

VOLT

Vocal A Cappella

Pop Group

Audition Packet

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Vocalist Instructions:

- Fill out the application and contract and turn it in prior to your audition by **Thursday, August 16th**
- On the sheet posted outside the choir room doors, sign up for a time to audition after school on **Tuesday, August 21**.
- Read the attached Information Packet carefully. Have your parents initial each paragraph in the space provided. Parent and student must sign the last page. Bring the completed Information Packet with you to your audition.
- Be prepared to sing **one minute of a pop song** *without* a backing track or accompaniment. You may also be asked to **vocalize**, or complete a series of **pitch matching exercises**. We will be checking for range, tessitura, vocal tone and resonance, technique, sight-reading ability and pitch retention.
- Callbacks will be held on **Thursday, August 23**. Singers will be given a piece of music. They will work together to learn the piece and make it performance-ready. Mr. Buntyn will then place them in sections and voice them. I will be looking for self-motivated musicians who learn quickly, work efficiently in small groups and sing with musical awareness and can perform in balanced harmony with the other called-back singers.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Buntyn - buntynm@friscoisd.org

Thanks for your interest in the 2018-2019 VOLT Pop A Cappella Group! Audition results will be posted on the [choir website](#) no later than Monday, August 27th.

2018-2019

VOLT Pop A Cappella Group

Information

This next year VOLT will be competing in ICHSA, a competition for high school cappella groups from around the US and Canada.

FAQs

What is ICHSA?

The ICHSA, or the International Championship of High School A Cappella, is a competition put on by a group called Varsity Vocals. Founded by Deke Sharon in 1995, it is an organization that fosters and encourages a cappella pop groups at the high school and collegiate level. They are the group that also puts on the ICCA, the college equivalent of the ICHSA, made famous by *Pitch Perfect*.

Groups interested in the ICHSA are required to register and apply in October. They prepare and video-record three a cappella numbers they have prepared. Once approved, they begin to prepare their set list.

The set list can have any number of songs, but must be no more than 12 minutes long (including time for applause). Songs will be chosen based on group composition, strengths and weaknesses and overall cohesion. Once the set list is chosen, students will learn the music and choreography for their performance.

The first competition is the Quarterfinals which happens around mid-January. The group will perform in the Quarterfinals with students from around the DFW area. Judges will grade based on balance and blend, arrangement, interpretation, rhythmic accuracy/vocal percussion, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, diction, solo interpretation, and visual cohesiveness. The winner and runner-up in the Quarterfinals advance to the Region Semifinals which generally take place at the end of February or beginning of March. The winner of the Semifinals advances to the National Finals which take place in New York City at the end of April. Winners of the National finals receive the coveted Gooding Cup.

Why do we need to do another competition?

Honestly, the competition is a small portion of our decision to be a part of the ICHSA. Through participating, our members will have the opportunity to observe quality and diverse a cappella performances. They will get to know like-minded peers and groups who are just as passionate about vocal a cappella from around the nation. They will develop teamwork, personal responsibility and synergy as they pursue a unified goal and purpose for the year. They will receive valuable feedback from judges who are professional musicians, arrangers and educators. The goal is not to stress our students or add something else to their plate, it provides them a national and global perspective on vocal a cappella. It teaches diverse vocal and performance technique. It engages and energizes the community as they support us at Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and possibly National Finals.

Do I need to be an amazing solo singer to make this group?

Not necessarily! While there will be opportunities to perform solos, it is more important to be a self-motivated, hard-working, passionate singer with good tone and dynamic awareness who can create multiple different sounds with their voice, balance and blend in an ensemble, and learn and perform music at a high level.

Will everyone be able to have a solo?

It is possible to have solos in the other music we will be working on, but the main set list will have a limited number of soloists. There is a practical reason for this; each of our vocalists will be given a microphone, soloists will be turned up in the mix, multiple small solos in a piece of music necessitates a lot of turning up and down of microphones. In order to facilitate and expedite sound check (we are given 15 minutes to communicate our needs to the sound designer and check our set) only a couple people will be have solos in the set.

What is the time commitment?

We will learn music and rehearse during Lunch A and B on Wednesdays as well as Thursday and Fridays, 7:50-9:00 am. In addition to learning our set list, we will also be preparing the National Anthem, and carols for the holiday season. All members will be expected to go to the Quarterfinals, and (if we advance), the Semi-finals and Nationals. Rehearsal outside of the normal school day will be added as needed and will be communicated as early in advance as possible.

We will probably be invited to perform the National Anthem at a football game, and carol throughout the winter holidays. Dates for added performances will be communicated as early in advance as possible.

Where can I find more information about the ICHSA and vocal a cappella?

www.varsityvocals.com has a lot of valuable information about vocal a cappella competitions. I also recommend using YouTube to find recordings of past ICHSA competitions. You can also find past episodes of "The Sing-Off " (a TV singing competition for vocal a cappella similar to "American Idol"). There is also a TV series on Netflix called "Sing It On" that follows a number of collegiate a cappella groups as they prepare for the ICCAs.

What will be the cost to each student?

Students will be responsible for the cost of their uniform. There may also be travel expenses tied to performing at Semifinals or Nationals. Travel costs will be communicated after our group is told we are advancing.

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Application Form

Please fill out the following form and bring it with you to your audition.

NAME: _____

ID No. _____ Current Grade: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

Student email

Parent email _____

Recent performing experience (solos, choir, church, All Region, etc)

FOR VOCALISTS:

Circle your current voice part: **Soprano** **Alto** **Tenor** **Bass**

(to be filled in by director at audition)

Range:

Tessitura:

Musicality:

Words:

2018-2019

VOLT Acappella Ensemble

Contract

Please sign and return the Application and Contract by Thursday, August 16th.

We understand the great honor and responsibility that the VOLT Pop Ensemble deserves and demands. If chosen, I agree to follow all expectations put forth by the Frisco ISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Lebanon Trail Choir Handbook.

I agree to keep my commitment to this group and its members for the school year.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____