

OTHER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Sing or play a song or instrument that you have learned outside of class on performance Fridays!
- Mrs. Deming will inform students about upcoming community concerts / auditions.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are highly encouraged as they are a wonderful opportunity for students to refine their vocal skills. Below are highly qualified voice teachers you can call for lessons. For more info, discuss with Mrs. Deming.

Cassa Fox

Voice teacher and music education major from CMU.
970-985-5212

Francesca Corbett

Music education major from Colorado Mesa University (CMU);
Choir Director at WMS; teaches voice and beginning piano.
970-424-9292

Alyssa Holland

Vocal education major from CMU
970-640-5375

Rebecca Anderson—(Available after January 2017)

Voice teacher and music education major from CMU.
970-215-4453

BMS Choir Handbook 2016-2017



Miriam Deming, Director

Jim Butterfield, Principal

JB Phillips, Assistant Principal

Teri LeFabre, Assistant Principal

“If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2016-17 Bookcliff Middle School Choir Program! By joining choir, you are now a part of the art and tradition of choral music which spans over a thousand years! I look forward to continuing this tradition in a choral setting here at BMS.

One key element of success in any music program is communication between director and parents. This handbook starts that communication; it outlines the requirements and expectations of the choir student, *so please read it completely!* Students will be held accountable for all content written in this handbook. **The choir contract given to the BMS student must be signed and returned by Fri. Aug. 12!**

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Musically Yours,

Miriam Deming, Choral Director
miriam.deming@d51schools.org

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Not only is music a ton of fun, but also, “Music making offers extensive exercise for brain cells... It would be difficult to find another activity that engages so many of the brain’s systems” (“The Music in Our Minds” by Norman M. Weinberger). Music exercises the muscle that will benefit all emotional, intellectual, and academic areas – the brain!

PHILOSOPHY

Music is an essential part of being human, as it enhances emotional intelligence by increasing sensitivity to one’s own feelings and the feelings of others. Additionally, choral music develops listening skills, positive attitudes, self-reliance, and a greater appreciation of all things aesthetic—that is, all things *beautiful*. At BMS, we strive to develop the highest possible levels of musical achievement in our students, taking into consideration each individual’s interests, needs and abilities.

GRADING

Students will receive two separate grades for the choir grading period:

1. Academic Grade
 - Concert performance
 - Written work (worksheets, quizzes, assessments, etc.)
 - Performance assessments (performing rhythms, sight-reading, singing assessments in groups and individually)
2. Behavior Grade
 - Concert participation
 - Effort
 - Preparedness (having materials, being on time, concert attire, etc.)
 - Attendance

Academic Content:

Students will be assessed according to the District Music Standards:

1. **Expression of Music:** Like in concerts, part check tests, singing in music rehearsals.
2. **Creation of Music:** Used when writing or arranging basic music.
3. **Theory of Music:** Usually there is one theory test per quarter over note values, reading music at first sight, music math, etc.
4. **Aesthetic Valuation of Music:** Student learn to evaluate music based on specific choir terms and learn about the history and poetry of music selections.

Chaperones:

There are several events for which we will need parent help and chaperones. Chaperones need to be fingerprinted with a background check if:

- They are riding on buses on which there is no school district employee
- They are spending the night
- If they are left alone with students when there is no school district employee present, including chaperoning students in the audience when the director is not present. The exception is during the Colorado West Invitational Festival.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at concerts is **REQUIRED**. A written note from a parent/guardian is needed *for any concert absence*.

Excused Concert Absences

- Prior commitment (planned before Aug. 12th 2016) – **note needed** BEFORE concert.
- Family emergency – **note needed** upon return to school.
- Illness – **note needed** upon return to school.
- Religious/individual beliefs – **note needed** BEFORE concert.

CONCERT ATTIRE

It is our belief at BMS that students who appear in uniform function as one unit. The following attire is required of all students for concert performances:

Plain Black Slacks

Plain White Shirt (no colored undershirts unless specified)

Black Socks / Tights

Black Shoes

*All performance attire should meet the school dress code policy.

** Jeans, shorts, and tennis shoes are not considered appropriate concert attire.

If you arrive in concert attire that is unacceptable, you will be asked to change or will be ineligible to perform. Students must perform in the concerts to receive concert credit. **PLEASE PLAN AHEAD** and talk to teacher ahead of time if you need help getting concert clothes.

FUNDRAISING

Each year the BMS Music Dept. provides fundraising opportunity for students, which helps to purchase new music and provide students with **scholarship opportunities**. All participating students benefit from the funds raised. More information to come.

MUSTANG MUSICIAN POLICIES:

CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND BEHAVIOR

Students at BMS are expected to develop in their vocal abilities, gain knowledge of middle school choir repertoire, master basic music theory elements, be introduced to music history and its effects on other art forms, and **consistently make an effort to be the best musicians they can be**.

Classroom expectations include:

- Always bring a pencil to class!
- Be in your seat **ON TIME**, with materials, reviewing the music.
- Respect others, including their personal property.
- Gum, food or drinks are not permitted in the choir room.
- All talking must stop when the director is giving instruction.

CARE OF MUSIC AND EQUIPMENT

Every student is expected to maintain a current folder (provided). **FOLDERS MAY NOT LEAVE THE CLASSROOM**. Original music is almost always handed out and students are expected to take care of each piece. Marking in music should happen in **PENCIL ONLY**. Sight-reading books are also provided to each student. Lost/stolen/damaged books or original copy of music will result in a \$5 charge. Other equipment, such as pianos, stereos, and risers should be left alone unless special instruction is given by teacher.

IN-CLASS SICK POLICY

Please take care of your health as your body is your instrument! Every student is important to the group, so on those rare occasions when a student is sick and/or unable to sing during a rehearsal, that student will participate by filing out the "In-Class But Not Singing" form.

*If you are unable to sing for more than 3 days in a row, you must **bring a note** signed by your parent and doctor.