

2016-2017

Bexley Middle School

Choral Department Handbook



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WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Bexley Middle School Choral Program! We are excited to have such a wonderful, talented group of young singers. You have chosen to be a part of an organization that can offer you many opportunities for growth and provide experiences in music that you will remember for a lifetime.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the many facets of the Bexley Middle School Choirs and to answer as many questions as possible. In an active program like this one, your cooperation helps insure a successful experience for all. We acknowledge that parent and community involvement and support for our program is our greatest asset.

There are several forms enclosed that you and your student will need to read. You will also find the Bexley Music Parents Membership Form within this handbook. In order to offer the many activities within the department, we require parental support and encouragement, both physically and financially. I hope that you will take a moment to look over this information carefully.

Please retain the calendar at the end of this packet (p. 8) as it contains important information regarding the choral department's schedule for the school year and return pages 9-10 by next Friday. Here is to a successful and happy year to all who love music.

Amy Johnston Blosser
Director of Choirs
Bexley Middle and High School
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Bexley, Oh 43209
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amy.blosser@bexleyschools.org

"I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty...an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft."

**Remarks at Amherst College, 1963
President John F. Kennedy**

Director:

Mrs. Amy Johnston Blosser

Amy Johnston Blosser is the National Chair for Repertoire and Resources for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Prior to this position she served as the National Repertoire & Resources Chair for Senior High School choirs and for Central Division. As R&R Chair, Blosser has been active in planning Division and National Conferences in Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Oklahoma City, Dallas and the upcoming February 2015 conference in Salt Lake City. She has chaired ACDA Conference Honor Choirs at the division and national levels, and has served as a member of the ACDA Honor Choir Handbook committee. Blosser has also served on the R&R Committee Structure Task Force which reported to the national leadership conference in 2010 as well as spearheaded the Restructuring of the existing R&R committee. Ms. Blosser is also an active member of The National Association for Music Education (MENC).

In her fourteenth year as Choral Director at Bexley High School in Columbus, Ohio, Amy Blosser conducts six choirs grades 7-12, serves as vocal music director for annual musical productions, and is the Fine Arts Department Chair. Under her direction, all Bexley choirs who attended OMEA State Large Group since 2004 have received Superior ratings. Under Blosser's direction, the Bexley High School Vocal Ensemble has performed at state conferences of ACDA in 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2014 and MENC in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2016. In March 2012, they performed at the ACDA Central Division Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana and again in February 2016 in Chicago, Illinois. Her choirs have toured throughout the United States and Europe, performing in notable locations such as Carnegie Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Nicolas in Prague, St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Canterbury Cathedral in England, Notre Dame in Paris and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland. They have shared performances with ensembles from The Ohio State University, Capital University, Ohio University and Baldwin Wallace College.

Blosser has been a presenter, adjudicator and guest conductor throughout the United States. Blosser was named Educator of the Year for Bexley Schools in 2011 and was selected to serve as a Conducting Fellow for the 2015 International Conductors Exchange Program to Sweden. As one of the 14 fellows, Blosser represented the United States by traveling to Sweden in October 2015 and hosting Swedish conductors in February 2015.

Blosser holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting and Bachelor of Music Education from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where she studied with Hilary Apfelstadt and James Gallagher. In addition to her work as a high school choral educator, Amy Blosser is the Artistic Director of the Bexley Choral Society and the Director of Music at Bexley United Methodist Church.

Accompanist:

Mr. Matt Ebright

Matthew Ebright received his BA in Music from The Ohio State University where he works as a vocal coach-accompanist. During his time at OSU, he served as the accompanist/assistant director of the Men's Glee Club and lead the premiere a cappella ensemble, The Statesmen. He is the choral accompanist for Bexley High School, Dublin Coffman High School, and Rosemore Middle School. In addition, Ebright currently teaches at Sounds Educational Center in Westerville, Ohio and both directs and accompanies The Columbus Swiss Singers. He has performed throughout the United States and worked as a featured pianist/singer/guest artist collaborator for Princess Cruises. Ebright recently served as music director for the Ohio State Thespian Conference production of *Spring Awakening*. Past musical directing/theater credits include *A Little Night Music*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Murder Ballad*, *A Chorus Line*, *Next to Normal*, *Songs For a New World*, *All Shook Up*, *Piano Man*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Footloose*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wiz*, *Barnum*, and the Columbus Equity production of Sondheim's *Side By Side*, choreographed by Tony-award winner Randy Skinner. Ebright remains active throughout Ohio as a jazz/rock pianist, cabaret singer, accompanist, session musician, and arranger.

The Role of the Choir Member

As a member of the Bexley Choral Program, you have expressed your **commitment** and **dedication** to the goals of the vocal music department. Your constant **goal** should be to become a successful part of the total unit and to **strive for excellence** as you **help** others to achieve the same goal.

REMIND FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

All Bexley Choral Department members will be using **Remind** for the 2016-2017 school year. **Remind** is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students & parents. You can subscribe by text, email or by using the **Remind** app. All personal information is kept private. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you see theirs.

7th Grade Choir: Text @3e78f2 to 81010 OR text @3e78f2 to (614) 556-4060
OR send an email to 3e78f2@mail.remind.com

8th Grade Choir: Text @ekh9a to 81010 OR text @ekh9a to (614) 556-4060
OR send an email to ekh9a@mail.remind.com

Bexley Performing Arts Substance Abuse Policy Sanctions

Students participating in co-curricular activities are must abide by the Bexley City Schools Substance Abuse Policy. Below are listed the Sanctions which will impact students who choose not to abide by school policy concerning substance abuse.

Offense	Activity Consequences	Educational Requirement
Self Report as First Offense	1. Loss of next non-graded event, educational, social or volunteer occurring after the Violation Determination date. 2. Letter documenting violation on file 3. Suspension of leadership position for 9 weeks.	1. Completion of 12 hours of community service that supports recovery with reflection artifact submitted to Director of Student and Community Engagement. 2. HS Saturday Family workshop through ESCCO 3. Invitation to recovery support group meeting.
First Offense	1. Loss of participation in OMEA honors groups if applicable, loss of participation of next non-graded event; educational, social and volunteer occurring after the Violation Determination date. 2. Letter documenting violation on file 3. Loss of any leadership position for the year.	1. Completion of 12 hours of community service that supports recovery with reflection artifact submitted to Director of Student and Community Engagement. 2. HS Saturday Family workshop through ESCCO 3. Invitation to recovery support group meeting
Second Offense	1. Loss of participation in all non-graded events; educational, social and volunteer for the entire year. No participation in any OMEA honors groups. 2. Letter documenting violation on file 3. Loss of travel privilege with the group for the year. 4. Permanent bar to leadership positions.	1. Completion of twelve hours of community service that supports recovery with reflection artifact submitted to Director of Student and Community Engagement. 2. Referral to recovery support group meeting 3. Assessment required by licensed clinician
Third Offense	1. Loss of participation in all non-graded events; educational, social, and volunteer for the entire year. No participation in any OMEA honors groups. 2. Letter documenting violation on file 3. Permanent loss of travel privilege with the group. 4. Permanent bar to leadership positions	1. Completion of twelve hours of community service that supports recovery with reflection artifact submitted to Director of Student and Community Engagement. 2. Wellness Learning Community. 3. Referral to recovery treatment.
Fourth Offense	1. Possible removal from the group. 2. Loss of participation in all non-graded events; educational, social and volunteer for the entire year. No participation in any OMEA honors groups. 3. Letter documenting violation on file 4. Permanent loss of travel privilege with the group. 5. Permanent bar to leadership positions.	1. Completion of twelve hours of community service that supports recovery with reflection artifact submitted to Director of Student and Community Engagement 2. Referral to recovery treatment 3. Referral to School Based Mental Health Professional.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The success of a choir depends on how it rehearses. How it rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the student. Rehearsals are the place to correct mistakes and the less individual distractions, the greater your contribution is to the choir. Be patient, attentive, careful, and cooperative in observing these rehearsal expectations. Good behavior, attitude and self-discipline are essential to producing a GREAT CHOIR. If you are successful, the Choir is successful.

1. Be ON TIME to all rehearsals (school or extra) and performances. You are to be in your place with your Music and all visiting stopped BY THE TIME THE BELL RINGS or THE REHEARSAL IS TO BEGIN.

** Each unexcused tardy will deduct half of the points for the rehearsal. **

2. Always have your MUSIC, CHOIR FOLDER, and PENCIL.

3. Please, no gum!

4. Be conscious of GOOD POSTURE at all times.

5. Keep your EYES on the director during rehearsal.

6. LISTEN to the director at all times. Talking while the director is rehearsing or giving instructions is **NEVER** appropriate.

7. The use of cell phones is not allowed at rehearsals or concerts. (School policy enforced.)

8. Rehearsals are not over until the director dismisses the choir. Don't begin to put your music away until instructed to do so.

9. Stay involved in the rehearsal from start to finish. Rehearsals are not for personal grooming, catching up on the latest gossip, or doing homework.

10. Keep the room orderly and clean. Do not bring food, candy or drinks (excepting water) in the Choir Room unless given permission by the director. If you are not taking your music home, make sure you return it to the correct shelf. The Choir Room is not to be used as your personal locker.

11. Approach rehearsals as well as performances with OPTIMISM, ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION, AND YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED ATTENTION.

12. The success of the Choir is your individual responsibility.

Additional Rehearsal Procedures

If, for any reason, Mrs. Blosser is absent from school, all choir members are to rehearse with the substitute and/or high school leaders as they would the regular directors. *Any type of discipline problem is unacceptable and will be dealt with as soon as possible.*

The practice rooms are for students' use; however permission from Mrs. Blosser is needed before they can be used. Pianos are expensive instruments and need to be taken care of properly.

Music and Folders

Music and folders are provided for you. Everyone will be issued their own folder with a pencil at the beginning of the year. Similar to the textbooks used in academic classes, music and folders cost money. Should you lose or damage your folder beyond use you will replace it as well as the cost of the music.

Attendance

Education can only take place when the students and teachers are available for learning. ALL CHOIR MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN REHEARSAL EVERY DAY. Students must be in school by 9:00am to participate in activities that day unless cleared by the Administration. In order to encourage good attendance the following policy has been adopted.

A **tardy** will be defined as not being in the classroom when Mrs. Blosser begins rehearsal. Each day a student is tardy without a pass deducts half from his/her daily grade. Allowances will be made for extenuating circumstances and need to be discussed in advance.

Classroom participation and behavior are 50% of the overall grade. Every member starts with full credit and it is up to him/her how much remains at the end of a rehearsal period. A Dress rehearsal is worth half as much as a concert.

Performances

Attendance

Since choir is a performing ensemble, members are expected to be at every performance. **Each performance is worth 50% of your nine weeks grade.** Concerts are comparable to scheduled examinations, HOWEVER, unlike regularly scheduled examinations that can be made up, concerts (by their very nature of being one-time events) cannot. Therefore when a choir member misses a performance, appropriate action will be taken when the grade is considered. As previously stated the list of Excused Absences is in the BMS Student Code of Conduct. If the absence is excused, the student will have the opportunity to make up the missed grade by arranging an alternative assignment with Mrs. Blosser. A calendar for the year is included in this handbook. **Any conflicts with the calendar must be turned in to Mrs. Blosser with the Handbook form, so she can determine if they are to be excused.**

Please be prompt for each call time as there are multiple groups that perform at concerts. Members are also expected to conduct themselves like ladies and gentlemen when another choir is performing. *Any choir member not behaving appropriately will be sent home from the performance and his/her grade will be lowered.*

Dress Code for Performances

All members must wear the required BMS Music shirt and black pants/skirts (must be below the knee). Students may purchase a shirt or borrow from a past member, but each singer must have their own shirts.

Black dress shoes must be worn (no athletic shoes or sandals).

No facial (including the tongue) jewelry, dangling or hoop earrings are allowed at performances. Hair shall not cover any student's eyes. It must be worn short or pulled back so that facial features are clearly visible. Any unusual hair style, hair color (**all members' hair color must be NATURAL**), or accessory that draws attention to an individual is detrimental to our total team effort and is not acceptable for performances.

**** All members must wear the proper attire at all performances.
If you are not dressed appropriately you may not perform. ****

Grading Policy

Choir is a **performance-based class**. Students earn grades by performing in rehearsals as well as concerts. Concerts and rehearsals cannot be "made up". (see Attendance policy) Students will earn grades in the following areas.

50% Concert Attendance/Participation

50% Classroom Participation/Behavior

1. Performances in class by solo and small ensembles
2. Sight-reading/Music Theory/ Ear-Training- solo & small ensembles
3. Contribution & Focus

5% Extra Opportunities/Credit

- a.) Attend a Bexley Arts event (Band, Orch, Theatre, BHS Choir) and submit a review with your program.
- b.) Take private voice lessons with approved instructor throughout the year.
- c.) Participate in a youth choir outside of school throughout the year.
- d.) Participate in an event at OMEA Solo & Ensemble. (4th nine weeks only)
- e.) Participate in the BMS Musical. (3rd nine weeks only)

2016-2017 BMS Choral Department Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sunday, October 9th	MS/HS Fall Choral Concert	2:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Thursday, October 13th	MS CommUNITY Sing! Rehearsal	2:00-5:00pm	TBD
Saturday, October 15th	MS CommUNITY Sing! Event	3:00pm	TBD
October 17 th – 19 th	MS Musical auditions	3:30-6:30pm	Cassingham Theater
Friday, November 11th	MS Veteran's Day Assembly & Tour	8:00am-12:00pm	Cassingham Theater
Saturday, December 3rd	MS choirs @ Festival of the Arts	TBD	Montrose
February 2 nd – 4 th	MS Musical "The Lion King"	7:30pm (2:00pm Sat. matinee)	HS Theater
Sunday, March 5th	MS/HS Choral Concert	2:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Tuesday, March 14th	Elementary/MS Choral Festival	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Saturday, April 8 th	MS OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBD	TBD
Saturday, May 6 th	MS Choir "Music in the Parks"	TBD	Kings Island
Wednesday, May 24th	MS Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert	7:00pm	MS Gymnasium
Wednesday, May 26th	MS Laurel Honors Society	8:00am	MS Gymnasium

Dates in BOLD are required for all Choir members

Other Bexley Music dates

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thursday, September 29 th	MS/HS Fall Orchestra Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Thursday, October 27 th	MS/HS Marching Band Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Saturday, October 29 th	Vocal Ensemble Cabaret	3:00pm	HS Café
Sunday, October 30 th	Vocal Ensemble Cabaret	1:00pm	HS Café
November 17 th – 19 th	HS Musical	7:30pm (2:00pm Sat. matinee)	Schottenstein Theater
Sunday, December 4 th	Vocal Ensemble @ Tree Lighting	4:00pm	Drexel Circle
Thursday, December 8 th	HS Orchestra Winter Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Monday, December 12 th	Maryland Winter Concert	10:00am/7:00pm	Maryland
Tuesday, December 13 th	MS/HS Band Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Wednesday, December 14 th	Montrose Winter Concert	7:00pm	Montrose
Thursday, December 15 th	Cassingham Winter Concert	1:00 & 7:00pm	Cassingham Theater
Sunday, December 18 th	HS Winter Choral Concert	2:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Sunday, February 12 th	Women's Chorale "Cupid Cabaret"	2:00pm	Bexley UMC
Thursday, February 23 rd	MS/HS Orchestra State Contest Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Wednesday, February 28 th	MS/HS Band Pre-Contest Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Sunday, March 5 th	MS/HS Choral Concert	2:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Tuesday, March 14 th	Elementary/MS Choral Festival	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Thursday, March 30 th	4-12 Orchestra Concert	7:00pm	HS Gymnasium
Thursday, April 20 th	5-12 Band Concert	7:00pm	HS Gymnasium
Monday, April 24 th	HS Choral Spring Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater
Thursday, April 27 th	HS Orchestra Concert	7:00pm	Schottenstein Theater

Bexley Middle School Choral Department

Student/Parent Contract Form

For students:

I have read the 2016-2017 Bexley Middle School Choral Department Handbook. I understand the contents and will give my best effort in following the guidelines. I also have read over the attached calendar and agree to be in attendance at all the required performances listed. I have shown the handbook to my parent(s)/guardian(s) so they had the opportunity to read the expectations for this year in choir.

Student name: _____ **Student email:** _____

Student Signature: _____

For parent(s)/guardian(s):

My son/daughter has shown the 2016-2017 Bexley Middle School Choral Department Handbook to me and I understand the above information. I also agree to assist the Choral Department by making sure my son/daughter is in attendance at all of the required performances listed on the calendar. Any and all conflicts are listed below.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) email: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) signature: _____

Please list any conflicts with the Calendar of Events below. After the deadline listed, no absences will be excused (with the exception of family emergencies and personal illness, which will require a doctor's excuse.)

***** Please return to Mrs. Blosser by Friday, August 26th *****

BEXLEY MUSIC PARENTS SUPPORTS:

HUNDREDS!

OF: SINGERS, INSTRUMENTALISTS,
ACCOMPANIST HOURS,
REHEARSALS, PERFORMANCES,
OMEA CONTEST APPEARANCES,
AND AWARDS

THOUSANDS!

OF MILES TRAVELED
TO PERFORMANCES

THREE!

AMAZING
ENRICHING
PROGRAMS

DOZENS!

OF: GUEST ARTISTS,
PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS,
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

OPPORTUNITIES!

BUT ONLY WITH THE HELP OF ONE REMARKABLE YOU!

TURN OVER TO SEE HOW

Support excellence in music education

Become a member of Bexley Music Parents

\$30 annual membership fee
\$150 lifetime membership fee

Your membership provides additional resources for choir, band and orchestra programs, covering costs for accompanists, guest artists, OMEA contest fees and preparation, end-of-year awards and many other extras that enhance Bexley's outstanding music program.

Bexley Music Parents Membership Application

your name: _____ e-mail: _____

my student(s): _____

is/are in:	band	band	band
	choir	choir	choir
	orchestra	orchestra	orchestra

at (circle one):	Cassingham	Cassingham	Cassingham
	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
	Montrose	Montrose	Montrose
	Middle School	Middle School	Middle School
	High School	High School	High School

yard sign needed?	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
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Graduation year: _____

Amount enclosed _____

Additional donations gratefully accepted in any amount

____ I do not want my gift to be publicly recognized and acknowledged

PLEASE: Turn in this form and your check, made payable to BEXLEY MUSIC PARENTS, to your student's music director or mail to: Susan Rhoads, 44 Bullitt Park Place, Bexley, Ohio 43209