



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!

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:

Academic course offerings:	Women’s Chorus (ensemble)
	Men’s Chorus (ensemble)
	A Cappella Choir (<i>Sounds of Silas</i>) (ensemble)
	Concert Band (ensemble)
	Guitar
	Piano & Electronic Keyboard

Ensemble descriptions:

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.

While *Concert Band* is offered during the standard, academic day (period TBA), students who are not able to fit it into their conventional 7-period schedule attend Zero Period and Seminar rehearsals to appease the academic requirement. Descriptions for the Zero Period and Seminar can be found on the next page of this handbook.

Students enrolled in the academic band period are most welcomed and encouraged to attend Zero Period and Seminar band rehearsals, as well. All *Concert Band* students are assigned to Mr. Duray's Seminar and rehearse as a complete ensemble.

After 2 semesters are completed, participants may enroll in the *Concert Band* for Honors credit.

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 four times a week – two during the Zero Period (Thursday, Friday) and two during Seminar (Monday and Tuesday). Upon gaining membership, members will be assigned to Mr. Duray's Seminar.

Membership is gained through audition (open to grades 9-11) in early spring. Participants will receive .5 fine arts credit per semester. After 2 semesters are completed, participants may enroll in *Vox Troiano* for Honors credit.

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 (period TBA). *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. Upon gaining membership, members will be assigned to Mr. Duray's Seminar.

WOMEN'S CHORUS studies and develops vocal health and musicianship, and explores and performs literature from many musical genres and eras suited for the treble voice (soprano and alto) for a variety of seasonal concerts and events. *Women's Chorus* also provides music for all-school Mass in rotation with other ensembles. Membership is open to all girls, grades 9-12, at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level of vocal musicianship. After 2 semesters are completed, participants may enroll in Women's Chorus for Honors credit.

MEN'S CHORUS studies and develops vocal health and musicianship, and explores and performs literature from many musical genres and eras arranged for male voices (tenor and bass) for a variety of seasonal concerts and events. Men's Chorus also provides mu-

sic for all-school Mass in rotation with other ensembles. Membership is open to all boys, grades 9-12, at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level of vocal musicianship. After 2 semesters are completed, participants may enroll in Men’s Chorus for Honors credit.

JAZZ BAND is an extra-curricular instrumental ensemble open to all instrumentalists who are interested in exploring and performing literature and improvisation technique in the Jazz genre. This ensemble rehearses before school on Mondays in Music Room 115. Brand new as of 2nd semester of the 2021-22 school year, the *Jazz Band* performs at seasonal concerts and beyond as it expands and grows.

STUDENT-LED ENSEMBLES: TBA!!!

ZERO PERIOD & SEMINAR

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 can provide plenty of obstacles that challenge keeping music a part of your life. This is the reason the Zero Period and Seminar class periods (rehearsals) were created for our two, largest ensembles: *Concert Band* and *Vox Troiano*.

WEEKLY ZERO PERIOD/SEMINAR/AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Zero Period 7:00-7:45 AM	<i>Jazz Band</i> <small>8:00-8:45 am</small>	<i>Concert Band</i>	<i>Concert Band</i>	<i>Vox Troiano</i>	<i>Vox Troiano</i>
Seminar	<i>Vox Troiano</i>	<i>Vox Troiano</i>	<i>Concert Band</i>	Mass	<i>Concert Band</i>
3:30-4:30 PM	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	

Though unconventional in nature of schedule, Zero Period and Seminar provide critical rehearsal time before and during the school day necessary for *Concert Band* and *Vox Troiano* 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 and the *Remind* app, announced verbally in class, and broadcast at the end of the school day over the public address system.

ROOM TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Additionally, with the late start on Mondays, alternating rehearsals during Seminar and after school, 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 Seminar. 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 stu-

dents. 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:

Full-length, royal blue concert choir robe

Concert Band:

Women's full-length black dress (provided by BCHS)

Men's 5-piece black tuxedo (provided by BCHS)
(coat, pants, shirt, bow tie, cummerbund)

Appropriate black dress shoes (black socks for men), or character shoes need to be supplied by the 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

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 good reeds 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, *Vox Troiano* and *Sounds of Silas* are auditioned choral ensembles 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 taking the *Women's Chorus*, *Men's Chorus*, or take private voice lessons, so that they may gain the musicianship necessary for membership in these ensembles.

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.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Awards

The Music Department recognizes the accomplishments of students who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and effort in musicianship and service. Following is the names of the various awards and their descriptions:

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|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John Philip Sousa Award | This is the national school band award, whereby the recipient is recognized for leadership and musicianship within the ensemble and is selected through a vote by fellow members of his/her ensemble. |
| National School Orchestra Award | This is the national school orchestra award, whereby the recipient is recognized for leadership and musicianship within the ensemble and is selected through a vote by fellow members of his/her ensemble. |
| Fred Waring Award | This is the national school choral award, whereby the recipient is recognized for leadership and musicianship within |

the ensemble and is selected through a vote by fellow members of his/her ensemble.

CONCLUSION

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.” - Psalm 98:4-6

By our gifts, we are commanded to serve. And with His gift of music in us, we are to delight the world, elevating all who hear us to fully realize the wonders God has done for us.

**“You soar, sustain, and animate,
Climb, dive, and sing
Your way through this world,
Giving life to every beating heart.”
- St. Hildegard of Bingen**

We hope you will enjoy sharing your gifts with the community of Bishop Chatard High School and beyond. We are pleased that you have joined us and are grateful for your willingness and your call to service! Together, may we be a wellspring of enrichment and enchantment for all ears, and by His grace, may we reveal His Truth and beauty for the world.

Unpack your lessons. This is the time you’ve been sent!

