



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT SUMMER NEWS 2024

Greetings, BCHS Musicians!

I hope you are all having a blast this summer, getting some much-needed time for fun and relaxation, with time to spend with family and friends!

Now that we're at the halfway point of our summer break, I wanted to get you some important information in preparation for the new, 2024-25 school year.

## **BCHS BAND SUMMER REHEARSALS**

Just before school begins, we will be gathering together in music room 115 (band room) on the following dates to distribute materials (folders, sheet music and books, etc...) to rehearse for our upcoming gigs:

### **Monday, July 29th**

6:30-8:30 PM

### **Tuesday, July 30th**

6:30-8:30 PM

### **Wednesday, July 31st**

6:30-8:30 PM

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.

## **INCOMING FRESHMEN and NEW BAND MEMBERS!**

Whether came to Open House or *Band Jam*, or you signed up for the Band class, or taking the Zero Period option (two rehearsals a week from 7:00-7:45 AM, and two Seminar rehearsals a week from 11:00-11:35 AM), 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).

- 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!

## **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, off-brand of acoustic 6-string guitar, we 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)). We get absolutely zero kickback for the recommendation, but I've purchased a number of quality, off-brand guitars for classroom use from Arthur's 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)).

## **IN CLOSING**

In years past, summer break seemed to fly right by, leaving me a bit of regret that I didn't do more to make the time slow down. This summer, I've taken up a few activities that have helped do just that (little bit of reading, fishing, camping, hiking, and more) and I'm grateful.

If you're one of those folks like me, and need to slow it down a bit, you still have plenty of time before the new school begins, and being busy is the name of the game! Find activities that suit you, try something new, go find a book or a trail, or a piece of water that offers recreation. Make plans to go see a concert (like one of the many community parks concert series) or that new movie with some friends.

Does anybody play board games anymore? Or listen to an entire album? I played my first "board game" in years - *Quirkle* the other day with some friends. I also put *Arc Of A Diver* by Steve Winwood on the Bluetooth speaker and listened to that album front to back.

Or how about a holy hour at your church? WHAT?!? I know that may sound a bit intense, but try it. Even grab a friend and go, and then maybe lunch afterwards. These are just a few ideas that help keep summer from whisking by.

Finally, say a prayer for this upcoming school year - for yourselves, your success, your direction, and then for BCHS Music and our fellow musicians and the many ways we deliver Truth, beauty and goodness. The school year is always packed with gigs and events that require of our BCHS Music family, whether on-site at school or out and about in the

community. While I'm excited for the rest of this summer break, I am even more excited for the new school year to begin, making music with you all!

Onward,

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