

Dear Tecumseh Choir members, Parents and Guardians,

As you are probably aware, all school buildings in Oklahoma are closed for the rest of the spring semester. Here is a portion of the decision. For the full letter use the link below.

“The State Board of Education unanimously approved an [order](#) that implements a Distance Learning Plan to complete the 2019-20 school year for Oklahoma students without reopening school buildings. The approval comes as numbers grow for positive COVID-19 cases in the state.”

Posted by Jordan.LaMons on Wed, 03/25/2020 - 2:42pm

<https://sde.ok.gov/newsblog/2020-03-25/state-board-approves-distance-learning-remainder-school-year>

Tecumseh public school administrators and teachers are currently conducting virtual staff meetings to discuss what distance learning means for our schools and our students. Please be assured that Tecumseh public schools will be providing something for our students starting April 6, 2020.

I know you all have many questions about how this affects you. Let me start by saying how much I love you all and miss you all. I am a choir director. I have cried for my daughter who is a senior at Shawnee High School. I have cried for my high school choir seniors. I have cried for my choir students. Choir is about getting together and singing together and the experience cannot be replicated virtually. To say that I am heartbroken is an understatement.

There are plans in the works for enrichment activities for all Tecumseh students whether virtual or in packet form. Distance learning does not mean students on laptops or screens for hours and hours. If you have not already filled out the survey sent out by the TPS board office, please do that asap. We are gathering data about who has internet access, who has devices and who has both. Please fill out the entire survey. Here is the link to the school website where you can fill out the survey. <https://www.tecumseh.k12.ok.us/>. Please share this information with your friends by text, phone or social media.

Now let me answer some specific choir related questions.

1. The choir trip to Branson has been postponed or cancelled. I am in communication with Mr. Wilsie to decide the best way to refund money to everyone that made payments towards the trip. This process will take some time. Thank you for your patience while Mrs. Belshe, Ms. Phillips and I figure out how to make reimbursements.
2. Candle Fundraiser. The candles are being held by the company until further notice. The administrators are fully aware of this issue and I am communicating to them and the Easy

Fundraising Ideas Company to determine our next steps. I will let you know as soon as I have more information.

3. Zak's Cheese Fundraiser. Some of you had missing popcorn, other products and prizes from the Zak's Cheese Fundraiser. Those products were supposed to be delivered this week. I am communicating with the administrators and the Zak's cheese representative and will let you know as soon as I know more information.
4. What about choir classes? Currently, the middle school staff and high school staff are meeting to decide what we need to do and how we need to do it. We are working hard to find ways to reach our students through distance learning.
5. Here is what you can do.
 - a. Fill out the survey I mentioned above
 - b. Join my choir remind and choir facebook
 - c. Join your TMS or THS remind and facebook pages
 - d. Follow the THS or TMS websites or App for updates
 - e. Let us know if you or someone you know needs help accessing any or all of the above.

"A million dreams are keeping me awake...a million dreams is all it's gonna take"-Pasek & Paul

Cheryl Blankenship, Director of Vocal Music

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Courtney Phillips, Assistant Director

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Facebook page: Tecumseh (OK) Vocal Music

Remind: For High School, text @thschoi to 81010

For Middle School text @tmscho to 81010