

Calendar of Events

Please note that attendance at concerts is required.
See *Performances & Performance Attendance* for more details.
Required performances are printed in bold.

Middle School Choirs—Event Calendar 2018-2019

Aug 13-17	“Annie Jr” Auditions-8th Grade only. <i>Sign up for audition time via website</i>	Daily, 6:30-7:30am, 2:45-4:45 pm
Aug 16	East vs. West Football Game 8th Grade Only—Star-Spangled Banner Performance	4:55 p.m.
Aug 23	Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kick-off	
Oct 4	Cookie Dough Pick Up	2:35-6:30 p.m.
Oct 29	8th Grade WEST ONLY Annie Jr. Dress Rehearsal	2:45-5:15 p.m.
Oct 30	8th Grade Annie Jr LEADS only Rehearsal @ East Choir	2:45-5:15 p.m.
Oct 31	8th Grade EAST ONLY Annie Jr. Dress Rehearsal	2:45-5:15 p.m.
Nov 1	8th Grade WEST ONLY Dress Rehearsal & Performance	2:45-8:30 p.m.
Nov 2	8th Grade EAST ONLY Dress Rehearsal & Performance	2:45-8:30 p.m.
Nov 3	8th Grade EAST ONLY Annie Jr. Performance	2:00-3:30 p.m.
Nov 3	8th Grade WEST ONLY Annie Jr. Performance	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Dec 17	BWMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Dec 18	BEMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Jan 25	5th Grade Recruiting Concert During school day at WMS/EMS—6th Grade Only	7:35 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Feb 2	Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Contest (Optional) Avon High School	TBA
Mar 19	BEMS 6th, 7th, 8th Choral Contest Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Mar 20	BWMS 6th, 7th, 8th Choral Contest Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
May 11	8th Grade Reward Trip to Chicago	5:30 am.- 11:59 pm.
May 18	7th Grade Reward Trip to King’s Island	TBA
May 21	BWMS 6th, 7th, 8th Spring Concerts	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
May 22	BEMS 6th, 7th, 8th Spring Concerts	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.

- All Annie Jr. Rehearsals and Performances will be held in the Café at West Middle School, unless otherwise noted. East Students will be bussed to West and will need to be picked up from West.
- The concerts in December, March, and May will take place in the Café at your student’s respective school.
- The 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.

Stay connected!
(See page 7 for ALL the ways to stay in the loop.)

www.brownsburgmschoir.com

Brownsburg Middle Schools Vocal Music Department Handbook 2018-2019



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From the Directors

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Brownsburg Middle School Choirs. We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of Brownsburg's Choir program!

Our middle school choir program is designed to give each singer a well-rounded choral experience. Brownsburg's Choirs have a long tradition of excellence. We will continue to build on that tradition by providing opportunities for each student to grow musically, intellectually, and socially. The musical foundation built in choir provides a training ground for successful life patterns. Here's an overview of what each singer will experience this year.

Musically and Intellectually:

Sight reading: Reading, Writing, and Performing
Rhythm reading: Reading, Writing, and Performing
Vocal Technique: Breathing, Sound Production, Ensemble sound, Diction
Music Reading: Music Symbols, Note and Score Reading
Performance: Interpretation, Improvisation, Analyzing, Solo/Ensemble

Socially: Success Skills

- Team work
- Focus
- Empathy
- Self esteem
- Confidence
- Attention to detail
- Responsibility
- Contributing to a larger cause
- Trust
- Eye contact
- Multi tasking
- Leadership
- Goal setting
- Small group work
- Consideration
- Independence
- Collaboration
- Time management
- Problem solving
- Accountability
- Practice and hard work
- Active listening
- Coachability

As a member of the BMS Choirs, you will play a key part in helping this choral program succeed. You'll have opportunities to gain recognition in ensembles, Indianapolis Children's Choir, Solo & Ensemble, and Honor Choir. Habits built in the classroom will manifest themselves in successful performances. Choral repertoire will increase in difficulty throughout the year and by grade level. However, music is always chosen by the teachers with the students' current abilities and goals in mind.

This handbook contains valuable information about grading policies, classroom expectations, uniforms, rewards, fundraising, and more. Please *read this information closely and carefully*, and return the signed Parent & Student Response Form to Mrs. Fowler or Mrs. Varvel by **August 8**.

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
BEMS Choral Department

Teresa Fowler
BWMS Choral Department

Supplies

- *Pencil (not pen) EVERY DAY
- *Passport EVERY DAY.
- *Choir binder (provided) EVERY DAY.

1 box of Kleenex (to be brought in first 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 August 23rd. 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, honor choir scholarships, formal concert attire, and new equipment. 8th grade students can apply 50% of their earnings to their Chicago Reward Trip. (approx. \$3.25/tub sold.)

Volunteers

We could not do what we do without YOUR HELP! Thank you!

The primary opportunities for adult volunteers are during the 8th grade musical (sign up during OPEN HOUSE), the cookie dough fundraiser, concert attire fittings, and concert supervision. As a "thank you", volunteers will have reserved seats at the next concert.

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!

www.brownsburgmschoir.com

Visit often for news, photos, rehearsal tracks, and study helps.

We'd like to keep you in the loop regarding all the awesomeness that's happening in your singer's choir classroom. Check out the Instagram and Twitter accounts (front page).

For up to date reminders, text the code for your Singer's class to 81010.

EAST

8th gr Choir: @bems8th
7th gr Choir: @bems7t
6th gr Choir: @bems6
Annie Jr (8th gr, both schools): @dkk488

WEST

8th gr Choir: @b333d
7th gr Choir: @bb2ffg
6th gr Choir: @cfbbd

Performances & Performance Attendance

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

Performance Attendance

Attendance is required at all concerts.

See Calendar of Events for specific dates.

Excused absences from concerts /contest include:

- Illness or surgery the day of the concert,
- Funeral of a close family member or friend
- Religious holiday (see below to request an excused absence)

Requesting an Excused Concert Absence

Contact the director at least one week in advance of the concert date with a respectful written request to be excused.

Concert Make-up Credit*

Submit a video of the student singing the first 16 measures of each song to his/her teacher at:

jvarvel@brownsburg.k12.in.us (East)

OR

tfowler@brownsburg.k12.in.us (West)

**Make-up recordings must be received within 2 days of the concert for full credit.*

Performance is a Privilege

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

Attire is provided by the music department (*except for shoes/socks.*)

Guys: Please provide your own black socks and black shoes

Girls: Please provide your own black shoes.

Keep jewelry and hair accessories to neutral colors.

Note: No sports bras with our concert attire.

East 8th gr. girls will need nude hose/ spanx-type shorts w/ dresses.

Assessment

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

- Classroom contribution **
- Performance (MANDATORY- SEE BELOW)
- Quiz/Tests: Written or skill-based
- Written work: music theory, dictation, performance evaluation.
- Skill Checks: rhythm clapping, singing alone or in small groups, demonstrating correct technique (posture, breathing, etc.)

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Daily Contribution Points**	30%
Performances***	25%
Musical Skills (rhythm and vocal)	25%
Theory and written work	20%

** Every student earns a daily grade based upon his/her contribution to the success of the group. One's willingness to work hard and bring his/her best to the rehearsal will create an atmosphere for success for the individual, as well as for the other students in the choir. Student binders have this Contribution Grade rubric on the front cover.

***Students must participate in the performance to receive the performance grade

Missing Work

Students are responsible for checking in with the teacher for missing work and assessments.

Choral Office

The phone in the choir office is for choir business only. Only Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Varvel, and Mrs. Isaacs can give permission to use the office phone.

No one is permitted to enter the choir office, unless they knock and are invited to enter by Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Varvel, or Mrs. Isaacs.

Student Cell Phone Usage

Students should not to have their personal cell phones during choir class or performance, unless requested by the teacher. Students may store their phones in their assigned binder slots or in their lockers. If a student does choose to use his/her phone during rehearsal, their phone will be stored in the school office and can be picked up at the end of the school day.

DAILY CONTRIBUTION POINTS FOR CHOIR

(3 possible per day)

3 points

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

- 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** and is in seat at the bell. (Folder, passport & pencil.)

2 points

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

- 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, be in seat at the bell.

1 point

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

- 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 disrupts class to get class materials and/or does not use them correctly.

0 points

Chewing gum, 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
- Be in your assigned seat with all materials before the bells rings
- Contribute positively by working hard, listening
- Respect the people around you and be kind to everyone
- Store all electronic devices in your locker or binder storage space
- Take care of your materials; respect your binder-partner's things

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 behavior
- No disrespectful behavior toward students, teachers or guests
- No use of electronic devices during class unless directed by teacher
- No defacing, destroying class materials

Consequences Within One Class Period

- First offense—verbal warning and loss of contribution points
- Second offense—Conference with teacher and/or In School Suspension (ISS) for duration of class time. Parents contacted.
- Third offense— ISS for duration of class time and additional consequence outside of class time (detentions, administrative referral, etc) 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, Behavior Think Sheet with parent signature
2. Lunch Detention
3. After School Detention (Tuesday or Thursday)
4. Friday School
5. Referral to Administration

Positive Behavior Rewards

- Reward trips (6th Grade Recruiting Concert, 7th grade King's Island, 8th grade Chicago) To be eligible students must have:
 1. No unexcused absences from performances
 2. No more than 2 office referrals (all year)
 3. No F's at the time of eligibility
- Currency for school-wide token economy (Dawg Bones/Bucks)
- Classroom leadership positions (section/group leader, etc.)