

## **OTHS Swimming – Incoming Athlete FAQ**

Incoming Parent/Athlete night will be **on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in the OTHS Main Commons!** All swimmers and their parents are encouraged to attend. You will meet the coaching staff, tour the pool, and get all the information you need regarding tryouts and paperwork and the expectations for this program!

In the meantime, here are some of the most asked questions regarding the swim team!

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

A: The team website: [tompkinsswimanddive.weebly.com](http://tompkinsswimanddive.weebly.com)

### **Q. When are tryouts?**

A. Tryouts will be August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Time is TBD (due to not knowing teacher workday schedule) – but will be in the morning. More than likely from 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 1<sup>st</sup> period, JV will swim 7<sup>th</sup>. All swimmers will default to 7<sup>th</sup> period unless the head coach approves them for Varsity.

### **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 2018. Link to the paperwork will be on the front page Tompkins swimming website starting in MAY.

### **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. I will use 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. Typically, a Varsity team needs 16 boys and 16 girls to fill all the spots, but I have gone above or below depending on ability levels. JV will be about 25 boys and 25 girls – but again, there is no set specific number.

### **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. There are no set specific times, because the levels of the team changes each year. I am filling spots – 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, your swimmer needs to be able to swim all 4 strokes legally.

**Q: Do you cut swimmers?**

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

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

A. No. Seniors may be in the program at the JV level, but cannot compete at a JV meet. Seniors are not automatically placed on Varsity. 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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