

BJH CHOIR

WELCOME TO 2019-20 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the exciting BJH Choirs! We are thrilled to have such a wonderful and talented group of students joining us this year. First and foremost, you are probably wondering what the difference is between Starlet Express and Show Choir Express. The answer is, there really isn't much of a difference except Starlet Express is an all girls choir and Show choir express has both boys and girls. Both of the groups will still participate and compete in the same shows and competitions while performing at an exceptional level! ☺

INTRODUCTIONS

I suppose I should introduce myself. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Alex Willert. Many years ago, I went through this program as a student. I know it very well and am very proud of what the staff and students have accomplished over the years. Choirs from BJH are known for being some of the best in California and have won competitions consistently for over almost two decades. This type of success takes a lot of hard work, but it is also impossible to accomplish without all the fun we will be having throughout the year working together. I know it will be a great year for all of us! ☺

CHOIR WEBSITES

With such an active program, there is a lot of information to digest. We have had a website run by our booster club at the high school for a number of years that has done, and will continue to do a wonderful job of representing our program. In addition to the booster website, I have created a classroom website to make all of the choir info more accessible from home. It will have a number of resources including a choir calendar (complete with ticket sale dates, auditions, performances, etc.), links to useful websites, current newsletters distributed in class, and more! If you have any questions on these topics, please search on the website for answers before contacting me. Here are the links to the booster site and my own:

HS Booster Website: <http://breachoir.org/>

My Classroom Website: <http://mralexwillert.weebly.com/>

POLICY FOR MISSING SHOWS AND REHEARSALS

I am aware that sometimes serious and unforeseen circumstances pop up. However, we have had a number of students miss multiple shows and rehearsals for reasons that have not been quite as serious. In our class, rehearsals are like quizzes and performances are like large tests or final projects. They are not optional. As many of you have noticed, missing rehearsals and shows negatively affects the entire group. Time must be taken to re-block every song and other performers are forced to perform without partners or be taken out of them all together. For this reason, I feel that it is necessary to continue this policy for missing shows and rehearsals.

A missed rehearsal will result in grades being lowered by half a letter grade. (Ex: 1 missed rehearsal = A-, 2 missed rehearsals = B, etc.) One missed rehearsal may be made up with a 1-2 page paper (Times font, size 12, double spaced) describing why you missed the rehearsal, what specifically was worked on at the rehearsal, and how you plan to learn everything you missed. This is only an option for the first two rehearsals missed. If more than two rehearsals are missed, there will be no way to make them up and keep your grade from being lowered.

A missed performance will result in grades being lowered by a full letter grade. (Ex: 1 missed performance = B, 2 missed performances = C, etc.) One missed show may be made up with a 3-page paper (Times font, size 12, double spaced) on a topic of my choice related to the situation. It must have quotes from a relevant book. This is only an option for the first two shows missed. If more than two shows are missed, there will be no way to make them up and keep your grade from being lowered.

Performances and rehearsals missed for any reason (including illness) must be made up in the same way a quiz or test given on a day you were absent from school must be. If a show/rehearsal must be missed, be sure to tell either myself or Doug asap so we can plan accordingly. Hopefully we won't need to enforce this policy, but I truly believe that having it in place will benefit everyone in the group. Thank you for understanding!

GENERAL GRADING POLICY:

Student participates in rehearsals and performances:

- A** With full effort and achievement at all times. (90-100%)
- B** With good effort and achievement, room for improvement. (80-89%)
- C** With only-average effort and achievement. (70-79%)
- D** With below-average effort and achievement. (60-69%)
- F** With effort and achievement at less than 60%. (0-59%)

Show Choir

Donations 2019 - 2020

We are proud of the elective choices and opportunities that we can provide to our students here at Brea Junior High School, such as **Show Choir**, but we need your support! However, as you may know, the state budget does not fully support the continued success of these programs. We would like to take this opportunity to request your assistance in continuing to make these programs available to our students. Your voluntary donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please know that students will be able to participate regardless of the family's desire or ability to make a voluntary donation.

If you are interested, please make your check payable to Brea Junior High School, with a note in the memo line for "Donation---Show Choir" and we also accept cash donations. Please send your donation to the school.

Please feel free to share this information with any community member or business that might be interested in helping to support the school's programs. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Willert at awillert@bousd.us.

Please note that being a Brea Junior High School supporter is a strictly voluntary opportunity that enables school and community partners to support school programs. All students may participate in school programs regardless of ability or willingness to donate. Being a donor should not be construed to have any bearing whatsoever on any current or future business with the District.

**Thank you in advance for your generous donation!
It is truly appreciated!!**

Alex Willert
Show Choir Director

Kelly Kennedy
Principal

CURRENT PERFORMANCE DATES

| <u>GROUPS</u> | <u>DATES</u> | <u>MEET TIME</u> | <u>END TIME</u> | <u>EVENT</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| ALL | 10-1 | 4:00 PM | 7:00 PM | TECH FOR FALL MAGIC |
| ALL | 10-3 | 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | FALL MAGIC |
| ALL | 10-5 | 1 & 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | FALL MAGIC |
| ALL | 12-5 | 4:00 PM | 7:00 PM | TECH FOR HOLIDAY MAGIC |
| ALL | 12-6 | 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | HOLIDAY MAGIC |
| ALL | 12-7 | 1 & 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | HOLIDAY MAGIC |
| ALL | 1-9 | 3:30 PM | 7:00 PM | TECH FOR PREVIEW NIGHT |
| ALL | 1-10 | 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | PREVIEW NIGHT |
| ALL | 1-11 | 1 & 6:15 PM | 9:30 PM | PREVIEW NIGHT |
| SELECT | 1-15 | 4:00 PM | 7:00 PM | MUSICAL AUDITIONS |
| SELECT | 1-16 | 4:00 PM | 7:00 PM | MUSICAL CALL-BACKS |
| ALL | 2-7,8 | TBA | TBA | CALIFORNIA CLASSIC |
| *ALL | 2-28,29 | TBA | TBA | CHAPARRAL SHOWCASE |
| *ALL | 3-14 | TBA | TBA | TRAVIS RANCH COMP. |
| SELECT | 3-18,19,(20/21) | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | MUSICAL |
| *ALL | 3-20,21 | TBA | TBA | KENNEDY COMPETITION |
| SELECT | 3-25,26,27 | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | MUSICAL |
| ALL | 4-23 | 4:00 PM | 7:00 PM | TECH FOR SPRING MAGIC |
| ALL | 4-24 | 6:15 PM | 10:00 PM | SPRING MAGIC |
| ALL | 4-25 | 1 & 6:15 PM | 10:00 PM | SPRING MAGIC |
| *ALL | TBA | TBA | TBA | SCVA COMPETITION |

NOT SCHEDULED YET: CHOIR WORKSHOPS AT DISNEYLAND AND POSSIBLE COMPETITIONS. ☺

*** EVENTS MARKED WITH THIS ARE POSSIBLE COMPETITIONS. THEY WILL BE CHOSEN AT A LATER DATE BASED ON AVAILABILITY, PROGRAM CONFLICTS, AND THE AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED.**

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email, phone or drop by the choir room for a chat. The Brea Junior High School Choir Department is dedicated to giving our students the best quality music education we can. My door and my ears are always open if you'd like to talk. I'll do my best to answer any questions or concerns you might have to your satisfaction. ☺ The number for the choir office at the high school is (714) 990-7850 x1407. If I'm not in, please avoid leaving a voicemail as I am terrible at checking them! I'm much better at responding to emails. Feel free to send me a message at awillert@bousd.us. I check my emails periodically throughout the day and will respond as soon as humanly possible. ☺

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this! ☺

2019-20 B J H C H O I R M E M B E R **A G R E E M E N T**

I have thoroughly read and understand the syllabus/welcome letter for the Brea Junior High School choir program. I agree to follow all choir policies and to contribute to this program both by giving maximum effort in performances/rehearsals and by bringing a positive attitude to class each day. 😊

STUDENT NAME (PRINTED): _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PARENT NAME (PRINTED): _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____