

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.

East girls will need nude hose or spanx-type shorts w/ dresses.

Note: No sports bras with our concert attire.

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 28th.

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. \$3.50/tub sold.)

Parent Volunteers

We could not do what we do without the help from parents, guardians, and grandparents. Thank you!

The primary opportunities for adult volunteers are during the 8th grade musical (sign up during OPEN HOUSE, Aug 3), the cookie dough fundraiser, and concert supervision. Please plan on helping the students have a successful year!

NOTE: All parent volunteers MUST have a criminal background check on file with the BCSC Central Office, which must be renewed every 3 years.

We are on the Web

www.brownsburgmschoir.com

Visit often for news, photos, recordings, and helps.

Feel free to contact us via email:

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

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

And follow us on Twitter:

@bemschoir (East)

@bwmschoir (West)

Brownsburg Middle Schools Vocal Music Department Handbook 2017-2018



Mrs. Jamie Varvel

Director - BEMS

317-852-2386 x2382

jvarvel@brownsburg.k12.in.us

Mrs. Teresa Fowler

Director - BWMS

317-852-3143 x2530

tfowler@brownsburg.k12.in.us

From the Directors

Dear Parents,

Welcome to choir! It is going to be an exciting year for all involved. Before we begin, we would like to share some thoughts with you about the importance of choir in your child's life.

We believe that every child can learn, and extend that belief to the certainty that every child is musically expressive and deserves the opportunity to explore that capability. To that end, our program offers opportunities for the hesitant music learner as well as the highly skilled, gifted musician. We will all learn and perform together to create beautiful choral music!

Throughout the year, we will address the individual singer by developing vocal skills, increasing knowledge of his/her own voice, developing music literacy and providing opportunities for solo performances. In addition, we will address the choral ensemble by developing group cohesiveness, building choral skills and fostering pride in participation.

Why is it so important for your child to be in choir? Choral music can:

- ⇒ provide a unique way of thinking and processing information.
- ⇒ act as a link between the past and the present.
- ⇒ elevate the self-esteem, confidence & poise of participants.
- ⇒ bring joy to both singer and audience.
- ⇒ provide a means of expressing thoughts, values and emotions through singing that might otherwise have been difficult to express through words.

Welcome aboard! It is going to be a year of beautiful music making. We are looking forward to seeing you at our first concert, if not sooner. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time during the year. Our contact information can be found on the front cover of the handbook.

Sincerely,

Jamie Varvel
BEMS Choral Department

Teresa Fowler
BWMS Choral Department

Performances & Performance Attendance

Performances allow the students to:

- ⇒ Build community and pride
- ⇒ Create positive energy
- ⇒ Take responsibility
- ⇒ Experience an accomplishment that can't be done by one's self

Performance Attendance

- ⇒ Attendance is expected 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.*

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.

Choir Room Procedures & Policies

Expectations

- ⇒ Be kind.
- ⇒ Work hard. There are no shortcuts.
- ⇒ Be prepared. Bring needed materials.
- ⇒ Be honest. Take responsibility for your actions.
- ⇒ Be humble. Encourage others.
- ⇒ No gum, candy, mints, beverages (except water.)
- ⇒ Practice on your own!
- ⇒ Perform using proper performance etiquette.

Consequences (depending upon level of offense)*

- ⇒ First offense—verbal warning. Participation points not received.
- ⇒ Second offense—ISS for duration of choir class and/or teacher/student conference after class.
- ⇒ Third offense—after school detention & referral.
- ⇒ Severe behavior problems will be immediately referred to the office.
- ⇒ Parents will be contacted for chronic behavior issues
- ⇒ * Some or all of these steps might be skipped in severe cases. Each case will be handled on an individual basis by the director.

Positive Behavior Rewards

- ⇒ Reward trips (6th Grade Recruiting Concert, 7th grade King's Island, 8th grade Chicago)
 - To be eligible students must have:
 - No unexcused absences from performances
 - No more than 2 documented office referrals (whole year)
 - No F's at the time of eligibility
- ⇒ Currency for school-wide token economy (Dawg Bones/Dawg Bucks)

Daily Class Attendance

- ⇒ It is the responsibility of the student to ask about missing assignments after an absence.
- ⇒ After school detentions will be assigned after the second tardy to class.
- ⇒ Students must have pencil, binder, passport and paper each day

Calendar of Events

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

Middle School Choirs—Event Calendar

Aug 14-18	"Mulan Jr" Auditions-8th Grade only. <i>Sign up for audition time via website</i>	Daily, 6:30-7:30am, 2:45-3:45 pm
Aug 17	East vs. West Football Game 8th Grade Only—Star-Spangled Banner Performance	4:55 p.m.
Aug 28	Cookie Dough Fundraiser Kick-off	
Oct 5	Cookie Dough Pick Up	2:00-6:00 p.m.
Oct 31-Nov. 2	"Mulan Jr" Rehearsals 8th Grade Only	3:00-5:00 p.m.
Nov 2-4	"Mulan Jr" Show—Performances 8th Grade Only	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Dec 13	BEMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Dec 14	BWMS 6th, 7th, & 8th Holiday Concert	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Jan 26	5th Grade Recruiting Concert During school day at WMS/EMS—6th Grade Only	7:35 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Jan 27	Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Contest (Optional) Avon High School	TBA
Feb 1	Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Recital (Optional) West Choir Room	7:00 pm
Mar 13	BEMS Choral Repertoire Concert—All Grades	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
Mar 14	BWMS Choral Repertoire Concert—All Grades	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
May 12	8th Grade Reward Trip to Chicago	5:15 a.m.-1:15 a.m.
May 19	7th Grade Reward Trip to King's Island	TBA
May 21	BEMS 6th, 7th, 8th Spring Concerts	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.
May 22	BWMS 6th, 7th, 8th Spring Concerts	6:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm.

The Brownsburg Middle School Choral Program

We offer three grade level choirs at Brownsburg Middle Schools: Treble Choir, a beginning level 6th grade choir, Concert Choir, an intermediate 7th grade choir, and Chorale, an advanced 8th grade choir. All choirs are open to all students not enrolled in band or orchestra and do not require an audition or any previous singing experience. Our only prerequisite is a desire to be successful, and a dedicated work ethic.

Our students' educational experience is designed to create a solid musical foundation. This foundation may be used for advanced education and more importantly, as a training ground for developing successful life-patterns. The qualities that are essential for success in business and education such as analytical skills, self-discipline, communication skills and creative thinking are the foundation blocks of our music program. What your child is learning in music is preparing him/her for a more fulfilling, prosperous and enjoyable life.

Our choral program emphasizes the proper development of the young voice, as well as choral performance practices. Students will then learn and apply the fundamentals of singing, music theory and notation, and sight singing. Students will participate in three or four formal concerts while demonstrating proper musical and behavioral expectations. Students can also participate in Solo & Ensemble events, Organizational Contest, and other optional performance opportunities. Students will be assessed with singing tests, rhythm tests, written work, and rehearsal/concert participation. The choral repertoire for each choir will increase in difficulty throughout the year and by grade level. However, music is always chosen with the students' current abilities and goals in mind.

State Standards addressed include: singing alone and with others; playing instruments alone and with others; reading, notating, and interpreting music; improvising melodies and accompaniments; composing and arranging music; listening to, analyzing, and describing music; evaluating music and music performances.

Supplies

All choir students need to have the following supplies:

***Pencils (not pen) EVERY DAY.**

***Passport everyday.**

***Choir binder (provided).**

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

Notebook Paper

***MUST HAVE THESE ITEMS EVERYDAY; DAILY GRADES GIVEN.**

Assessment

The true assessment of these classes is the students' understanding and appreciation of music and its effect in their lives. For the purposes of regular, measurable assessment, the following activities may be used.

- ⇒ Classroom contribution **(see below)
- ⇒ Performance contribution (MANDATORY- SEE BELOW)
- ⇒ Quiz/Tests: Written or skill-based
- ⇒ Written work based on: music theory, dictation, performance response.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

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

**Please note that the contribution aspect of a student's grade includes: rehearsal work ethic, being on time to class, having all class materials, level of cooperation with director and fellow singers, and the ability to follow classroom procedures.

*****STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN EACH CONCERT TO EARN THIS GRADE.** In a grading period without a performance, add 10% to the first three categories.