



FBISD Elementary Choral Festival

May 6, 7 and 8, 2025

Kempner High School Auditorium

What is a Choral Festival?

This event hosts schools from the Houston area to perform and participate in a short clinic. The purpose of this event is to provide a Spring performance opportunity for our schools, while giving students the opportunity to participate in a clinic from a visiting clinician or choir director from the campus' feeder pattern.

Why should we participate in a Choral Festival?

As students transition from Elementary to Middle School the focus of the music moves toward preparation for UIL competitions. Students share feedback that performing on a high school stage makes them nervous and deters them from participating in a performing group as they move on to middle school. This festival is designed to provide a positive public performance opportunity for your older elementary singers.

Working with a clinician may be a new experience for your singers. They clinic will be fun and informative, while providing support and praise for the hard work displayed during the performance.

The twenty-minute time slot is designed to be fast paced and informative. The energy on stage stays high, fresh, and fun. The students won't realize the time has already flown by and will be wanting to participate again,

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What age group is this festival geared toward?**
 - The target grades of this festival are 4, 5 and 6. This event is designed to be a positive performance opportunity for students before they move into the UIL regulations of the Concert & Sight Reading Contest. The clinic will support best practices in making proper vowel sounds and will support the director with conducting ideas to elicit ideal sounds from the singers.
- **Does a student need to be passing all classes to participate?**
 - No, the event is a festival and serves as a performance. Performance is included in the TEKS of the music curriculum. Students that perform in the festival will participate in a clinic to support their continued instruction in singing and performing.
- **What will our time at the festival look like?**
 - Please review the section below titled: "Example timeline of festival participation day"
 - Each choir will receive a 15-minute time slot to warm up. After warming up, the choir will move to the stage in the auditorium to perform their prepared pieces. After the performance, the remainder of the 20-minute time slot will be used for a short clinic with the choir by a visiting clinician or choir director from the campus' feeder pattern.
- **Will participating in the festival cost money?**
 - Participation is \$200 per performing group. The fee includes professional recording of the performance and a trophy for each participating group. Participating groups will be responsible for purchasing music to perform while ensuring that all copyright laws are followed.

- **What will the warmup space look like?**
 - The warmup space will have a music stand, and a piano for your use. A speaker will be provided in this space, as the time in this room is limited to 15 minutes. The room monitor will have access to the tracks provided to the organizers of the festival to play during warm up.
- **What will the performance space look like?**
 - The performances will take place on the stage in the Auditorium in Kempner High School. Six sets of choral risers will be set up on stage for the performers to stand on. A piano and one music stand will be provided for the performing groups.
- **Do we have to have an accompanist for the performance?**
 - Accompanists are not required to participate. Recordings of tracks **with out** vocals are accepted and will be submitted by the music teacher before the event. A piano will be provided on stage to support an accompanist and the clinic.
- **Can we bring instruments for our performance?**
 - Yes, performance time slots will not be adjusted to support moving of equipment. Please plan to come with minimal additional instruments to make the most of the time on stage. As a reminder, stage time is limited to 20 minutes and will include the performance and the clinic.
- **Does the choir have to wear a uniform to participate?**
 - Uniforms or matching shirts are not required. Creating a uniformed look will help the audience focus on the performance in lieu of the clothing but is not required.
- **What kind of music should we perform?**
 - Selecting music will be up to the music teacher's discretion. The festival is encouraging selections to be age appropriate for the performers and not equal to more than eight minutes of music.
- **What do directors need to bring to the festival?**
 - Three copies of the music will be needed for the clinician and leadership panel to review during participating. Remember to travel with required forms and medicines for your participants based on your district requirements.
- **Can parents and family members attend the performance?**
 - Yes, parents and family members of performers are allowed to attend the performance. All visitors must check in at the front desk of Kempner HS through the Raptor System. School aged siblings will receive an Unexcused Absence for attending the festival.

Anticipated Timeline to Prepare for Choral Festival

January - Select music for performance and begin rehearsals with the choir.

February – Attend El Music PLC and participate in group discussion regarding setup for festival.

March (before Spring Break) – receive performance date and time from the Festival Leadership Team.

March (after Spring Break) – continue rehearsals and begin finalizing performance pieces.

Mid-April – submit accompaniment tracks for festival participation to Google Drive; directions will be sent for this step

May 6, 7 or 8 – attend and participate in Choral Festival

Example timeline of festival participation day

10:00 AM – Bus arrives at Kempner HS and students unload.

10:05 AM – Students move to waiting room, while teacher checks in with festival staff.

10:20 AM – Warm up begins.

10:40 AM – Performance begins followed by clinic.

11:00 AM – Clinic ends and students move off stage.

11:00 AM – move to bus ramp to leave Kempner HS or move to seats in auditorium to watch the next performing group.

11:00 AM – director picks up originals from auditorium before leaving Kempner HS.

11:30 AM – bus departs back to ES Campus

Who do we contact with questions regarding the festival?

Please contact Coordinator of Elementary Music, Julie Boettiger at julie.boettiger@fortbendisd.gov or at 281-634-5374.