

2022-2023

CH&IR

BROWNSBURG

Middle School Choral Handbook

BEMS

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From the Directors

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 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

Focus

Empathy

Self esteem

Confidence

Attention to detail

Responsibility

Multi-tasking

Leadership

Goal setting

Independence

Collaboration

Time management

Problem solving

Active listening

Coachability

GRIT

Risking new skills

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 **Parent and Student Response Form** your student received in class. (You can also find the forms online at www.brownsburgmschoir.com.) Keep the date/info sheet for your convenience; please return the response form by Friday, August 5, 2022, to your student's choir teacher.

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 & Justin Stahl
BWMS Choir Teachers

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, disrespectful behavior to peers, 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 provided materials (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, for planned absences, please contact the director **at least one week** in advance of the concert date with a respectfully written request to be excused. For illness on day-of, please email teacher on day of missed performance.

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. Parents will be informed via email.

Concert Attire

All Choir Students: must provide casual solid black pants (joggers, leggings, jeans, etc.) and black shoes (tennis shoes, dress shoes, boots, or jazz shoes.)

Each student will receive a choir shirt. This shirt will be worn at all performances during the current school year.

Hair and Jewelry

Part of a performance is learning to use your facial expressions to connect with music and entertain the audience. Hair must be out of your face, styled, with no extra hair accessories (unless they are the same color as the student's hair.) Jewelry should be small.

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 early September. 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, clinicians, 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!

Our choir website, www.brownsburgmschoir.com, and Schoology 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

Please make to subscribe to Remind. *Text the following code to 81010: East: @bburg-ems, or West: @bburg-wms.* This will connect you with all your student's teachers for quick contacts and reminders.

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

2022-2023 BEMS/BWMS Choir Calendar of Events

Bold Items are Required, Graded Events

Aug 4	8 th Grade Musical Parent Meeting, 5pm @ West, 8:15pm @ East	5:00 pm @ West, 8:15 pm @ East
Aug 15-19	8 th Grade Musical Auditions (callbacks may follow)	Sign up for timeslot online
Aug 18	7 th Grade East v West Football National Anthem @ BHS	TBA
Sept 12-13	6 th , 7 th , 8 th Grades Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kick-off	In Class
Sept 23	6 th , 7 th , 8 th Grades - Cookie Dough Orders DUE	In Class
Nov 5	8 th grade Musical Cast and Crew	10 am-4 pm @ East
Nov 7	8th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – All Cast, Crew, EAST CHORUS	2:45-5:00 pm @ East
Nov 8	8th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – All Cast, Crew, WEST CHORUS	2:45-5:00 pm @ East
Nov 9	8 th Grade Musical Dress Rehearsal – Cast and Crew only	2:15 – 4:30 pm @ East
Nov 10	8th Grade Musical Rehearsal & Performance – Cast, Crew, EAST Chorus	6:30-8:30 pm @ East
Nov 11	8th Grade Musical Rehearsal & Performance – Cast, Crew, WEST Chorus	6:30-8:30 pm @ East
Nov 12	8th Grade Musical Performance – Cast, Crew, WEST Chorus	3:00 pm (call time TBA)
Nov 12	8th Grade Musical Performance – Cast, Crew, EAST Chorus	7:00 pm (call time TBA)
Nov 14-17	Cookie Dough Delivery (may be any time this week)	2:45-6:00 pm
Dec 14	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ BHS
Dec 15	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ BHS
Jan 27	6 th Grade Recruiting Concert for 5 th graders @ BEMS	During School Day
Feb 2	Optional ISSMA Recital	7:00pm @ East
Feb 4	Optional ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest (location TBA)	TBA
Feb. 9	Optional 5 th gr Choir Try On Event (open to 8 th gr helpers only)	3:00-6:00pm @ East
Mar 8	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Choral Repertoire Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ East
Mar 14	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Choral Repertoire Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ East
May 13	8 th Grade Chicago Reward Trip	5:30am – midnight
May 16	WEST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Show Choir Spring Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ BHS
May 17	EAST 6th, 7th, 8th Grades - Show Choir Spring Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm @ BHS
May 20	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**.
- Due to West’s construction, concerts may not be held at a student’s home school. Please check choir website & email info close to each date.
- Performance times are listed above. Your student will be given a “call time” for when to arrive prior to performances.