

2021-2022

CH&IR

BROWNSBURG

Middle School Choral Handbook

BEMS

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From the Directors

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Middle School Choir program! We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of Brownsburg's Choir program! It's our goal to provide a well-rounded experience where students can grow musically, intellectually, and socially. Our students will experience the following:

Musically and Intellectually:

Sight reading: Reading, Writing, and Performing

Rhythm reading: Reading, Writing, and Performing

Vocal Technique: Breathing, Sound Production, Ensemble sound, Diction, Pitch

Music Reading: Music Symbols, Note and Score Reading

Performance: Interpretation, Improvisation, Analyzing, Solo/Ensemble, Blend

Socially:

Team work

Responsibility

Time management

Focus

Multi-tasking

Problem solving

Empathy

Leadership

Active listening

Self esteem

Goal setting

Coachability

Confidence

Independence

Attention to detail

Collaboration

This handbook contains valuable information about grading policies, classroom expectations, concert attire, rewards, fundraising, and more. Please *read this information **closely and carefully***, and complete the online **Parent & Student Response Form** by **Friday, August 6, 2021**. (You'll find the Response form links on the last page of this handbook.)

We look forward to sharing the success of your singer with you! Feel free to contact us, come in for a classroom visit, or volunteer to be a part of our classes and/or performances. It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Jamie Varvel & Justin Stahl
BEMS Choir Teachers

Teresa Fowler
BWMS Choir Teacher

Assessment

For the purposes of regular, measurable assessment, the following activities may be used:

- Rehearsal Strategies: rehearsal etiquette, preparedness for class, level of cooperation with director and fellow singers, ability to follow classroom and departmental procedures (Please see the Rehearsal Strategies rubric on page 4.)
- Performances
- Quiz/Tests: Written or skill-based observation
- Written work: music theory, dictation, performance evaluation
- Skill Checks: rhythm clapping, singing alone or in small groups, demonstrating correct technique
- At Home Assignments: including, but not limited to, choreography, sight singing, and vocal rehearsal. (Students will access these at-home assignments via Schoology.)

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Daily Rehearsal Strategies	33%
Performances***	33%
Written Work/Tests/Quizzes/Skill Checks	33%

***Students must participate in the performance to receive the performance grade. *Performance dates and requirements are on page 8 of this handbook.*

Missing Work

Students are responsible for checking with teacher and/or checking Schoology for missing work.

DAILY REHEARSAL STRATEGIES GRADE

This rubric is listed on the front of each choir binder
(3 possible per day)

3 points

Student follows expectations and contributes **actively, with leadership**. (100% of rehearsal time)

- Student positively and actively engages in classroom tasks; good role model
- Student **does not disrupt** class climate or talk at inappropriate times.
- Student **participates** with proper vocal technique, posture, hand signs, etc.
- Student comes to class with ALL **class materials** (binder, pencil, and passport), checks the screen for directions upon entrance, and responds accordingly.

2 points

Student follows expectations and actively contributes **most of the time**. (90% of rehearsal time)

- Student partially engages in classroom tasks with **mediocre leadership**.
- Student **does not disrupt** class climate or talk at inappropriate times.
- Student sometimes participates with proper vocal technique, posture, hand signs, etc.
- Student needs reminded to have proper class materials and check the screen.

1 point

Student **does not, or refuses** to contribute with proper behavior. (less than 50% of rehearsal time)

- Student does not engage in classroom tasks.
- Student behaves with **some disruption** of class climate or talks at inappropriate times
- Student does not participate or use proper technique, posture, hand signs, etc.
- Student does not have class materials and/or does not use them correctly.

0 points

Chewing gum, cell phone/electronic device use during class, missing class materials, not sitting in assigned seat, inappropriate physical contact with others, destroying property, talking back to teacher inappropriately, inappropriate teasing, screaming, defying authority, etc.

Choir Room Procedures & Policies

Do's

- Practice good vocal habits
- Have a pencil, passport, and choir binder everyday
- Check the screen upon arrival for daily directions
- Contribute positively and respectfully in rehearsals
- Take care of your materials (Materials are provided for each student. Students will be expected to replace materials should they be destroyed/lost.)

Don'ts

- No talking during class and rehearsals
- No eating, drinking, or gum chewing in the classroom
- No leaving your seat without permission from the teacher
- No personal grooming during classroom hours
- No offensive language
- No disruptive or disrespectful behavior
- No defacing, destroying class materials

Consequences Within One Class Period

- First offense—verbal warning and loss of Rehearsal Strategies points
- Second offense—Conference with teacher and/or lunch detention/ISS for class period. Parents contacted.
- Third offense— After-school detention and additional consequence, as necessary.

Escalating Consequences for Recurrent Off-Task Behaviors

All recurrent disruptive behaviors will result in student being removed from the classroom for the remainder of the period. Students may be sent to hallway or to the ISS room.

1. ISS for duration of class, and/or Behavior Think Sheet with parent signature
2. After School Detention
3. Friday School
4. Referral to Administration

Positive Behavior Rewards

- Currency for school-wide token economy (Dawg Bones/Bucks)
- Classroom leadership positions (section/group leader, etc.)
- **Reward trips:** 6th Grade Recruiting Concert, 7th grade King's Island, 8th grade Chicago

To be eligible for trips, students must have:

1. No unexcused absences from performances
2. No more than 2 discipline referrals in PowerSchool (all year, school-wide)
3. No F's at the time of eligibility
4. No OSS for any reason during the school year.

Choral Office

The phone in the choral office is for choir business only.

No one is permitted in the choral office, unless they are invited by Mrs. Varvel, Mr. Stahl, Mrs. Fowler, or Mrs. Isaacs.

Student Cell Phone Usage

We adhere to the school policy of no student cell phone usage during the school day.

Performances

Performances allow the students to:

- Build community and pride
- Demonstrate proficiency in learned skills
- Practice performance etiquette
- Create positive energy
- Take responsibility
- Experience an accomplishment that can't be done by one's self

Attendance is required at all concerts (See calendar of events on page 8)

Excused absences from performances include:

Illness or surgery the day of the concert, funeral of a close family member or friend, religious holiday

Parents, please contact the director **at least one week** in advance of the concert date with a respectfully written request to be excused.

Concert Make-up Credit*

To receive graded points for a missed performance, students must record a video of himself/herself singing the appropriate part and submit to the teacher via Schoology.

Performance is a Privilege

Proper concert etiquette will be practiced during class leading up to the concert date. Students who refuse to practice proper concert etiquette in the classroom will be ineligible to perform. Proper concert etiquette is expected on stage and in all backstage areas. Improper etiquette exhibited on stage or backstage will result in loss of concert grade points, dismissal from the concert, and/or referral to administration.

Missed Performance due to Classroom Behavior:

Should a student's behavior in rehearsal result in an office referral within two weeks prior to a performance, that student may lose eligibility to perform. In this case, the student will record a video of each song, as directed above, and submit to the teacher in lieu of his/her performance grade.

Concert Attire

Please note which items are provided by the school and which items must be provided by families.

6th Grade:

Brownsburg Choir T-shirt (provided), Plain Black Casual Pants (Joggers, Leggings, Black Jeans, etc.), Tennis Shoes

7th Grade:

December & March Concerts - Formal Uniform (provided), Black Dress Shoes

May Concert – Brownsburg Choir T-shirt (provided), Plain Black Casual Pants (Joggers, Leggings, Black Jeans, etc.), Tennis Shoes

8th Grade:

Musical Chorus and May Concert - Brownsburg Choir T-Shirt (provided), Plain Black Casual Pants (Joggers, Leggings, Black Jeans, etc.), Tennis Shoes

December & March Concerts – Formal Uniform (provided), Black Dress Shoes

Classroom Supplies

***Pencil (not pen) EVERY DAY**

***Passport EVERY DAY.**

***Choir binder (provided) EVERY DAY.**

1 box of Kleenex (to be brought in first full week of school)

*Contribution Points lost w/o required items.

Fundraising

Choir students will be asked to participate in one large fundraiser at the beginning of each year. Our cookie dough fundraiser will begin late August. More info will be sent home as the date approaches.

These funds are used to purchase new music, pay for accompanists, choreographers, field trips, contest entry fees, private lesson scholarships, concert attire, and new equipment. 8th grade students can apply 50% of their earnings to their Chicago Reward Trip. (approx. \$3.00/tub sold.)

Volunteers

We could not do what we do without YOUR HELP! Thank you! You'll receive info for choir-specific volunteer opportunities via email.

*****NOTE: All parent volunteers MUST have a criminal background check on file with the BCSC Central Office, which must be renewed every 3 years. Please visit <https://www.brownsburg.k12.in.us/Volunteer> to complete your online application.**

Stay Connected!

Schoology and www.brownsburgmschoir.com are the best places to find all things Choir! Please check here for study guides, forms, at-home assessment portals, info, videos, photos, and more.

Students will complete online assessments via Schoology.

Quick daily updates and reminders will be posted on the choir Instagram pages:

East: @bemschoir

West: @bwmschoir

Directors will also send pertinent information via email to the addresses listed in your PowerSchool account and Remind.

2021-2022 BEMS/BWMS Choir Calendar of Events

Bold Items are Required, Graded Events

Aug 5	8 th Grade Musical Parent Meeting via Zoom	8:30 pm
Aug 9-13	8 th Grade Musical Auditions (callbacks may follow)	Sign up for timeslot online
Aug 16-17	6 th , 7 th , 8 th Grades Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kick-off	In Class
Aug 19	7 th Grade East v West Football National Anthem @ BHS	TBA
Aug 30	6 th , 7 th , 8 th Grades - Cookie Dough Orders DUE	In Class
Oct 25	Cookie Dough Order Pickup (tentative date depending on weather)	2:45-6:00 pm
Nov 8	8th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – All Cast, Crew, EAST CHORUS	2:45-5:00 pm
Nov 9	8th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – All Cast, Crew, WEST CHORUS	2:45-5:00 pm
Nov 10	8 th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – Cast and Crew only	2:15 – 4:30 pm
Nov 11	8th Grade Musical Rehearsal & Performance – Cast, Crew, EAST Chorus	2:45 – 8:30 pm
Nov 12	8th Grade Musical Rehearsal & Performance – Cast, Crew, WEST Chorus	2:45 – 8:30 pm
Nov 13	8th Grade Musical Performance – Cast, Crew, WEST Chorus	3:00 pm (call time TBA)
Nov 13	8th Grade Musical Performance – Cast, Crew, EAST Chorus	7:00 pm (call time TBA)
Dec 14	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
Dec 15	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
Jan 28	6 th Grade Recruiting Concert for 5 th graders @ BEMS	During School Day
Jan 29	Optional Solo and Ensemble Contest (location TBA)	TBA
Mar 10	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Choral Repertoire Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
Mar 15	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Choral Repertoire Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
May 14	8 th Grade Chicago Reward Trip	5:30am – midnight
May 16	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Show Choir Spring Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
May 17	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Show Choir Spring Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
May 21	7 th Grade King’s Island Reward Trip (Mason, OH)	7:00 am – midnight

- ALL 8th grade musical rehearsals and performances will be held in the Café at **East Middle School**. West students will be bused to East and will need to be picked up at door 12, 20, or 7 at East.
- Due to West’s construction, concerts may not be held at a student’s home school. Please check Schoology and email info close to each date.
- The Solo & Ensemble contest, 8th grade and 7th grade reward trips require an additional fee. More information to come.
- Please be aware that the start times listed are the beginning of the performance. Your student will be given a “call time” for when to arrive for warm ups and placement prior to performances.

Response Form

Please fill out the form below (one form for each student you have enrolled in choir) and return to Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Varvel, or Mr. Stahl by August 6, 2021.

EAST CHOIR [CLICK HERE to send your response to Mrs. Varvel and Mr. Stahl!](#)

WEST CHOIR [CLICK HERE to send your response to Mrs. Fowler!](#)