

DOWNING CHOIR DEPARTMENT

PRIVATE STUDIO VOICE LESSONS

Information and Policies – 2019 - 2020

Thank you for your interest in private voice lessons!

Please read the remainder of this information packet to become familiar with our policies, and return your completed Enrollment Form (attached) to Mrs. Rybowicz as soon as possible. Enrollment in private voice lessons is scheduled on a first come, first served basis. While we anticipate having enough room for everyone, lesson slots fill quickly.

ACTIVITIES

Lessons cover a variety of topics including basic musicianship (dynamics, tone quality, phrasing), basic theory (key signatures, rhythm), correct posture, correct breathing, exercises to strengthen the voice, sight-reading, ear training, memorization, and performance skills. All students will receive one-on-one instruction on vocal technique that is appropriate for their age and appropriate for their strengths and abilities. This individual instruction will also assist the student with audition and competition materials throughout the year.

BENEFITS OF INSTRUCTION

- Strengthening vocal technique
- Fostering a healthy development of the young singer
- Reinforces skills learned in the choral classroom
- Builds confidence and self- esteem
- Challenges students, enabling them to move at a quicker pace
- Preparation of audition material, or solo material
- Develops and encourages creative self-expression
- Provides an opportunity to grow in a private, safe atmosphere
- Learning a more varied repertoire
- No mandatory outside class commitment

PRIVATE LESSON FACULTY

The DMS private lessons faculty have been interviewed and screened by Mrs. Rybowicz and the LISD Director of Fine Arts. We have great confidence in their abilities and professionalism. All of our teachers have extensive teaching experience, and all have degrees qualifying them to teach vocalists.

CONSISTENCY IN INSTRUCTION

If your child has taken lessons in the past, they will have the option to continue with their same teacher, or begin study with a new teacher. It is our recommendation that your child continues to study with the same teacher. Consistency is very important in the development of young singers. Please consider that your teacher already knows your personality, your learning style, and your strengths and weaknesses. However, sometimes a student needs a change of pace or wants to try something new, so please contact Mrs. Rybowicz if you'd like to continue study with a different teacher.

ABSENCES

Please allow a minimum of 24 hours notice if your student will miss a lesson. Although there are emergency situations and illnesses that come up unexpectedly, please do your best to adhere to this policy as a courtesy to your private teacher. **You should contact that voice teacher directly via email or cell phone.** (Each teacher will provide this information to the members of his/her studio.) Without proper 24 hours notice, it is difficult for your teacher to fill your reserved lesson time with another student.

When an absence occurs with proper notice, the voice teacher will attempt to facilitate a lesson trade with another student. If a trade cannot be arranged, no more than one lesson each session (Fall and Spring) will be made-up. The second and subsequent missed lesson(s) each semester will be forfeited without refund or credit.

Please understand that your student's lesson time is reserved for him/her and therefore the time and fee cannot always be filled/collected from another student without advance notice.

If the parent or student does not give 24 hours notice, the lesson is not guaranteed to be made up, refunded, or credited toward future lessons. However, attempts will ALWAYS be made to trade with another student.

LESSON FEES AND PAYMENT

Private lessons will be scheduled during your child's choir class. Each lesson will be 22 minutes (weekly) of instruction. The 2018- 2019 LISD 22 - minute lesson rate is \$17.00. We offer before and after school lessons at the discretion of the individual voice teacher. One of the goals for our voice lesson program is to maintain flexibility with your outside commitments and schedule. Lessons are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Monthly payments are

due at the beginning of each month, at your child's first lesson. Your private lesson teacher will provide you with a monthly invoice before the month begins. This invoice will be provided through email AND through a hard copy via your child. Payments can be made by check, cash, or money order.

- All returned checks are subject to a \$20.00 returned check fee, and all future payments must be made by cash or money order.
- Please make checks payable to your voice teacher, not DMS choir.
- If payment is received after the first lesson of the month, a late fee of \$10.00 will be assessed. If after 2 lessons payment hasn't been resolved, your child will not receive another lesson until payment is made.

COMMITMENT TO LESSONS

Students and parents are asked to commit to lessons for the entire school year. This is both a financial contract and a commitment to "stick-to-it". Persistence is the key! Students may not see growth in their performance after only a few lessons, or they may initially feel shy singing for someone they don't know. However, at the end of the year, every voice student will be able to look back and see individual growth and development.

**If for some reason you are unable to continue lessons at some point in the year due to financial hardship, please speak to Mrs. Rybowicz about financial aid.

CALENDAR

The studio follows the LISD school calendar including all scheduled holidays. If your child's lesson falls on a holiday, every effort will be made to re-schedule that lesson.

- Fall semester lessons begin the second week of school
- Spring semester lessons begin the first week of school in January
- No lessons during STAAR testing

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited financial assistance is available to students/families that are unable to pay at this time. If your child is interested in voice lessons, please don't let financial concerns prevent your child from participating.

We will award financial assistance based on need and availability. If a student receives financial assistance, the expectation is for that student to be responsible and work weekly on

improvement.

We are excited to offer the LISD private lesson program at Downing! The private voice faculty and I look forward to being in contact with you, and helping your child reach their potential as a young musician!

Kimberly Rybowicz

rybowiczk@lisd.net

Choir Office: 972-350-1457

DOWNING CHOIR PRIVATE LESSON ENROLLMENT FORM

Student Name: _____

Grade level & Choir: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent Phone(s): _____

Parent's email address (to receive the your monthly invoice):

Parent Signature: _____

Requested voice teacher (optional): _____