary action.

Late Policy

Students arriving late must check in with a director before joining rehearsal. Entering rehearsal without checking in is not permitted.

Sitting Out Policy

Students who are asked to sit out or are unable to fully participate due to injury or illness must:

- Remain engaged by observing and taking notes
- Check in with a director before leaving rehearsal

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Participation in show choir is a privilege and comes with the responsibility of upholding a high standard of behavior, both in and outside of rehearsal and performance spaces.

Students are expected to demonstrate respect, kindness, integrity, and professionalism at all times. This includes—but is not limited to—spoken words, written communication, social media use, and actions during any show choir-related activity or in general public settings.

Unwanted behaviors such as disrespect, bullying, inappropriate language, disruptive conduct, or failure to follow instructions will not be tolerated.

Integrity is non-negotiable.
Any form of dishonesty—including lying to directors, staff, or chaperones, withholding information, or attempting to avoid accountability—will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Students must follow all supervision and safety expectations at all times. Failure to follow these expectations will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action will follow this general progression:

1. Warning
2. Student conference and parent/guardian contact
3. Disciplinary action

Depending on severity, steps may be skipped and immediate action taken, including removal from the program.

In addition, teachers and chaperones **MUST** notify show choir staff of behavioral concerns at any time.

If a student quits or is dismissed, they will not be allowed back during the current year and may not be allowed back in future years.

Drug and Alcohol Policy: We are a drug and alcohol free district. Please refer to policy JCDAC in the TPSD Student Handbook.

STAGE TIME AND SHOW RESPONSIBLITIES

Due to the continued growth of the Tupelo Show Choir program, it is no longer possible for all members to be actively performing at all times during each production or event. As a result, individual performance time, number of songs, stage presence, or active roles will vary from student to student across all areas of the department, including instrumentalists, singer/dancers (Splash and Synergy), and crew members. Placement and participation will be determined based on the needs of the show and the overall success of the ensemble.

All members are expected to fully commit to the roles and responsibilities assigned to them. This includes performing with excellence when actively participating and demonstrating professionalism, positivity, and support when not in an active role.

Being a member of this program requires a team-first mindset. Students are expected to support one another, celebrate the success of the group as a whole, and contribute to a positive and unified environment at all times.

Failure to demonstrate supportive, respectful, and team-oriented behavior—or an inability to fulfill assigned roles with a positive attitude—may result in removal from performance opportunities or dismissal from the group.

FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS / SCHOLARSHIPS

There is a financial commitment associated with participating in the Tupelo Show Choir program. The total cost covers a wide range of expenses, including—but not limited to—costumes, music, accessories, travel, choreography, and other essential needs.

The required payment is referred to as the booster fee. This fee varies by group and is based on group size, group-specific needs, and the level of district support. Based on those factors, a set amount will be given before summer break. Past amounts have ranged between $350–$2,400 depending on those factors. A payment plan will be provided and must be completed by November.

The show choir department is a nonprofit organization, so fundraisers will no longer reduce individual fees. Instead, all money raised through fundraisers will benefit the group as a whole and will be distributed equally to lower overall costs for all members. If a group within the department does their own fundraiser, that money will go to all members equally within the group.

King City Classic Funds Disbursement

Funds from the King City Classic are distributed based on the number of students selected for competition groups during the spring prior to the academic year in which the funds are used. Only students selected in the spring are eligible to receive a share of the funds.

Students added to competitive groups after that date will not be eligible to receive funds. This policy ensures fair and equitable distribution based on commitment and participation at the time of selection.

Scholarships

We understand that show choir is a significant financial commitment. Please do not let that prevent you from auditioning or participating. It is the belief of our directors and district that no student should be turned away due to financial need. Scholarship opportunities are available. Please complete the scholarship form provided. All applicants for financial aid are kept confidential. We can also accommodate an alternative payment plan. The most important thing to remember is to communicate!

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Parents and guardians play an essential role in the success of our program. As a parent, you are asked to support the Tupelo Show Choir program by committing to the following:

1. Communication

Share potential conflicts or concerns with directors as early as possible. Early communication allows for better planning and support. We ask that you give directors an opportunity to make a concern or situation better before contacting an administrator.

2. Patience

There are many moving parts in a program of this size and complexity. Directors work diligently to create a well-organized and meaningful experience for every student, and that process can take time.

3. Understanding

Directors must occasionally make difficult decisions and set firm expectations that are in the best interest of the department as a whole. Your trust and support are appreciated.

4. Responsibility

Parents are expected to stay involved throughout the year. This includes ensuring students are present and picked up on time, meeting financial obligations, and assisting when needed to support program events.

5. Respect for Process and Communication Boundaries

We ask parents to support the chain of communication and allow students to advocate for themselves when appropriate. If a concern arises, students and/or parents should first speak directly with the director. If additional discussion is needed, a meeting can be scheduled.

If communication is received after working hours, directors will respond within 24 hours or the next working day.

Parents and guardians are expected to communicate directly with the directors regarding any concerns or questions before contacting school administration, unless it

is an emergency. This ensures that concerns are addressed by those most directly involved and allows for the most efficient and appropriate resolution.

By honoring this process, we are able to maintain clear communication, consistency, and a strong, unified support system for all students in the program.

7. Support for Student Growth

Encourage your student to be punctual, organized, and responsible. Reinforcing habits such as time management, preparation, and teamwork at home helps them succeed within and outside the program.

8. Travel and Event Support

Parents may be asked to assist with transportation, chaperoning, fundraising events, or logistical support throughout the year. Your involvement helps ensure a smooth and successful experience for all students.

Students are not allowed to leave the group at any point during a trip or go to a parent or other adult's room without the permission of a director. Please see Travel Expectations for further information. Checking a student out is defined as you releasing your child from all supervision and care by directors.

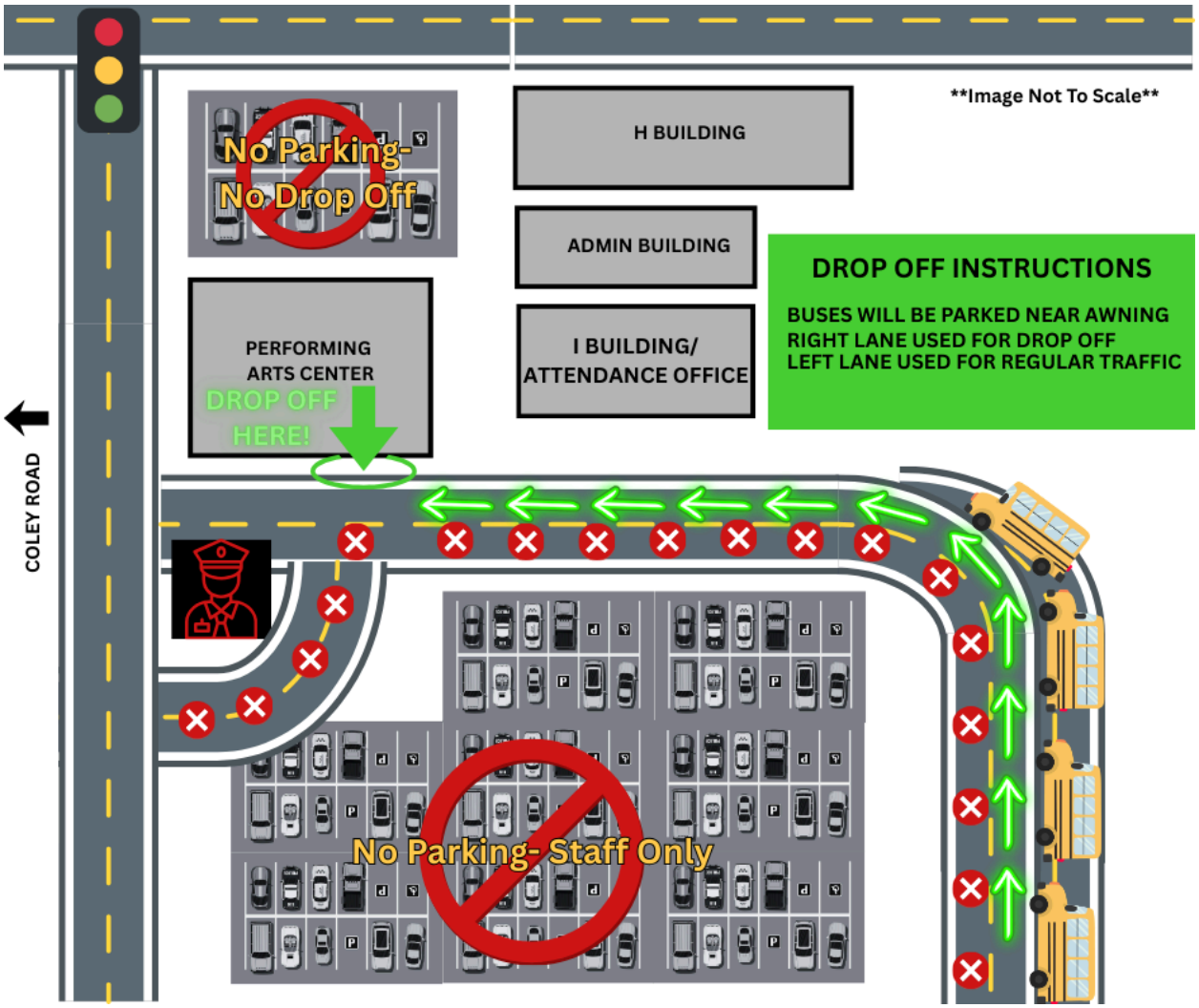
9. Home Show & Event Procedures

To ensure safety, organization, and a smooth experience during the home show or other performances:

- Sound checks and pre-performance preparations are not open rehearsals. Parents are not permitted to enter before the audience unless given permission by the director(s).
- Parents and guests must enter through the front entrance only. Entry through side or exterior doors is not permitted for safety reasons.
- Parents may be asked to assist with monitoring entry points and supporting event operations.

10. Parking & Arrival Procedures

- For the home show, parents and guests should park in the lot in front of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).
- For trips, student drop-off will occur at the front of the PAC. Please follow all directions provided to ensure safety and efficiency.


Image Not To Scale
No Parking-
No Drop Off
H BUILDING
ADMIN BUILDING
I BUILDING/
ATTENDANCE OFFICE
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
DROP OFF
HERE!
DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS
BUSES WILL BE PARKED NEAR AWNING
RIGHT LANE USED FOR DROP OFF
LEFT LANE USED FOR REGULAR TRAFFIC
COLEY ROAD
No Parking- Staff Only

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsals are the foundation of our success. To maintain a productive, respectful, and focused environment, the following expectations apply:

1. **Physical Presence:** Be on time and ready to work.
2. **Mental Presence:** Stay focused and engaged throughout rehearsal.
3. **No Phones/Smart Watches:** Devices must be put away during rehearsal and only used during breaks.
4. **Positive Attitude:** Bring energy, encouragement, and a willingness to grow.
5. **Coachability:** Accept feedback with respect and apply corrections.
6. **Communication:** Speak directly with a director regarding any issues or absences.
7. **Appropriate Attire:** Wear clothing and shoes suitable for rehearsal activities.
8. **Parking:** Students are not allowed to park in the administrative parking lot behind the PAC for any reason at any point during the year.
9. **Observe When Necessary:** If injured or ill without a fever, attend and take notes.
10. **Social Media/Videoing/Facetiming:** No public posting or livestreaming of any rehearsal allowed. No facetiming allowed at all during any show choir gathering, rehearsal, or trip.
11. **Respect the Process:** Trust the rehearsal process and support team growth.
12. **Be Prepared:** Bring all necessary materials and review assigned content in advance.
13. **No Deliveries:** Food deliveries are not allowed.
14. **Have Fun:** Enjoy the process and contribute positively to the team environment.

BULLYING POLICY

Bullying has no place in our show choir program.

Bullying is defined as any repeated, intentional behavior—verbal, physical, social, or digital—that causes harm, intimidation, or distress to another person.

This includes:

- Verbal abuse (name-calling, threats, slurs)
- Social exclusion
- Spreading rumors or gossip
- Cyberbullying
- Sharing photos/videos without consent
- Physical intimidation or aggression
- Persistent mocking or teasing

Even one-time incidents may be treated seriously.

Students are encouraged to report bullying and provide documentation when possible. Reports will be handled confidentially and with care.

“Joking” is not an excuse for harmful behavior.

Our goal is to maintain a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all students.

You may also refer to policy JDDA in the TPSD Student Handbook.

SOCIAL MEDIA + GROUP CHAT EXPECTATIONS

Students are held to high standards in digital spaces.

1. Use respectful and appropriate language
2. Keep group chats focused on relevant communication
3. Think before posting
4. Do not share private or confidential information
5. Do not exclude others
6. Understand consequences apply
7. Keep images appropriate
8. Respect privacy and consent
9. No Facetiming at any point.

Violations will be treated as seriously as in-person behavior. This includes any social media platform, SnapChat, or any other app that utilizes photos/videos or written communication.

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS

Travel is an exciting part of our program and a privilege that comes with responsibility. Students are expected to represent Tupelo Show Choir with excellence, maturity, and respect at all times while away from campus. The following expectations apply to all trips:

1. Follow All Rules

All district and department policies and rules apply during travel. This includes behavior expectations, dress codes, and the zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy.

2. Be On Time

Students are expected to know the schedule and be where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there. Timeliness is essential to the success of the group.

3. Stay With Your Group

Students must remain with their assigned group or chaperone at all times unless given direct permission by a director. Students are not permitted to go off on their own at any point during the trip.

4. Chaperone Authority

Chaperones are acting on behalf of the directors and the school district. Students are expected to follow all instructions given by chaperones promptly and respectfully.

Any form of dishonesty—including lying, withholding information, or attempting to avoid accountability—will result in immediate disciplinary action.

5. Hotel & Room Expectations

- Students must remain in their assigned hotel room unless given permission by a director.
- Students may not switch rooms or visit other rooms unless directed by a director.
- During designated rest periods and after room checks, students must remain in their assigned room with the door closed.
- Students are not permitted to leave their room during these times without permission- this includes adjoining rooms.

- Violations of room expectations will result in immediate disciplinary action.

6. Safety & Privacy in Rooms

- Filming, recording, photographing, or posting from hotel rooms or dressing areas is not allowed under any circumstances.
- FaceTime and video calls are not permitted for any reason.
- Even communication with a parent/guardian must respect privacy boundaries. FaceTime, video calls, filming, and videoing are not permitted in hotel rooms or dressing/changing areas.
- All communication and behavior in these spaces should reflect respect for privacy and personal boundaries.

7. Bus Expectations

- Each student must remain in their own seat—no sharing seats.
- Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- There are no saved seats or empty seats unless directed by a director.
- Students of the opposite sex may not sit together.
- Students must follow all directions given by drivers and chaperones.
- Students are not permitted to sit with chaperones unless there is a parent/child relationship and it has been approved by the chaperone.

8. Keep Spaces Clean

Students are expected to respect all shared spaces, including buses, hotel rooms, competition venues, and restaurants. Each space should be left better than it was found.

9. Volume Control

Students must maintain appropriate noise levels in all environments, including buses, hotels, restaurants, and performance venues.

10. Be Prepared

Students are responsible for bringing all necessary items, including costumes, personal items, and performance materials. Planning ahead is expected.

11. Personal Responsibility

Students are responsible for their belongings and their time management. Directors and chaperones are not responsible for lost or misplaced items. Each student should be responsible for knowing where their belongings are at all times. No student may handle the luggage, bags, or other items of any other student.

12. Show Respect

Students must treat peers, directors, chaperones, hotel staff, restaurant staff, competitors, and all others with kindness and respect at all times.

13. Prioritize Safety

Students must remain aware of their surroundings, follow all safety guidelines, and avoid risky or unsafe behavior.

14. No Deliveries

Food deliveries or outside deliveries are not allowed at any time during travel.

15. Report Issues Immediately

If a student or parent feels unsafe or if an issue arises, they must notify a director immediately.

16. Students are expected to eat at the designated times and places planned for each trip. The only exception will be for students with allergies or emergencies.

To adhere to competition rules/regulations, maintain the safety of all of our students, and to provide a cohesive and equitable environment, we ask that no food be delivered to rooms, even by parents. Students may pack snacks to bring if they want extra food at the hotel. Snacks at the hotel may be provided for all students if possible.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Performance is the culmination of all preparation.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive fully prepared
- Stay focused throughout the event
- Maintain professionalism backstage
- Support fellow performers
- Represent the program with excellence
- Follow all director instructions
- Take care of costumes and equipment
- Safely perform their role with pride
- Speak respectfully to all adults and students

Every role in the program is essential to the success of the performance.

COSTUME & APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

Appearance is an important part of performance and professionalism.

Students must:

- Wear costumes as assigned
- Maintain cleanliness and condition of those costumes
- Follow hair and makeup guidelines
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Present a polished appearance at all times- TPSD dress code applies.

Costume Care & Hanging Bag Responsibility

Each student will be issued a hanging garment bag for costume storage and transport.

Students are responsible for maintaining the condition of both the bag and all costume pieces. Items must remain clean, organized, and in good condition. All hangable items must be hanging and the bag should be with the student at all times unless stored in an appropriate place approved by the director.

The condition of the hanging bag and costumes may be assessed and may result in a grade. Damage or neglect may result in additional consequences at the discretion of the director.

SENIORS

Senior Recommendation Requests

Directors are honored to support students through recommendation letters for college, scholarships, and other opportunities.

To request a recommendation, senior students must complete the Google form provided that includes a current resume that lists:

- Academic information
- Awards and accolades
- Extracurricular involvement
- Work and/or volunteer experience

You will receive a copy of your completed form as confirmation of completion. Requests must be made with appropriate notice. Asking a director to complete a recommendation with less than one week's notice may result in the request being declined.

Being a senior in this program does not give you special privileges. Your status as a senior does not dictate getting priority seating, line privileges, authoritative position over other students, or excuse from work assignments.

After our competition/performance season, you are still expected to follow all attendance rules of TPSD. Your absences will be counted per usual.