

Competition Weekend FAQs

- **When are competitions?**
 - *They typically begin mid-February and go to mid-March. We usually compete in 4 invitationals then State Finals are the third weekend of March.*
- **What's the time commitment during comp season?**
 - *Once the New Year rolls around, our comp season officially begins, and rehearsals kick into HIGH gear. Be prepared for daily/nightly rehearsals, some will be day long events where meals will be provided. Kids will need to plan accordingly with other school responsibilities and job schedules. A calendar is set for each month and is passed out to students in class and will be posted on the show choir website.*
- **Where do the choirs compete?**
 - *Most/all competitions are held at Indianapolis area high schools. The "host" school will not be in competition but will perform their show(s) for the audience.*
 - *We always host a "Preview Night" in the CHS Auditorium the Thursday before our first competition. This is an evening for family and friends to see the show if they are unable to make it to competitions. They will also perform the show one last time at the Winter Concert.*
- **How do we know what time our students perform on Saturday?**
 - *A detailed itinerary is sent home with your student a few days before each competition which includes the scheduled performance times. These details are posted on the website at the beginning of each week as well. We also will post on the Facebook page.*
- **How does the performance schedule work?**
 - *Generally, the unisex choirs (KG) perform in the morning and the mixed choirs (KS) perform in the afternoon. At all competitions, however, the schedule/times for night finals is not set until the announcements are made as to which choirs will advance to night finals.*
- **Once the students are done performing can they leave?**
 - *All choir members are required to stay until after the announcement of night finals. If either choir makes it to night finals, all choir members will stay until after the awards ceremony. There are students that assist the opposite choir back stage that need to stay as well as the importance of supporting one another and cheering one another on!*
- **How is it determined whether the choir advances or not?**
 - *All choirs perform once at each competition. Based on the scoring by the judges there will be 3-4 groups that will perform once again at night finals. The score given from the night final performance determines their overall placement.*
- **How do we qualify for State Finals?**
 - *State Finals is an ISSMA (Indiana State School Musical Association) event. Not all invitationals are ISSMA events, so we only participate in those that are. Our scores determine whether we advance to finals.*

- **Can parents/family/friends sit and observe all performances?**
 - *At each competition there is an entrance fee for guests. Guests are either given a wristband or their hand stamped to show they have paid and can watch performances. You can watch all shows or pick and choose – but you must only enter at the beginning of each show, no entrance in the middle of a show is allowed. Fees usually run \$10 for daytime performances and \$15 if you choose to stay for night finals. If auditoriums/gyms are full to capacity, there are usually additional areas to view the performances; often in the cafeteria or foyer of the facility.*
 - *There are also some students that participate in solo competitions. Those are communicated in the program/itinerary and everyone is welcome to observe.*
- **How do we make sure our students pack what they need to take along for the weekend?**
 - *Mr. Adcock distributes an itinerary for each competition. A packing list is also given to your student with clear details of what they need to have in their duffle bag.*
- **What time does the bus leave from the school on Fridays?**
 - *The buses normally try to be on the road around 4:00 p.m. This allows adequate time to stop on the way to grab a quick dinner and be at the designated hotel in decent time. After competition, buses usually arrive back to CHS VERY late (or early, depending on how you look at it...), typically 2am-3am*
- **Do chaperones travel with my student during a comp weekend?**
 - *Parent chaperones are present during the entire comp weekend: on the bus, during meals, at the hotel, and at the comp location.*
- **Does my child have to ride the bus home from the competitions?**
 - *Students may ride home with their parents, however, they will not be allowed to leave the school until after the last performance or awards ceremony. Students will not be released until their homerooms are completely cleaned up and the chaperones have approved that the room is straight. A note must be given to Mr. Adcock by Wednesday before the upcoming competition stating that the student will be riding home with parents. Students must be signed out with a chaperone before leaving the facility.*
- **Will my student need money for meals or other things for the weekend?**
 - *Students will need money for their meal on the way up to the hotel on Friday evening and usually a snack stop on the way home late Saturday evening. The schools where the competitions are held have meals to purchase in their cafeterias during the day on Saturday and usually there are other snack stands here and there throughout the building. Students are not allowed to leave the facility for meals. There is usually a table set up where the host school sells a competition t-shirt as well. Most of the schools have a section set up where you can purchase live action photos from their photographer. **It is up to you how much money you choose to send along with your student.** These are just the options available to them while they are there. Food is the essential, the other things are optional. We would say depending on your child, \$50-\$100 is a safe amount to send with them.*

- **Additional Items Needed /Suggested :**
 - *Warm clothing for the bus ride*
 - *It is known that buses have 2 temperatures, freezing cold and miserably hot...Students should at least pack a hat and gloves (it is colder up in Indy!). They will have their track suits and fleeces to layer up with. A warm blanket and small pillow is nice for the bus ride as well.*
 - *Portable phone charger*
 - ***This is not a must, but very helpful!*** *Chaperones will always be able to keep in touch with parents, but cannot possible keep everyone's phone charged.*
 - *Jewelry*
 - *The only jewelry allowed is the required costume jewelry the girls wear on stage. **It is advised that you do not allow your student to wear or bring jewelry that is valuable or that they would be heartbroken to lose.** There is a lot going on in the homerooms while changing, lots of bags, articles of clothing...things can get lost easily.*
 - ***Label Everything: Yes Everything!!! Especially the girl's character heals, bodysuits and personal care items*** *(combs, hairspray, brushes, mirrors, make-up, etc.). Seriously, we will have 60 hair brushes, 60 phone chargers, 60 makeup kits, 60 ..., 60 ... 60 to keep track of. Your student's belongings are much more likely to get returned if they have a name on them.*
 - *Meeting up with your student at competitions*
 - *Only students and chaperones are allowed in the homeroom area at competitions. If you want to meet up with your student, text them a place to meet. Your student is more than welcome to sit with you to watch the shows and you are also welcome to eat meals with them if they would enjoy that.*
 - *Rules regarding pictures/video taking*
 - *Most schools do not allow photography or video recording during the performances. Feel free to bring your camera, but be prepared to be restricted in its use.*
 - *"Rotation"*
 - *When the choir is in rotation, the following occurs: (1) They go to a specified room for their physical and vocal warm-ups, (2) they go to their "on deck" position, while the choir before them performs, (3) they perform, (4) they go to a room to view their performance and get feedback from the directors/ judges, (5) they go back to the changing room and get out of their costumes. What this means for parents is that your child will be busy for at least 3 performances before either choir performs and for 1-2 performances after their own performance. You will have lots of time for socializing with other parents, watch the other choirs, and browse through the vending area.*

- *Performance etiquette*
 - *Remember – judges are also looking for how the crowd is responding to the performance! Don't be afraid to cheer for our kids! Students are told, and parents should follow the same rule: **we do not speak negatively about any other group or performance while at competition.** We are all there representing Castle and want to show respect to the other groups. You never know who is sitting around you or listening to your comments in the bathroom line!*
- *Hydration/Nutrition*
 - *Remind your students to eat healthfully and drink plenty of water. Performances are physically draining and skipping a meal or failure to hydrate could result in illness or injury.*

Competition season is a great time! It's wonderful to watch all of our kids' hard work be left on stage week after week. They are amazing! Thank you all for your support!