



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT SUMMER NEWS 2025

Greetings, BCHS Musicians!

Are you getting amped for the new school year yet? I'll tell you what...I AM!

Even though there are still a couple weeks left of summer break, I wanted to blast some information your way, so here we go!

## INCOMING FRESHMEN and NEW BAND MEMBERS!

Whether came to Open House, the *Band Jam!*, or you signed up for the Band class, THANKS FOR STEPPING FORWARD TO JOIN US, AND WELCOME TO BCHS MUSIC!

We are so excited to have you join our band, and the entire community of BCHS musicians! If you haven't already signed up to be in Band, don't worry. Just email or call your BCHS Guidance Counselor TODAY to let her know you're IN and then check this out:

Please email Mr. Duray ([mduray@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mduray@bishopchatard.org)) at your earliest convenience to indicate the following:

- 1) the instrument you play
- 2) I am bringing my own instrument (either by rental or ownership), OR
- 3) I am in need of an instrument.
- 4) For all reed instrument players, please include size of reed you prefer to use.

This will ensure that the proper instructional materials and supplies are available for use once you arrive. We are absolutely committed to your success as an artist and servant-hearted musician as God has designed in you!

### OF NOTE...

If you missed the ***Band/Orchestra Mini-Camp for Incoming Freshmen*** back in May and you'd like to pick up your materials (band folder, method books, select music, etc...), I will be in the music room (115), on **Wednesday, July 23rd** and **Thursday, July 24th** from **9:00 am until 11:00 am**. Feel free to stop by and pick up the stuff, or even just to say 'hi!'

## BCHS BAND SUMMER REHEARSALS

Just before school begins, we will be gathering together in music room 115 (band room) on **Tuesday, August 5th & Wednesday, August 6th, 6:30-8:30 pm** to distribute materials (folders, sheet music and books, etc...) to rehearse for our upcoming gigs.

These rehearsals play a key role in helping us to establish our sense of ensemble community and culture, as well as to develop our artistry and repertoire for our many performances. Your attendance at rehearsals is absolutely necessary to our success and momentum! Please make

every effort to attend. Email me ([mduray@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mduray@bishopchatard.org)) with any questions you may have at your earliest convenience.

## THE SCHEDULE AND MORE

By now you've heard all about the new, daily academic schedule of classes. With this change comes the new addition of the SILAS period, which is non-rotating and occurs before the first period of each day.

*Concert Band*, which in past years was a class which fell somewhere during periods 1-7, and Zero Period and Seminar, will now move to, and take advantage of the SILAS period. We will meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays throughout the year, from 7:45 am until 8:30 am. This will allow the band to not only meet together as a full band 4 times a week, but also afford our members the chance to take another academic or elective course.

## WHAT ABOUT *Vox Troiano*?

*Vox Troiano*, the award-winning, select mixed chorale (large choir) of BCHS used to take place during the Zero Period and Seminar, will continue! Because of the elimination of Seminar, we will move to a Zero Period rehearsal (7:00-7:40 am) twice a week, and additional after school rehearsals twice a week (rehearsal days TBD, from 3:20-4:00 pm).

In addition to being its own ensemble, the Chorus class, which meets during the school day both semesters, will also function as part of *Vox Troiano*. The Zero Period/after school option will give those students that could not fit Chorus into their academic schedule the opportunity to sing! ***Vox Troiano* placement auditions will be held soon after the school year begins, so keep your eyes and ears open!**

## GUITAR CLASS

If you have signed up to take a guitar class either first or second semester, well...that's awesome! The world definitely needs more pickers (and grinners), strummers, and shredders! Please note, it is expected that you bring in your OWN "axe" (guitar), which should be either a full-size or 3/4-size, 6-string acoustic guitar with steel strings (it can be a pluggable/electric acoustic, but NO exclusively electric guitars).

If you already have a 6-string acoustic guitar that you can bring in, great! If you don't, I recommend the following brands: *Fender*, *Yamaha*, *Ibanez*, *Epiphone*, or *Luna*. If you're on a budget and need a decent, brand or off-brand of acoustic 6-string guitar, I recommend taking a short(ish) drive to Fountain Square to *Arthur's Music Store* (931 Shelby St. Indy 46203, [www.arthursmusic.com](http://www.arthursmusic.com)) or up to Carmel to the guitar shop inside Piano Solutions (575 W Carmel Dr, Carmel, 46032). We get absolutely zero kickback for the recommendation, but I've purchased a number of quality guitars for classroom use from Arthur's and Piano Solutions and their people and service, like the guitars and the prices, are terrific!

If you don't have a guitar, and your budget is tight, we have a limited number of guitars available for you to borrow for class. Just let me know you'll be needing a loaner guitar ([mduray@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mduray@bishopchatard.org)).

## **CALENDAR**

The calendar of events for BCHS Music is currently in development and will be ready soon. Stay tuned!

## **IN CLOSING**

These are indeed exciting times at Bishop Chatard High School, especially in BCHS Music! The construction on our new Chapel and Performing Arts Center is almost ready to begin. Our ensembles are ever-growing in numbers and in the quality of our delivery and performances in our many concerts, liturgies and events throughout the school year. Our new spaces, once finished, will give us the chance to create more opportunities for even more musicians and audiences. There is much for which to be grateful!

As you close out the summer break with friends and family, take a minute, a step back, to consider all this time has afforded you. And if you feel like it came up a bit short, say a prayer and allow these next few weeks to slow down so that you may savor each and every minute you have before the school year, with all its activities and routines, hits. I can't wait to see all of you, hear all your stories from this summer, and make all that great music for our community here at Bishop Chatard High School, the greater North Deanery and beyond! God bless!

Onward,

Mark Duray  
Director of Music; Director of Performing Arts  
Bishop Chatard High School