**OTHS Swimming – Incoming Athlete FAQ**

Here are some of the most asked questions regarding the swim team! If you have any further questions, please direct them to Coach Sweeso at KatherineMSweeso@katyisd.org and Coach Saunders at MarieESaunders@katyisd.org

**Q: How can I keep up with information regarding Tryouts and news for the swim team?**

A: The team website: tompkinsswimanddive.weebly.com. You can also follow us on twitter and Instagram!

**Q. When are tryouts?**

A. Tryouts will be August 11th, 12th and 13th. 6am-9am.

**Q. Does my child need to be in the swimming class to be on the swim team?**

A. Yes. Your child needs to sign up for swimming when they pick their courses for the next year. If they have not already, contact your child’s counselor. Varsity will swim 1st period, JV will swim 7th. All swimmers will default to 7th period unless the head coach approves them for Varsity. If they’re not in the class when tryouts take place, that’s fine – they will be moved into the appropriate class period should they make a team.

**Q. What paperwork does my child have complete to participate/tryout in swimming?**

A. Swimmers need to be registered as a student in Katy ISD. Once they are, they will need to have a complete paper physical/medical history form turned in, and complete all of the online paperwork via Rank One. Rank One goes live for the next year in May 2022. Link to the paperwork will be on the front page Tompkins swimming website starting in MAY. Please have ALL of your paperwork done well in advance of tryouts.

**Q. How many kids make the Varsity team? How many kids make the JV team?**

A. I do not have a set number of swimmers for each team. We will use cuts, and a point system based on times at tryouts, as well as their ability to train at the Varsity or JV level to make my final decision. Our Varsity team will have 16 boys and 16 girls to fill all the spots, (but can have a few extra or less depending on numbers and ability). JV will be about 20 boys and 20 girls – but again, there is no set specific number. Due to training in a limited number of lanes and safety, we cannot take everyone onto a team.

**Q: Is this a learn-to-swim program?**

A.No. This is a competitive swim team. We do not have a learn-to-swim program for high school in Katy ISD. Both the Varsity and JV program train and preform at a very high level. We do have a lot of swimmers who have come from a summer league background who do just fine – but this is not a summer league style program.

**Q: What times do my child need to have to make Varsity/JV?**

A. Please see the Qualification cuts for each team on the Tryouts Info sheet, because the levels of the team changes each year. The top athletes will make the Varsity team, the next cut of athletes will make the JV team. I only base my determination for each team on their times at tryouts – not club or USA swimming. At the minimum to make the JV team, your swimmer needs to be able to swim all 4 stokes legally.

**Q: Do you cut swimmers?**

A Yes. Unfortunately, with our numbers, we are unable to safely and efficiently run this program without making cuts.

**Q. Can seniors swim on JV?**

A. No. If a senior does not make the Varsity team, they will have a meeting with the head coach to determine what their next step is.

**Q. Does my child have to swim club to be successful at the high school level?**

A. No. However, club is highly encouraged for swimmers who are trying to improve their overall conditioning, or make the Regional/State level on the Varsity team. We have many swimmers at both the JV and Varsity level that swim club year round. Swimming club or training with another team over the summer is highly encouraged so your child is as prepared as possible for high school.

**Q. If my child doesn’t make the team, what next?**

A. We encourage your swimmer to speak to the coaches about what they can do to improve. If they still desire to swim for OTHS, they should join a year round club swimming team, and prepare to tryout the next year.

If you have any questions that are not addressed here, please email me!! I’m happy to help, and look forward to having your child on the OTHS Swim Team!

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