



Bishop Chatard High School Music Department Handbook



"You are the light of the world. A city set upon a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

- Matthew 5:14-16

Welcome to the Music Department at Bishop Chatard High School!

“Much will be required of the person that has been entrusted with much.”

- Luke 12:48

PURPOSE

God has abundantly gifted you! As you continue to equip yourself to be a Christ-capable, servant-leader in our world, your experience here at Bishop Chatard will continue to reveal even more of what God intends for you, as well as what tremendous gifts He has bestowed upon you. While this may, at first, sound very daunting to you, God knows that you are absolutely ready – for this is the time you’ve been sent!

As a musician here at Bishop Chatard, you are a member of a group of artists, of musicians charged with revealing the Lord’s Truth in beauty through the music we create together. No matter what level of ability you possess, you are here to grow and expand that ability and deliver the fruit of that ability to those around you.

There are many opportunities to make music here at Bishop Chatard High School! Our hope is that you take every advantage to develop your gifts to the fullest potential that God intended, so that through preparation and performance, we may provide our congregation and audience and all those we serve a powerful witness – one that truly illuminates the mission and vision of our beloved school and our faith.

HUMILITY

The gifts you have been given have the ability to enhance and enchant people’s lives and experiences. The fruit that pours forth from you as you employ your gifts delivers a beauty so profound, it can only be attributed to the Truth that is solely God’s. Because of this great responsibility, we must always be aware of ourselves, ensuring that the glory goes to Him who made us.

Take care, also, the responsibility of being a Christ-capable artist. We must be the best stewards of our gifts, and therefore must continue to improve upon them the best we can through rehearsal on our own, and in ensemble. The greater your personal improvement, the greater our efforts become in revealing His Truth in beauty!

THE SERVANT-HEART

As our congregation and audiences meet Christ in our musical prayer and performances, so too, they must witness Christ in our time away from the spotlight.

Love our congregation! Love our audiences, no matter how large or small! Love your fellow musician in rehearsal, performance and beyond! Greater are our gifts, and the effect we have on all people when we lift each other in ensemble and experience!

HIS PROVIDENCE, OUR FAITH

God is our Source and Summit. God is at the center of our lives. God lives and reigns within us all. Only through His grace, will we be able to reveal His plan for us.

Though we maintain active and busy lives here at Bishop Chatard High School, it is all too easy to submit to the “daily grind” and routine of our schoolwork and our many activities. In those times, God can easily become just another facet in that routine, another “box to check” on our lengthy to-do lists. Sometimes, at various stages of our school year, God can be easily forgotten altogether!

Do your very best to ensure that God remains at the center of our lives, and the lives of those around us. We must depend on Him to be our wellspring for all that we do, for each other and ourselves. We must be His champions and channels of His peace. He wants to hear from us, therefore, we must talk to Him everyday!

“For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”

- St. Teresa of Avila

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS & ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS

Here are the current, BCHS Music course offerings and/or ensembles in which you can choose to participate:

Concert Band
Guitar
Jazz Combo
Percussion Ensemble/Drumline
Piano & Electronic Keyboard
Sounds of Silas
Vox Troiano

CONCERT BAND is the instrumental ensemble of Bishop Chatard High School, currently open to wind, string, and percussion instrumentalists of all grade and ability levels. The *Concert Band* explores and performs literature from many musical genres and eras for a variety of seasonal concerts, events (on and off campus), select varsity sports contests, and also provides music for all-school Mass in rotation with other ensembles.

Rehearsals for *Concert Band* occur during the SILAS period (7:45-8:30 am) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students have the option to take Concert Band for credit. After 4 semesters with credit are completed, students may enroll in the *Concert Band* for Honors credit.

GUITAR is an Applied Music course in which students will have the opportunity to learn basic musicianship and proficiency on the guitar. Students learn to perform with proper technique (posture, hand position, fingering); compose and improvise melodic and harmonic material; create and perform simple accompaniments; listen to, analyze, sight-read, and study a variety of guitar literature; study the elements of music as exemplified in a variety of styles; and make interpretive decisions. This course is for students with little or no experience playing the guitar.

Students are expected to bring their own, full-size or 3/4-size steel-string acoustic guitar. We have a limited number of loaner guitars for use. If you require a loaner guitar for the class, please contact Mr. Duray (mduray@bishopchatard.org). Loaner guitars are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you plan to purchase a guitar, we suggest starting with *Piano Solutions/Guitar Solutions* in Carmel (575 W. Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN 46032; www.pianosolutions.net) or *Arthur's Music* store in Fountain Square (931 Shelby Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46203). Both have excellent selections and brands of acoustic guitars and service.

JAZZ COMBO is a student-led, extra-curricular instrumental ensemble open to all instrumentalists who are interested in exploring and performing literature and improvisation technique in the Jazz genre. Rehearsals occur during the SILAS period (7:45-8:30 am) on Wednesdays with additional rehearsals as determined by the student leader. Brand new as of 2nd semester of the school year, the *Jazz Band* performs at seasonal concerts and beyond as it expands and grows.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE/DRUMLINE is an extension ensemble of the Concert Band that in which all percussionists participate. Percussionists will explore and perform literature that is exclusive to percussion instruments at school concerts, athletic and other school events.

PIANO & ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD students will have the opportunity to learn basic musicianship and proficiency on the piano (electronic keyboard). Students learn to perform with proper technique (posture, hand position, fingering); compose and improvise melodic and harmonic material; create and perform simple accompaniments; listen to, analyze, sight-read, and study a variety of keyboard literature; study the elements of music as exemplified in a variety of styles; and make interpretive decisions. This course is for students with little or no experience in piano.

SOUNDS OF SILAS (academic course title: A Cappella Choir) is the select, advanced chamber choir of Bishop Chatard High School, and is offered as an Honors-level class

(fall and spring semester) during the regular, academic schedule. *Sounds of Silas* explores and performs chamber literature (small chorus) from many musical genres and eras for a variety of seasonal concerts and events (on and off campus), and also provides music for all-school Mass in rotation with other ensembles. Membership is gained through **audition** (open to grades 9-11) in early spring.

VOX TROIANO (Latin: VOICE of the TROJAN) is the select, advanced, mixed, soprano-alto-tenor-bass (SATB) chorale (large chorus) of Bishop Chatard High School. *Vox Troiano* explores and performs literature from many musical genres and eras for a variety of seasonal concerts and events (on and off campus), and also provides music for all-school Mass in rotation with other ensembles. Vox Troiano rehearses on Tuesdays and Thursdays (7:00-7:40 am), and Tuesdays and Wednesdays (3:20-4:00 pm). Membership is gained through a call-out (open to grades 9-11) in early spring and at the beginning of the school year. Participants can receive .5 fine arts credit per semester. After 4 semesters are completed with credit, participants may enroll in *Vox Troiano* for Honors credit.

STUDENT-LED ENSEMBLES: **TBA!!!**

ZERO PERIOD, SILAS, and AFTER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

As your academic career at Bishop Chatard High School continues to evolve and take shape, you may find it difficult to fit an academic music course or ensemble into your daily schedule of classes. Our 7-period, rotating schedule of classes (14 per academic year), 4-year Theology requirement, required coursework, prerequisite and recommended academic electives have challenged efforts to keep music a part of student life. This is the reason the Zero Period, SILAS, and After School rehearsals were created for our two, largest ensembles: ***Concert Band, Vox Troiano, Jazz Combo***, and potentially more.

WEEKLY ZERO PERIOD/SEMINAR/AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Zero Period 7:00-7:40 am		<i>Vox Troiano</i>		<i>Vox Troiano</i>	
SILAS 7:45-8:30 am	<i>Concert Band</i>	<i>Concert Band</i>	<i>Jazz Combo</i>	<i>Concert Band</i>	<i>Concert Band</i>
3:30–4:00 pm		<i>Vox Troiano</i>	<i>Vox Troiano</i>		

Though unconventional in nature of schedule, Zero Period, SILAS, and After School rehearsals provide critical practice time for these ensembles to thrive, providing musicians

the opportunity to participate and still balance and maintain a rigorous, academic course-load.

All rehearsals are subject to change due to early release, weather, and extraneous schedule adjustment. Notification of all schedule changes will occur as early as possible and sent out over email, announced verbally in class, and broadcast at the end of the school day over the public address system.

ROOM TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Additionally, there are plenty of opportunities to start and direct your own ensemble! Ensembles like a Woodwind, Brass, or String Quartet/Quintet, Rock Band, Flute Choir, Vocal Jazz or Barbershop Choir, and Ukulele Ensemble are a few that come to mind and would make excellent additions to our Music Department. Not only would these opportunities provide a broader, musical experience, they would also provide students practice in leadership.

COMMITMENT

Being in an ensemble that meets during Zero Period and Seminar is both a privilege and a sacrifice: a privilege because you represent Bishop Chatard High School by employing your musical gifts in ensemble for our community; and a sacrifice because you choose to give up the study time during Homeroom two days a week to participate. We know that our congregation and audiences appreciate your commitment and effort as well!

You are a crucial and vital member of your ensemble! It is an expectation that all members heed to the mandatory, WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE as posted. When you miss a rehearsal, we ALL miss YOU – fellow musicians and directors alike! However, knowing the busy schedule of the servant-leader and academician, there may be times when you will need to miss a rehearsal. Please note that because you are receiving credit for your ensemble, regular attendance will promote the best grade for the class.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

Valuing the importance of your academics and activities, and being aware of the dense schedule of students and teachers, you may be excused to make up a test or quiz, or meet with a teacher during Seminar if your academics are in jeopardy. Though we ask that you please try to schedule any make-up work or tutoring outside of Seminar, please take special care to notify your ensemble director well in advance, in the event of your absence.

You will be automatically excused for any meetings requiring your grade level (or class) to attend.

Throughout the year, meetings for service organizations and clubs in which you participate may take place during SILAS. While you will be excused to attend these meetings, we ask that you please take special care to measure which activity is need of you more and attend accordingly.

At Bishop Chatard, our teachers, coaches and directors are completely invested in, and value the fruitful experience that participating in multiple activities can bring to our students. Teachers, coaches, and directors work hard to promote a healthy, productive, cooperative community environment as students are shared between multiple activities.

At times, however, depending on the activities, students may need to choose between two, conflicting events. It is extremely important that **YOU** initiate all communication between teachers, coaches and directors. Please speak to all responsible parties involved about all schedule conflicts regarding practices, rehearsals, games and performances. Your communication will help provide a solution that will allow you to participate in both activities, and continue to promote the spirit of cooperation here at BCHS!

PERFORMANCES

This is what we do! All performances are mandatory and absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If you have a coinciding athletic, academic, or parish activity, please see your director well in advance of the performance date to discuss possibilities and solutions.

There are many opportunities for which to perform – our music program is VERY busy and more performances will be added throughout the school year, as our community needs us. Until we complete our Fine Arts Center, our Fall, Veterans Day, Christmas, and Spring concerts will take place in the **Bishop Chatard High School Gymnasium**, with all participating ensembles reporting with proper attire, instrument, and music at 6:00 p.m. Other performances and venues are listed on the Bishop Chatard Music Department Calendar (bishopchatard.org website) so please check regularly to stay informed!

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased for a price. Therefore, glorify God with your bodies.”

– 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Our attire has been carefully chosen to reflect our values here at Bishop Chatard High School. With its formal nature, our attire is intended to project the Godly purpose of our

music to our congregation and audiences. Therefore, ***Concert Band, Vox Troiano***, and ***Sounds of Silas*** members **will be provided by BCHS** the designated, formal attire:

Vox Troiano/Sounds of Silas/Chorus:

Full-length, royal blue concert choir robe
School uniform or "Sunday-best" underneath robe

Concert Band:

Women's full-length black dress (provided by BCHS)
Black dress or character shoes for women (supplied by student)

Men's 5-piece black tuxedo (provided by BCHS)
(coat, pants, shirt, bow tie, cummerbund)
Black dress shoes for men, with black socks (supplied by student)

Marching/Pep Band (same participants as *Concert Band*)

Royal blue and white track suit (provided by BCHS and *Bright-Ideas*)
all-white athletic shoes (supplied by student)

WIND, STRING, PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Instruments, Sheet Music and Folders

Sheet music and folders will be assigned to each musician, and can be stored in the folio cabinet in 115, storage lockers, school lockers, or taken home. It is the responsibility of each student to maintain their sheet music and folder, taking care to have a pencil and the music for each rehearsal or performance. Students who damage or lose their music or folder must make arrangements with their director to repurchase those items.

Instrument Storage

It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED that each student takes her/his instrument home daily to practice! However, you may store your instrument in the instrument storage lockers found in Music Room 115 during the school day, after school activities, and on the very RARE occasion overnight. Please be sure to tag your instrument case with your name, address and phone number. Tags are available from Mr. Duray, so feel free to ask.

Supplies and Repairs (A note from our friends at Paige's Music...)

All instrumental musicians should keep their instruments in optimal working order at all times. Regular cleaning and polishing, lubrication of all valves, keys and slides are crucial and encouraged at all times. Each musician should have the proper instrument cleaning kit, and all necessary accessories to maintain the playability of their instrument.

Single reed instruments should have had a mouthpiece and ligature upgrade from the factory supplied version to optimize playing experience for the student. Multiple reeds (in good condition) should be used in rotation. Brass instruments should be kept clean, and particular attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the mouthpiece.

We highly suggest that all instruments be serviced once a year, especially woodwinds to maintain regulation and playability. We use Paige's Music in Indianapolis for our service and maintenance. To have an instrument serviced or repaired, a student must fill out a Paige's Music repair tag and attach it to their instrument case. The student (or parents) then must call 1-800-382-1099 to request a repair, and ask that a loaner instrument be delivered to our school so that no playing time is missed.

Instrument Rental or Purchase

New or gently used instruments can be rented or purchased from Paige's Music in Indianapolis (1-800-382-1099). If another vendor (music store) is desired, please ask your private instructor, or Mr. Duray, for suggestions.

VOX TROIANO & SOUNDS OF SILAS INFORMATION

Auditions

As mentioned before, *Sounds of Silas* is an auditioned chamber choral ensemble open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Auditions for current students, grades 9-11 occur in February every year and consist of a 4-measure, sight-reading exercise, and an excerpt or verse/refrain from a song to be determined. It is highly suggested that students consider enrolling in the *Chorus* class, participating in *Vox Troiano*, or taking private voice lessons, so that they may gain the musicianship necessary for membership in these ensembles.

iPads

All choral singers must bring their iPads fully-charged to all classes, concerts and events. All choral literature will be uploaded to the Canvas course module for each ensemble and can be accessed by students there.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Awards

The Music Department recognizes the accomplishments of students who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, effort and performance in musicianship and service. These awards are distributed on Honors Night every spring. Following are the names of the various awards and their descriptions:

