



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT SUMMER NEWS 2023

Hey there, BCHS Musicians!

I hope your summer routine has solidified and is well underway. Many of you spoke of summer jobs and activities, vacations, and more. I pray that you will all get some much-needed rest and time with your families and friends before August hits. The time always flies by so fast!

I wanted to get this information out sooner than later so you can all plan ahead for what I'm sure will be a busy but fruitful upcoming school year. Our ensembles are still growing which means more goodness and beauty, while yet to be made and delivered, is on the way - I'm so grateful that you are part of BCHS Music! Here we go...

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 31st

6:30-8:30 PM

Tuesday, August 1st

6:30-8:30 PM

Wednesday, August 2nd

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) with any questions you may have at your earliest convenience.

BCHS MUSIC PARENT MEETING - 7:00-8:00 PM & BCHS MUSIC BOOSTER MEETING - 8:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, August 3rd (location TBD)

If you have a child in the BCHS Music program, whether in a one semester class or an ensemble (band, choirs, orchestra), please plan on attending this informational meeting. We will touch on a variety of items that will include (but not limited to) the Zero Period/Seminar rehearsal schedule, the Music Department Handbook, concert apparel, procedures, the WHY behind the importance of music education here at BCHS, and more!

Following the parent meeting, anyone interested in getting involved with the BCHS Music Boosters are invited to stay to hear. Our Music Boosters have been simply fantastic when it comes to the support, hospitality, and "flying the banner" of all the good news and things that

are happening with our BCHS musicians, ensembles, and program. If you would like to help us keep our trajectory on the rise, please consider attending. For more information, feel free to contact our BCHS Music Booster champion, Mrs. Judy Lam (jkinglam@gmail.com).

Hey, INCOMING FRESHMEN and NEW BAND MEMBERS!

Whether 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) 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!

***Vox Troiano and Sounds of Silas* AUDITIONS v.2!**

In case you missed them in the spring, we will be holding auditions for *Vox Troiano* (select mixed chorale) and *Sounds of Silas* (a cappella chamber choir) on **Thursday, August 17th after school** and on **Friday, August 18th during Seminar**. These auditions are open to anyone grades 10-12. Spread the word to anyone who you know should, or needs to be in our crew!

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). 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).

IN CLOSING

While summer break is a time for us all to rest, relax, reenergize, refuel, and renew, so often we fill those 10 or so weeks with another version of a busy schedule, different from our school year, but no less draining. By the time we get to back to school, we're already exhausted. I've been super-guilty of this in the past, too!

As musicians and artists, it is critically important that we all find time to take stock in our families - those whom we love and those who love us unconditionally, our friends, our passions, and our gifts. Let's take time to rekindle and maintain those profound relationships that bless our very lives.

Because of the nature of each of our gigs and the personal giving and delivery of our gifts to others, it is also critically necessary that we take time to rest. That said, let's not give up on making music this summer in our own way. Take time to listen something new - artist, group/ensemble, genre, apart from our regular diet of musical options. And if there's an opportunity to make music somewhere live, let's seize it! Let that music minister know we're available to play or sing at Mass!

Beside all of the endless possibilities that await this summer, remember that God is always close. With Him in mind, it is most critically necessary that we renew ourselves in Him. So much about our Godly activities at BCHS are programmed as routine - weekly Mass, prayer before the beginning of each class, retreats, devotions and more. Now that we're out of our routine, let's take time to bring God into the conversation in our own unique ways. I find the best way is just staying quiet, and focusing on Him in some way, maybe in something beautiful.

As always, please continue checking the Weekly Parent Newsletter and the BCHS website for additional information that may be posted concerning BCHS Music information. While summer vacation is here, it goes by super-quickly and the beginning of the new school year will be upon us. Staying informed will prepare us to deliver Truth, beauty and goodness in our music right from the beginning. Godspeed!

Onward,

Mr. Mark Duray
Director of Music
Bishop Chatard High School