

PRIVATE VOICE STUDY INFORMATION

LAKE HIGHLANDS AREA CHOIRS--2021-2022

Updates for 21-22: At this time, the majority of our private lessons will be taught in person this year. If your family prefers to have virtual lessons during this time, please let us know and we will make other arrangements. All safety protocols will be followed. Lessons generally occur during the class period or can be arranged with the teacher for a time before or after school.

We are very fortunate to have a strong private lesson program at our schools. Private lessons help our young singers gain confidence, develop vocal maturity, prepare for solo/group/region/choir events, and strengthen sight-reading ability for auditions. Students who are more confident and prepared do better in class and on required honors and region auditions for promotion in our choir program. This is a highly recommended and meaningful activity to foster a deeper confidence and relationships within our programs and to move forward to more advanced ensembles.

Lessons will be taught once a week for 25 minutes, and will be conducted during the choir, lunch, or before/after school. Areas of concentration will include correct vocal support, breath control, tone color and quality, repertoire suited to voice type and capabilities, and sight-reading. Private study is the cornerstone for any great music program. It is a great way to help develop confidence and enhance the vocal techniques that we are also teaching in choir to all our developing singers but cannot specifically tailor to each singer given the size of our ensembles.

Fees are set by the RISD at **\$20.00 per half-hour lesson**. **New procedure/policy:** The lessons will be paid in groups of four (\$80 per billing period) and will be paid before the month's lessons. You are also welcome to pay for a semester at a time. At that time a payment card will be sent home reminding the student/parent of the amount due. Any untaught lessons that month will credit to the next month's balance. **Checks should be made payable directly to your voice teacher.** If payment is not received by the second lesson period, **no further lessons will be taught until payment is made, and a late fee may be assessed.** After any one returned check per student payment will be on a cash only basis. Teachers may accept payment electronically, as well. (i.e. Venmo) Scholarship forms are available and should be turned in if a student has financial need. We will assign scholarships as they are turned in and will make a waiting list when those opportunities are filled.

We are lucky to have such excellent, professional voice instructors in our area. They depend on these voice lessons for their income. At this level, we expect our students to start and continue with their private lesson instruction for the academic school year. Please try to be aware of the due dates for payment on the bills that they send home!

The purchase of vocal literature will be minimal. (Again, we can help with that financially.) The vocal libraries in the choral music departments are usually adequate to cover most of the year's music needs. At some points during the year (i.e., Solo and Ensemble, Espree auditions, recitals), a professional accompanist will be used. The student/parent will be expected to cover the cost of the accompanist and scholarships are available.

Make-Up Lessons and Cancellations: Students or parents canceling lessons should call the vocal instructor before 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the lesson. Leaving a message at the school is not acceptable, as teachers may not always receive them in time. The student will be charged for the lesson if the instructor is not notified. There are no refunds and no rescheduling of no-shows. If the instructor is unable to make a scheduled lesson, the student will be notified. The lesson may then be rescheduled, or the fee for that lesson will be credited to next month's bill.

Current Teachers for 2021-22

Like many industries, we have been impacted by availability of voice studio faculty. We are currently severely understaffed. First come, first serve returned forms will be honored and all others will be placed on a wait list as we continue to search for the very best staff we can hire.

- Linda Davis—Area
- Claire Worrall—Area (On leave until mid November)
- Lainey Bernstein—Area
- More to be added as we are able

PRIVATE LESSON PERMISSION FORM 2021-2022

Please Print:

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Choir Period _____ Director _____

Are you available after school? _____ What days? _____

Address _____

Student Phone _____

Parent Phone _____

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____

Student Cell Phone _____

I am a returning voice student of _____

Preferred Voice Teacher _____

I have read and approve of the guidelines for private vocal instruction in the Lake Highlands Area.

Student (Electronic) Signature _____

Parent/Guardian (Electronic) Signature _____

Please fill out and return this sheet only. (A check/cash for \$80.00 will be due at the first lesson, once your singer has been assigned a voice teacher and time.) Keep the other sheet for your records. More specific information from the teacher will follow the first lesson.

Teacher's private studios will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If a requested studio is filled, students will be assigned to another one of our fine teachers. If those studios are full, we will do our best to hire adjunct voice faculty, but there is no guarantee that we will have a studio teacher. Remember to turn in this form as soon as possible to assure placement in a vocal studio.