



Bryant Junior High School
Choir Handbook

2024-2025



Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Welcome to the Bryant Junior High School Choir Program!

This handbook is designed to foster the success of the BJHS Choral Department, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year.



Our program will be focused on providing the best music education and socio-emotional experience possible. With a year planned around new experiences please let this Handbook be a guide to you as the year progresses.

We are a family and by joining this program we all acknowledge that we take responsibility for supporting each other as we strive to be the best we can be.

Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly and complete the electronic paperwork acknowledging that you have read the handbook completely. Please note that you are responsible for all information presented, *including the choir calendar in this packet.*

Due by Monday, August 26, 2024:

- Signed Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form

I hope that you will find this handbook a valuable resource for “all things choir” at BJHS, but should further questions arise, please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Welcome to the Bryant Choir FAMILY!

Jordan Murdock, Head Choral Director
jmurdock@bryantschools.org



Choir Department Goals

Present students at Bryant Junior High School with the opportunity to learn, sing, and perform music in our graded and leveled choir program.

Offer a quality musical experience through performance and competition of diverse choral literature.

Promote the cultivation of student relationships through teamwork and camaraderie. To offer aspiring students opportunities for leadership.

Promote and develop good character in each student—including, but not limited to: self-discipline, creativity, self-esteem, and enthusiasm for learning.

Develop an aesthetic appreciation for choral music in students and in the surrounding community.

The Purpose of the Ensemble

Music performance teaches students to overcome anxiety and to take risks. They learn poise, composure, and the value of continued effort to achieve excellence. As a direct result of making music as a team, students have the opportunity to build and cultivate lasting friendships. Above all, music performance students know the satisfaction of the successful result of hard work, and this carries over into every other aspect of their lives.

“Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart.” --Shinichi Suzuki

Bryant Junior High School Choral Ensembles

Schola Cantorum

Schola Cantorum is an auditioned choir composed of 8th and 9th grade sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Schola Cantorum sings advanced/intermediate level choral repertoire. In this course, students will build upon the fundamentals of music theory, history, vocal technique, and sight singing. In addition to all school concerts, members of this choir are required to audition for All-Region and will also compete at Region Choral Performance Assessment and other qualifying competitions. This year, it is my goal for this choir to develop its own yearly performance tradition. This class meets during the school day. See calendar of required events.

Hornet Harmony

Hornet Harmony is an auditioned choir composed of 8th and 9th grade sopranos and altos. Hornet Harmony sings intermediate level choral repertoire. In this course, students will build upon the fundamentals of music theory, history, vocal technique, and sight singing. In addition to all school concerts, members of this choir are required to audition for All-Region and will also compete at Region Choral Performance Assessment and other qualifying competitions. This year, it is my goal for this choir to develop its own yearly performance tradition. This class meets during the school day. See calendar of required events

Dolce Vita Men

Dolce Vita Men is an auditioned extra-curricular choir composed of 8th and 9th grade Tenor and Bass Students. Men's Select sings intermediate level choral repertoire. In this course, students will build upon the fundamentals of music theory, history, vocal technique, and sight singing. In addition to all school concerts, members of this choir are required to audition for All-Region and will also compete at Region Choral Performance Assessment and other qualifying competitions. This year, it is my goal for this choir to develop its own yearly performance tradition. This class meets during the school day. See calendar of required events.

Tenor/Bass Chorus

Any BJHS student may enroll in Tenor/Bass Chorus . Tenor/Bass Chorus students sing beginning-intermediate level choral repertoire. In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of music theory, history, vocal technique, and music literacy. Tenor/ Bass Chorus students will sing with professionalism in expressive performance, organization, and cooperation. This class meets during the school day. See calendar of required events.

Con Spirito & Bel Canto

Any BJHS student may enroll in Treble Chorus. Treble Chorus students sing beginning-intermediate level choral repertoire. In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of music theory, history, vocal technique, and music literacy. Treble Chorus students will sing with professionalism in expressive performance, organization, and cooperation. Students are required to perform at all school concerts. Students are allowed to audition for All-Region if they would like. This class meets during the school day. See calendar of required events.

Choir Syllabus Information

Required Materials

1. Black, one-inch binder (provided through choir fee) and folder dividers (not provided)
2. Zipper pouch for pencils and other writing utensils
3. Pencil

Event Check-Out Policy

If a parent or family member is going to check you out from an event when you're finished competing or participating, I must know about it *before* the day of the event. The easiest thing is to just have a parent send an email about what you're doing.

NO ONE MAY CHECKOUT EARLY FROM A CONCERT UNLESS IT IS FOR A SEPARATE AAA EVENT!

Event Attendance Policy

If an event is listed on the choir calendar it is a required and graded event. Students will be excused from the event for the following reasons: Family Emergency, illness, unavoidable circumstances. Students with unexcused absences will only be able to finish a make up assignment for 10% less than the assignment is worth. Students who miss multiple required events with unexcused absences will continue to take a compounding 10% loss of the available grade for each assignment. **A parent email MUST be received by Friday the week of the event in order for a student to receive a make up assignment. IF A PARENT EMAIL IS NOT RECEIVED THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP ASSIGNMENT.**

Support Policy

I am available before school and after school for questions and help. Students and parents, please do not hesitate to email me with questions or concerns.

Choir Uniform

While each choir has a uniform they must rent from the program they are required to get the following items for themselves.

Tenor/Bass Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black dress pants● Black dress shoes● Black dress socks● Black belt● White under shirt● Black button up shirt
All Treble Choirs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black flats or low-heel, closed-toe shoes

Other Uniform Considerations:

- The only jewelry items that are permitted are earrings (this excludes Hoops and danglies)
- Men: Facial hair should be well-groomed (if you have it)
- Try on *all* uniform items at least 2 days prior to an event so you can make sure everything fits.

Choir Fee

All students must pay a non refundable choir fee by Sep 20, 2024.

General Chorus

\$30

Auditioned Chorus

\$40

Please make checks payable to “BJHS Choirs”.

Parents/Guardians please contact Mr. Murdock directly should you need to make alternative payment arrangements: jmurdock@bryantschools.org

* We do not accept electronic payments (i.e. Cash App, Venmo, Zelle, etc...)

Fundraisers

All students must participate in each Semester's fundraiser. Students who do not wish to participate in the fundraiser can pay a blanket \$50 fee to be excluded for the year. Students who do not fundraise at all will be excluded from incentive events that are paid for with these funds.

Choir Social Media

Follow Us on Social Media! @BJHSChoirs



Google Classroom

Google Classroom will be the hub for all BJHS Choir Students. In addition to posting needed information, it will also serve as a way to submit assignments, ask questions, and contribute to the classroom environment in your own special way. If you find yourself without the ability to log into google classroom please contact Mr. Murdock.

Con Spiritu (1st Period)

Class Code: uxa7kvv

Bel Canto (2nd period)

Class Code: iqmfb47

Dolce Vita

Class Code: glbkyiw

8/9 Tenor/ Bass Chorus

Class Code: 6vldhuk

Hornet Harmony

Class Code: uls3km5

Rooms

Remind 101 has been replaced by Rooms, please see the district website for instructions on how to enroll.

Choir Calendar 2024-25

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Aug 12	Choir Boot camp	Select Ensemble	5pm-10pm	BJHS
Sep 28	All-Region Workshop	All Student Auditioning (REQUIRED)	8:30am-1pm	BJHS
Sept 30	Fundraiser Kick Off	All	TBD	BJHS Choir Room
Oct 5	HS All-Region Audition (Student Leadership)	Student Leadership	7:30-5pm	BJHS Caf
Oct 12	JH All-Region Audition *Required for students in Select Choir *	Applicable Students Hornet Harmony Dolce Vita	7:30-5pm	BJHS
Nov 8	JH All-Region Clinic	Applicable Students	All-Day	Benton
Nov 9	HS All-Region Clinic	Student Leadership	All-Day	Benton
Dec TBD	Choir Tour-State Capitol	Select Choir	TBD	TBD
Dec 9	Winter Choir Concert	All Choirs	Call 6pm Concert 7pm	BHS Love Auditorium
Feb TBD	BJHS Fine Arts Showcase	All Choirs	6:30pm	BHS Love Auditorium
March 4, 25	Pre-CPA Concert	All Choirs	Call 6pm Concert 7pm	BHS Love Auditorium
March 5-7, 25	CPA	All Choirs	TBD	Lakeside
April 26	Elementary Honor Choir	Student Leadership Dolce Vita Men Hornet Harmony	8am-3pm	BHS Love Auditorium
May 13	BJHS Student Cabaret	Applicable students	Call 6pm Concert 7pm	BJHS Black Box
May 21-24, 2024	Pride of Texas Music Festival	Select Ensembles Only	TBD	Dallas, TX

*Events will be added periodically throughout the year. I will send home information at minimum 2 weeks in advance

