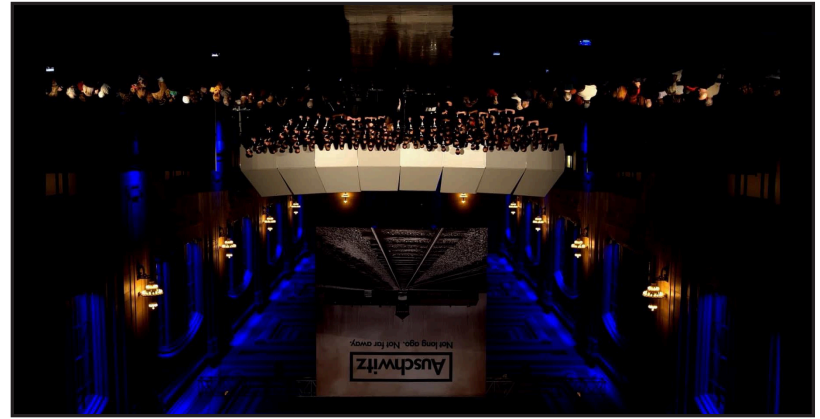


OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

Revised 1/30/24

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OLATHE EAST Choirs

Olathe East High School

14545 W 127th Street

Olathe, KS 66062

(913) 780-7120

www.olatheschools.org/east/

MEET THE STAFF



Laura Klaassen
Head Choir Director

Laura Klaassen has taught K-12 vocal music and general music during her time in music education. Prior to her appointment at Olathe East, she taught in the Perry-Lecompton and Little River. In January 2022, her choirs performed a collaborative concert in conjunction with the Auschwitz touring exhibit at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a Kodaly certified teacher and loves learning about the voice and all its remarkable abilities. Laura is also the assistant director of the Olathe Elementary Honor Choir. When she isn't working with young voices, you can find her at a cozy coffee shop or playing board games with friends.



Jason Sickel
Assistant Choir Director

Jason Sickel is in his 19th year of teaching choral music. Choir under his direction have performed in concerts and clinics at many universities across Kansas and Missouri. His ensembles have performed at the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop (2011, 2016, 2018, 2020). He has presented a variety of workshops and presentations at state and regional music education conventions. He was selected Blue Valley School District Secondary Teacher of the Year in 2016 and was humbled and honored to represent all teachers in Kansas as the 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year.



Dr. Kezia Schrag
Collaborative Pianist

Dr. Schrag is a native Kansan and has pursued bachelor and doctoral degrees in her home state. She has performed recitals and as soloist with orchestras in the U.S., Poland and Hungary. Additionally, she has participated in master classes with professors of the Liszt Academy, the Peabody Institute, Indiana University, Juilliard, and more. She has a serious love for teaching and currently maintains an active teaching studio in Olathe, Kansas. Dr. Schrag also enjoys jazz, cooking, and most of all, spending time with her trusty sidekick, Amélia Schrag-McNichols.



Olathe East High School

14545 W 127th Street

Olathe, Kansas 66062

913-780-7180

Dear Future Hawks,

Let us be the first to welcome you to Olathe East High School and the Olathe East Choir Program. By joining choir you are choosing to be part of an amazing legacy of fine musicians and together we will continue this award-winning legacy.

Olathe East is a thriving performing arts school in USD 233 with strong band, theatre, orchestra, and choir programs. Since 1992 each program has consistently has qualified students for state and national level accolades. Yearly these programs have also been recognized by KSHSAA as exemplary music programs by a panel of adjudicators.

High school is an exciting time, with lots of choices and we want to encourage you to include choir as one of these choices. There are plenty of opportunities in your four years of high school to try everything and still be in choir. Music teaches many life lessons that will help you not only at Olathe East, but also well after you graduate. Employers are looking for creative, problem-solving, independent, team-work oriented, and tenacious employees. We proudly teach students those skills in addition to singing.

In choir we believe in having a lot of FUN making music! We will have high expectations for your musical learning. Real fun happens when excellence is achieved.

In addition to the work we do in the classroom and fun we have at concerts, choir students have several opportunities to get involved outside of school. Some of these are performance opportunities, some are social events to build camaraderie, and some are community outreach.

Olathe East has five choirs:

- ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN SHOULD ENROLL FOR Concert Choir Cantus/Cantilena Choirs— PA410 A and B
- Intermediate Choir is for Students 10-12
- Madrigals and Concordia are our most challenging groups, for students 10-12

We are looking forward to the fall when you get to be part of our Olathe East Choir family!

Sincerely,

Laura Klaassen, Jason Sickel,
and Kezia Schrag

Olathe East Choral Staff



Questions???

Please contact Ms. Klaassen or Mr. Sickel with any questions or concerns.

We are happy to help you get involved in high school and help answer any questions you may have.

Ms. Klaassen
lmklaassen@olatheschools.org

Mr. Sickel
jasickel@olatheschools.org

Follow us on twitter @east_Choirs

Facebook: Olathe East Choirs

Instagram: oe_Choirs



Olathe East Choirs – Frequently Asked Questions:

What ensembles may I join?

Olathe East has three levels of choirs with a total of 5 different choirs. All classes rehearse during the school day, as a regular year-long elective class.

Cantus (PA411) and Cantilena (PA410):

Cantus and Cantilena are Olathe East's training choirs. The ensemble is primarily made up of underclassmen but open to any student attending Olathe East. No audition is required. Cantus and Cantilena will perform at home concerts and Olathe Area Choral Festivals.

Concordia (PA430):

Concordia is Olathe East's advanced treble chamber choir. The ensemble consists of 16-24 outstanding treble singers, 10th-12th grades. An audition is required. Singers will conduct themselves with high levels of musicality, commitment and professionalism. Performance literature will have a small-ensemble focus. The choir performs at home concerts, community events and various music festivals.

Madrigal Singers (PA431):

Madrigal Singers is Olathe East's advanced mixed chamber choir. The ensemble consists of 24 10th-12th grade singers at Olathe East. An audition is required. Students will conduct themselves with high levels of musicality, commitment and professionalism. The choir performs at a host of school functions, district and community events, long-range trips and various music festivals.

Camerata (PA431):

Camerata is the intermediate large mixed choir at Olathe East High School. The ensemble is made up of outstanding singers from the 10th-12th grades. An audition is required. Singers will demonstrate high levels of ability, commitment and professionalism. Music for the large choral ensemble from diverse styles and cultures will be explored. The choir performs at a host of school functions, district and community events, long-range trips and various music festivals.

Additional ensembles include: Hawkapella (student-run acapella group), solo and small ensembles, honor choirs, KMEA district and state level choirs, Mini-Madz, Mini-Cordz, Allegro Choirs, Kansas City Youth Chorus, etc.

Do I have to audition to be in Choir?

Freshmen do NOT need to audition in order to join choir. Congratulations, you just made the Freshman Choir. You may, however, audition for an intermediate level group. See Ms. Klaassen for audition materials. Camerata is typically for 10-12 graders, as they work on building leadership qualities. All 10-12 grade students need to audition.

How do I enroll in Choir?

Incoming 9th Graders (Freshmen)

• ALL Freshmen should enroll in Cantus/Cantilena Choirs— PA410 A and B

Incoming 10th, 11th, 12th Graders

• Please enroll in Cantus/Cantilena Choirs PA410 A and B. If you are placed in an intermediate or advanced level choir, we will adjust your enrollment.

Can I be in Choir AND athletics/activities?

YES!!!! It is very common for Olathe East Choir students to participate in other activities. Choir typically does NOT conflict with activities. Ms. Klaassen and Mr. Sickel work closely with the coaches and sponsors to ensure students are able to participate in both activities, and NOT have to choose one over the other.

Can I be in Choir AND a 21st Century Academy/AP classes?

YES!!! Many students in the Olathe East Choirs are enrolled in a 21st Century Academy. We are proud to have these students in our choirs! The key is careful scheduling and course selection. The sample schedules provided outline how students are able to play in choir all four years AND be in a 21st Century Academy with AP classes.



"The sense of family you get at OE Choirs is great! One of my favorite things about choir is that you get to perform for everyone and it makes you feel like you are a part of something bigger than yourself! It's amazing how music brings everyone together!"

-Kris Schmale

2-year State Choir Member, Eagle Scout, Superintendent's Council, Tennis, Hawk Nation, NHS, Hawk Leaders

"Choir is a class where I know I will always be doing something and not sitting in a desk for an hour. I wish I knew as a freshman that the counselors will work around your schedule. They want you to be involved in as much as possible and they will work with you to make that happen!"

-Ellie Eisele

FEA 21st Century Academy, OE Theatre



HOW can I fit Choir in all 4 years of High School?

All High School students in Olathe USD #233 must complete 24 credits for graduation. Students have 28 course options over their 4 years of high school to fulfill those credits (7 hours per day x 4 years). Credits are broken down as follows:

English – 4 credits required • Math – 3 credits required (4 credits recommended) • Science – 3 credits required (4 recommended) • Social Studies – 3 credits required • Communications – 0.5 credit required • Financial Literacy - 0.5 credit required • Fine Arts – 1 credit required • STEM – 1 credit required • Life Studies – 0.5 credit required • Physical Education/Health - 1 credit required • Applied Communication/Language – 1 credit required (2 recommended) • Individual Focus/Electives – 5.5 credits required (10 credits available)

Sample Four Year Schedule WITH Choir:

Class	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
1	CHOIR :)	CHOIR :)	CHOIR :)	CHOIR :)
2	English	English	English	English
3	Math	Math	Math	Additional Math
4	Life Science	Physical Science	Science Elective	Additional Science Elective
5	Modern World History	Social Studies Elective	U.S. History	U.S. Government/ Financial Literacy
6	Physical Education/Health	Elective	STEM	Elective
7	Language Applications	World Language Elective	Life Studies/ Communications	Elective

Normal Schedule WITH Choir:

• OE Choirs fulfills the Fine Arts requirement as well as 3 required electives.

• This sample schedule includes additional credits in Math, Science, & World Language. Though they are not required, these courses can open up scholarship opportunities for college-bound students.

• Driver's Ed fulfills 1/2 credit of the Practical and Consumer Studies requirement – taking this course over the summer or after school frees up 1/2 additional elective credit.

• Honors/Pre-AP/AP/College-Now level courses can be substituted in any of the spots above for subjects such as English, Math, Science, and Social Science.

PLAN AHEAD – The most important key to fitting Choir in to your schedule is careful planning, especially before entering your Freshman year. If you need help, please contact your counselors & Choir director – they're happy to work with you!

The next three schedules show how choir can be incorporated into Future Educators Academy, Design Academy and Civic Leadership Academy schedules. With careful planning, it is possible to participate in choir for 4 years AND complete the requirements of these three 21st Century Academies.

Future Educators Academy- Plan for Endorsing & Choir

Class	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Modern World History	Intro to Psych/Lifespan Development	U.S. History	U.S. Government/ Personal Finance
4	Biology	Physical Science/Chemistry	Science	Science
5	P.E./Health	World Language	World Language	Elective/Elective
6	Intro to Education	Teaching as a Career	Innovations and Observations	Senior Capstone
7	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir

Civic Leadership Academy- Plan for Endorsing & Choir

Class	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Modern World History	Intro to Psych/Business Law	U.S. History	U.S. Government/ Personal Finance
4	Biology	Physical Science/Chemistry	Science	Science
5	P.E./Health	World Language	World Language	Elective/Elective
6	Intro to Civic Leadership	Public Admin Fundamentals Practical Law Fundamentals	Civic Leadership 2 level Choices	Civic Leadership Work Experience
7	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir

Design Academy- Plan for Endorsing & Choir

Class	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Modern World History	Intro to Psych/Business Law	U.S. History	U.S. Government/ Personal Finance
4	Biology	Physical Science/Chemistry	Science	Science
5	P.E./Health	World Language	World Language	Elective/Elective
6	Intro to Design	Design Level 2 Choices	Design Level 3 Choices	Senior Capstone
7	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir

*Some classes are available through eAcademy outside the school day.

