

BREA OLINDA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR 2019-20

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Hello everyone. Welcome back to what will undoubtedly be another exciting and challenging year for Choir! I hope you have all had a restful summer. As we begin our new year, remember, we will continue adding new members into our choirs for the first two weeks of school. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us, or if you would personally like to add another choir, please let me know as soon as possible. Remember, both Masquerade and Spellbound still receive PE credit.

MEET THE STAFF

Provided our financial support is there, we will enjoy the same wonderful staff as last year. Doug Kuhl is still our award winning choreographer, Hannah Nam will continue to be our full time accompanist, Drew Hemwall will still serve as our excellent drummer, Kurt Nielsen will continue to assist us as our premier acting coach, and Kaylee Dysart and Challoi McCuller will be our dance and performance coaches. We are also hoping to continue adding to our band, which could also feature student musicians as it has in the past! If you know of any possible talented additions, please let me know ASAP!

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO BE IN CHOIR?

By law, there is no cost to participate in any school program; however, the quality of program that BOHS has requires a large amount of fundraising. The primary fundraising activity is direct family donation to the program. The district does not provide the funding to cover all co-curricular programs and all programs utilize family donations and other booster fundraising activities. The choir booster club organizes a variety of fundraising efforts to support the program, including sponsor forms that allow family and community members to donate money to the program.

Unfortunately, the law does not allow us to ask for a "suggested donation" for any specific program. The choir budget is nearly \$200,000 per year to support the program of approximately 120 students and families available to participate in fundraising activities. Donations cover the costs of the choreographer and other coaches, rights to perform new music, the band that plays at shows and competitions, costumes, festival entry fees, props, sets, etc. We are not able to afford anything on that list without these donations. You are welcome to discuss with veteran choir families what their experience has been with family donation amounts. Thank you for helping us raise the funds needed to continue giving your children the same wonderful opportunities that these choirs have experienced for years! ☺

WHAT ABOUT CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSALS?

Monday will continue to serve as our Choir rehearsal night. When they begin will be up to Doug. Because maintaining grades has been an important issue in the past, we will probably not hold rehearsals on every Monday. However, it is up to you to always keep Mondays clear in case one is needed. Please understand that these rehearsals are mandatory, and missing them may lead to you being taken out of the competition show or actually being dropped from the group altogether. Every choir member is expected to attend and to be prompt to all choir rehearsals and performances or face the consequences of a lower grade, spots in the songs being altered or removed altogether, and even being assigned the role of alternate if the problem persists. Please understand that THIS IS THE BOHS CHOIR POLICY. 😊

MONDAY NIGHT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (as needed)

3:30- 5:30 PM SPELLBOUND

6:00- 9:00 PM MASQUERADE

WHAT ABOUT FIELDTRIPS?

BOHS asks all students who participate in co-curricular activities that provide transportation to donate a transportation subsidy--this is also not required and any money submitted is a donation. You can make your transportation donation in the Activities Office. As usual, Chamber Singers will participate in classical festivals in the Fall and the Spring and all of the show choirs will be very busy beginning at the end of January. Final schedules with dates and times will be available in October after I have confirmed our participation in all of these events.

For all trips off campus, students are expected to leave from the high school and return to it on the bus. If alternate arrangements must be made, it is our policy that a signed note explaining the change must be turned in no later than 3 days before the trip. This will give us time to update our bus lists so we can better ensure the safety of all students on the trip.

THE MUSICAL

For decades, the choir program here at Brea has been proud to present our yearly musical. This year, to further enhance the production, we will be making the show part of the curriculum for both Masquerade and Spellbound. Auditions will still be open to anyone on campus at BOHS and BJH choir students. Students in Masquerade and Spellbound will still have the opportunity to audition for a leading role if they choose to. If they feel as though the time commitment is too great, then students will simply be placed in the ensemble. Numbers will be taught both after school and in choir classes. Performing in a musical is a fantastic experience and I am excited that so many of us will be able to share in it together this year!

NASHVILLE COMPETITION (MASQUERADE/SPELLBOUND)

We are happy to announce that this year, Masquerade and Spellbound will be attending the Heart of America National Show Choir Competition in Nashville, Tennessee. The competing choirs come from all over the United States and will demonstrate the variety of musical and performance styles being utilized across the nation. Additional musical enrichment experiences will also be scheduled around the competition in this city, which is ripe with musical history. The competition is currently scheduled to take place on March 6th with the final round concluding on March 7th, 2020. We will leave on Thursday night (3/5), after school, and return on the Sunday (3/8), thus missing only 1 day of school.

This is an incredible opportunity for our choirs, but it will also require a great deal of fundraising. The trip is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000 per student/chaperone in addition to the normal donations needed to keep this program running at such a high level. The cost of this trip is based on the following estimated expenses:

\$400- competition entrance fee and 3 night hotel room package

\$400- round trip airfare

\$125- transportation and experiences in Nashville

\$75- food money

Because this trip must be paid for months in advance, we will begin collections funds as soon as possible. Our choir booster club has a number of sponsorship/fundraising ideas to help with this endeavor. Please contact them if you would like to learn more on the subject. Here is a recommended schedule for turning in funds related to this trip:

September 19th (Thursday)- \$350

October 17th (Thursday)- \$350

November 14th (Thursday)- \$300

Due to the financial strain these trips can place on our choir program, this is the first national competition our choirs have been able to attend since 2015. However, with enough support from students and parents this year, we are hoping to make unforgettable trips like these a much more frequent occurrence. It will absolutely be one of the major highlights of our year!

CHOIR WEBSITES

With such an active program, there is a lot of information to digest. We have had a booster run website 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 this website for answers before contacting either myself or our booster club leadership. Here are the links to the booster website and my own:

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

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

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%)

CLASS MANAGEMENT POLICIES:

Students and Parents should be aware that every BOHS Choir member is responsible for upholding all of the following:

MAINTAIN A GPA OVER 2.0 (3.0 PREFERRED FOR MASQ/SB)
PARTICIPATE IN ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES
PARTICIPATE IN ALL FUNDRAISERS
MEET ALL DONATION AND FORM DEADLINES
USE NO ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES
EXERCISE APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES
FOLLOW ALL SCHOOL POLICIES AND LAWS OF THE LAND
NO FOOD, GUM OR DRINK (EXCEPT WATER) IN THE CHOIR ROOM
ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY
BE ON TIME
MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
BE YOURSELF 😊

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 classes, 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 while some performers are forced to perform without partners or must be taken out of numbers 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 5-7 page paper (Times font, size 12, double spaced) on a topic of my choice related to the situation. It must have quotes from three relevant books found in our school library. 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 as soon as possible 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 your understanding!

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
MASQ	11-1	TBD	TBD	O.C. DEP. OF ED. AWARDS BANQUET
CS	11-6	TBA	TBA	FULLERTON COLLEGE FESTIVAL
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
SELECT	12-10	TBA	TBA	TECH FOR EVENING OF THE ARTS
SELECT	12-11	TBA	TBA	EVENING OF THE ARTS
SELECT	12-12	TBA	TBA	EVENING OF THE ARTS ASSEMBLY
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
CS	1-27,28	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	TECH FOR BREA IDOL
CS	1-29	6:15 PM	9:30 PM	BREA IDOL
ALL	2-7,8	TBA	TBA	CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
CS	2-14	7:00 AM	2:35 PM	SINGING VALENTINES
*ALL	2-14,15	TBA	TBA	BONITA VISTA COMPETITION
*ALL	2-28,29	TBA	TBA	CHAPARRAL SHOWCASE
M, S	3-5,6,7,8	TBA	TBA	NASHVILLE HOA COMPETITION
*ALL	3-13,14	TBA	TBA	HART COMPETITION
CS	3-18	TBA	TBA	MT. SAC FESTIVAL
SELECT	3-18,19,(20/21)	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	MUSICAL
*ALL	3-20,21	TBA	TBA	KENNEDY COMPETITION
*ALL	3-20,21	TBA	TBA	LOS ALAMITOS COMPETITION
SELECT	3-25,26,27	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	MUSICAL
*ALL	3-28	TBA	TBA	ARCADIA COMPETITION
*ALL	3-28	TBA	TBA	VISTA COMPETITION
*ALL	4-2,3	TBA	TBA	OCEANSIDE COMPETITION
*ALL	4-17,18	TBA	TBA	BURROUGHS COMPETITION
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 OTHER 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, please contact me by email, phone or drop by the choir office for a chat. The Brea Olinda HS 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 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. ☺

Thanks for reading the entirety of this novel! ☺

2019-20 BOHS CHOIR MEMBER **AGREEMENT**

I have thoroughly read and understand the syllabus/welcome letter for the Brea Olinda 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: _____