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CHOIR FORMS

Salmon – Voice lesson application	✔ Required for students who are requesting private lessons
Purple – Choir contract	✔ Required for students and parents to sign
Yellow – Medical information	✔ Required for parents to fill out for their student
Blue – Booster Membership	✔ Required for all parents
White – Monies submittal form	✔ Required when turning in ANY money for choir
Orange – Trip commitment	✔ Required for all students attending the trip
Pink – Ad sales	✔ Required for students who sell ads
Green – Donations	✔ Required for all donations to the choral program

From your Directors…

August 27, 2019
Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Bellaire Choirs! We have a proud tradition to uphold and will work together to achieve a high degree of success.

The Bellaire Choral Department has seven choirs:

- ◊ **Belle Ensemble –** Beginning women's choir; Performs at all concerts; Competes at UIL
- ◊ **Belle Voci –** Beginning women's choir; Performs at all concerts; Competes at UIL
- ◊ **Cantamus–** Intermediate women's choir; Performs at all concerts; Competes at UIL
- ◊ **Concert Chorale** – Varsity, Performs at all concerts, Competes at UIL & on spring trip
  - ◊ **Chorale Men –** One half of the Concert Chorale
  - ◊ **Chorale Women** – One half of the Concert Chorale
- ◊ **Madrigal** – Varsity, Performs at most concerts & several competitions
  (Madrigal members must also be in Concert Chorale)

On the following pages is all of the information about the Bellaire Choral Department.

Please read the handbook carefully to determine which events are required for your student while at Bellaire.

PARENT COMMUNICATION:

- ◊ MONTHLY CHOIR NEWSLETTERS – Sent via e-mail & home with students
- ◊ MEMOS – Sent via e-mail & home with your student before choral events
- ◊ CHOIR WEBSITE – **www.bellairechoir.org**

If you do not receive the newsletter, please contact the choral office to ensure that your e-mail address is correct.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Head Director: Amy Solberg
Work phone: 713-295-3704 x2245
E-mail: asolberg@houstonisd.org
Office hours: By appointment

Assistant Director: Brady Weldon
Work phone: 713-295-3704 x2245
E-mail: James.Weldon@houstonisd.org
Office hours: By appointment

CHOIR FORMS

Red – Charms info page (keep at home)
Purple – Choir contract (ALL turn in)
Yellow – Medical form (ALL turn in)
Blue – Booster membership (ALL turn in)
White – Money submittal (turn in as needed)
Gold – Trip commitment (turn in as needed)
Pink – Ad sales (turn in as needed)
Green – Donations (turn in as needed)
Salmon – Voice lesson application

Sincerely,
Amy Solberg & Brady Weldon

BELLAIRE CHOIR

Standards of Excellence

The material listed below will help each choir member to know and understand the expectation and responsibilities for SUCCESS.

♫ Learn and develop good vocal production and skill required for successful choral and solo singing.

♫ Develop and maintain sight-reading skills.

♫ Perform at all major Concerts: Fall Concert, Winter/Holiday Concert, Spring Concert (UIL Showcase), Senior Pop Show.

♫ Participate in the major Contest of the year: UIL Concert & Sightreading

♫ Maintain good school attendance.

♫ Maintain eligibility.

♫ Develop excellent daily rehearsal skills, both in and outside of class.

♫ Participate in choir social activities.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT RULES

The following classroom behavior is necessary to ensure productive and effective rehearsals and to create a positive and structured learning environment.

1. **Be seated with music folder and pencil ready to sing when the bell rings.**
    - Many instructions and procedures are covered at the beginning of class.
    - The better prepared everyone is, the more we get done as a group during rehearsals.

2. **No talking when the director is speaking to the class or working with individual sections.**
    - Social talking is a distraction that prevents others from learning.

3. **Follow instructions the first time they are given.**
    - Arguing with or talking back to the teacher is breaking this rule.
    - Not getting started immediately on the assigned task is breaking this rule.

4. **Respect others, the teacher, and yourself.**
    - Positive attitudes lead to success.

5. **No gum will be allowed in rehearsals. Water is encouraged.** ☺

Consequences

1. First infraction - Warning
2. Second infraction – Discipline referral write-up and student-teacher conference. Parents will be notified.
3. Third infraction – Discipline referral write-up and parent conference.
4. Fourth infraction – Student may be asked to leave the Choral Department.

CHOIR GRADING POLICY

There are five major categories used to determine grades:

A. Class Preparation
B. Rehearsal technique
C. Singing and written tests
D. Evening/after-school rehearsals
E. Attendance at major performances

A. <u>Class Preparation:</u> (10%)

1. Each day students will receive five points in the following areas:
    a. Being in class on time with music and pencil
    b. Demonstrating proper vocal technique
    c. Sight-reading
    d. Attitude/focus
2. Students can receive up to 25 points each week. The student's total is averaged with the teacher's total for the final preparation grade.

B. <u>Rehearsal technique:</u> (20%)

1. Students will come to class with a good attitude and sing to the best of their ability.
2. Students will sight-read and sing on a daily basis.
3. Students will not talk when conductor is on the podium or working with an individual group.
4. Students will treat each other with respect.

C. <u>Singing and written tests:</u> (10%)

1. Students will have three tests over the course of the semester: 2 singing tests (1 before each concert) and 1 theory test (1 each semester).
2. The total number of points per test will be determined by the director and will not exceed 150 points.
3. Students who do not pass singing tests will **<u>not</u>** be allowed to perform in concerts.

D. <u>Evening/after-school rehearsals:</u> (15%)

1. Chorale members have a weekly rehearsal on Monday nights from 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Students who do not attend Monday rehearsals will NOT be allowed to perform in concerts or at festivals.**
2. Belle Ensemble & Belle Voci members have rehearsals on Thursday afternoons from 4:15-5:15 for four to six weeks before concerts. Cantamus members will have after-school camp 1-2 times per semester. **Students who do not attend after-school rehearsals will NOT be allowed to perform in concerts or at festivals.**

E. <u>Attendance at major performances:</u> (45%)

By enrolling in choir, students are committing to attending all required events during the year. This includes <u>after-school rehearsals</u>, <u>concerts</u>, and <u>contests</u>. Certain types of absences can be made up. Each case will be considered individually and privately according to its circumstances. All decisions are made at the director's discretion and are final. You MUST notify Ms. Solberg or Mr. Weldon by email at least **TWO WEEKS** prior to your conflict in order for an absence to be considered!

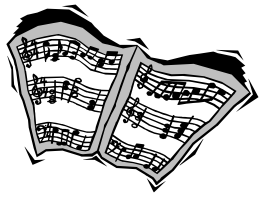
Students may make up an excused absence IF:

1) The absence is due to the student's own illness or death in the family.
2) The absence is due to a conflict with another Bellaire class or sporting event. Club sports are <u>NOT</u> excused. Please notify the directors by email at least **2 WEEKS** prior to your event so we can work out the conflict with the other teacher(s) involved.
3) The absence is due to a conflict with a religious holiday.

Students are considered UNEXCUSED if the absence is due to a "non-Bellaire" event, doctor's appointment, not having a ride, simply forgetting about the event, or not notifying the directors in a timely fashion.
<u>UNEXCUSED ABSENCES RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE EVENT.</u>

In the event of an illness on the event day, it is the parents' and student's responsibility to provide written documentation to the directors <u>the day after</u> the performance. An alternative assignment will be given and points awarded at the discretion of the directors.

1. There are 3-4 performances each semester. The majority are at BHS while some are off-campus. Failure to attend <u>any of these</u> will result in a loss of 200 points per performance. Please note that this is at least one letter grade.
2. Students must pass their pre-concert voice test in order to perform. This includes UIL. Students who do not pass will not receive credit for the concert. Live performances are a requirement of both the class and to satisfy the TEKS, which is a TEA Fine Arts mandate.



Choir Supplies

♦ **Choir binder –** Two options: Purchase one from the school for $2.
OR go buy one on your own. <u>Must be 1-inch, black, view binder.</u>
NO EXCEPTIONS!

♦ **Sharpened pencil –** Kept in the choir binder AT ALL TIMES.

♦ **Music** – provided by the school.

<u>Students are responsible to care for and maintain the quality of the music and to return it in its original condition. Any lost or damaged materials will be replaced by the student.</u>

Choir Fees

REQUIRED FOR ALL CHOIR STUDENTS

DATE DUE	DESCRIPTION	FEE
September 15	Choir fee (includes polo)	$100

Fee can be paid on one lump sum or in 4 monthly payments of $25 (September-December)
All fees must be paid before the first semester ends!

Q: WHAT DOES THE FEE PAY FOR?
A: Hiring clinicians, concert expenses, and purchasing supplies for our various social events.

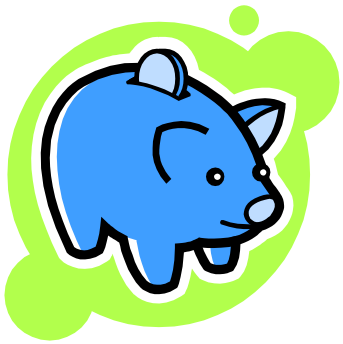
Q: WHAT IF I CANNOT PAY THE FEE?
A: Students can sell ads for the choir program. Please see the pink form in the handbook for more information.

Q: HOW DO I PAY?
A: Online payment via CHARMS, or by cash, check, or money order.
Make checks payable to: Bellaire HS Choirs.
You can pay online with a credit/debit card via Bellaire Choir website under the link "Payments." Please note: There is a convenience fee for online payments.

FEES FOR OPTIONAL CHOIR EVENTS

DATE DUE	DESCRIPTION	FEE
September 6	All-State audition fee	$20
October 31	Region Choir fee	$20
December 6	UIL Solo & Ensemble fee	$10/solo; $10/ensemble

*SPRING TRIP PAYMENT SCHEDULE ON PAGE 19.



UNIFORMS

WOMEN

Garment bag
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $30

Dress
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $80

Gloves
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $20

Pearls (BEnsem/Belle Voci only)
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $10

Necklace (Cantamus only)
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $10

Sash (Concert Chorale only)
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $30

***Black character shoes**
Purchased by student (see below)

***Choir polo**
Purchased by student from
BHS Choral Dept. - $25
Chorale-red, Cantamus-black;
Belle Ensemble/Belle Voci-gray

MEN

Garment bag
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $30

Tuxedo jacket
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $50

Tuxedo pants
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $40

Tuxedo vest
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $25

Straight black tie
Provided by BHS
Cost to replace - $10

***White dress shirt**
Provided by student

***Black dress shoes**
Provided by student

***Choir polo (red)**
Purchased by student from
BHS Choral Dept. - $25

WOMEN'S CHARACTER SHOES

Requirements	Where to purchase
♦ **Black**	♦ Amazon
♦ 1-inch or 1½-inch heel	♦ Robert & Lonnie's Dance Galaxy (Houston)
♦ Closed toe	♦ Capezio
♦ Strap	♦ Dance Trends

UNIFORM MAINTENANCE

♦ DO NOT CUT THE HEM OF DRESSES OR PANTS
♦ Uniforms are hemmed professionally for the first concert as needed
♦ Dresses must touch the top of the student's character shoe
♦ Dresses should not drag on the floor or be above the ankle
♦ Tux pants should not drag on the floor or be above the ankle
♦ Uniforms must be dry-cleaned before being returned
♦ Any unreturned or destroyed items must be paid for by the student

WHAT EVERY CONCERT CHORALE STUDENT & PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Congratulations! You and your son/daughter have either been chosen or are returning to a select group of students called Chorale. Chorale is the award-winning varsity choir. Every student in the choral program has the opportunity to audition for Chorale. However, only those students that are vocally ready, dependable, goal-oriented, academically stable, and devoted enough to give time and effort are selected. To achieve the standards and goals that are a tradition of this organization, each member and parent will be expected to be active, dependable and consistently contributing their efforts to the organization. The following facts and expectations should be discussed so that each member begins the year with the same understanding.

Chorale is a University Interscholastic League class. This means that both outside-of-school and classroom rehearsal time is utilized. **Chorale members have a required, scheduled rehearsal every Monday between 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Monday rehearsals do not include student holidays. These rehearsals are used for any project we are working on throughout the school year. All working students should arrange for Monday nights off from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. All members are required to participate in every activity, such as fundraisers and extra performances. Parents are encouraged to avoid scheduling conflicts for the students whenever possible.

All new Chorale members will be on a probationary status for one year and will be re-evaluated at semester and year-end to determine continuation in Chorale. All Chorale members can be re-auditioned and evaluated at the Director's discretion. All members are expected to be at **ALL REHEARSALS AND ALL PERFORMANCES** on time unless the Director is notified in advance of the absence. One unexcused absence from a performance will result in a conference to determine the advisability of remaining in the choir program. Two tardies to rehearsals or performances will be reviewed as to the student's ability to participate properly. This can be reflected in the student's grade as well as removal from the group. The responsibility for communicating absences/tardies and the reasons for them is the responsibility of the student. He/she must tell the director ahead of time so that details may be worked out.

Please understand that these high standards are not meant to be a burden on the student or parents. Instead, they are put in place to ensure the best possible education for all students and to build on the reputation of Bellaire High School and the Fine Arts Department. There is no limit as to what we can achieve if we all work together!

THE FIRST CHORALE EVENING REHEARSAL IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

CHORALE BREAK DOWN

Q: When does Chorale rehearse?
A: During the regular school day & **every Monday night 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Q: Are Monday night rehearsals required?
A: YES. They are graded and part of the UIL mandate.

Q: What do I do if I cannot attend Monday night?
A: If you have a required Bellaire function – e.g. game – you must speak to me as soon as possible. **Religious holidays are excused without penalty.** Other Bellaire classes – e.g. yearbook, debate, theater, band – are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What absence will NOT be excused?
A: Club sports or events; work.

Q: When does Chorale perform?
A: The following are **REQUIRED PERFORMANCES**
FALL: Homecoming, Fall Concert, Cabaret, Winter Concert
SPRING: Singing Valentines, UIL Showcase, Houston Choral Classic, Spring Trip, UIL Concert & Sight-reading, Pop Show, Graduation

Q: What social events are required?
A: Choir kick-off (fall), Lock-in (spring)

Q: What fees are required for Chorale?
A: General choir fee ($100) – includes polo

Q: Do Chorale members attend fundraisers?
A: Yes – all choir students attend car washes and perform in Cabaret and Singing Valentines.

Q: When is the busiest time for Chorale members?
A: February-April is our competition season. **Warning! Students will most likely miss school for UIL.** (Choir absences are "field trip" absences and carry no penalty at BHS.)

Q: Do grades matter for Chorale members?
A: YES! Besides the obvious fact that you would like to graduate from high school, choir members cannot perform at UIL Solo & Ensemble, on trips, or compete in All-State if they are ineligible.

Q: Do I have to audition for All-State or take voice lessons to be in Chorale?
A: No, but both of these programs are opportunities given to you to make you a more confident singer and a better musician.

Q: Do I have to attend the trip?
A: Chorale members <u>are expected</u> to attend the trip unless there is a serious personal matter. Please discuss this with the choir director.

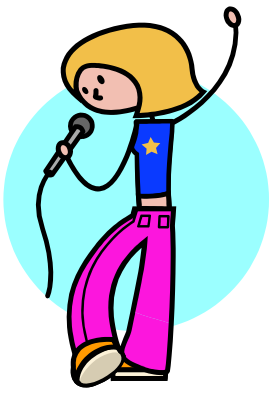
WHAT EVERY CANTAMUS STUDENT & PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Congratulations! You and your daughter have either been chosen or are returning to Cantamus Women's Choir. Cantamus is an award-winning intermediate non-varsity choir. Every student at Bellaire has the opportunity to audition for Cantamus. However, only those students that are show a strong desire to be in the choral program and musical promise are selected. To achieve the standards and goals that are a tradition of this organization, each member and parent will be expected to be active, dependable and consistently contributing their efforts to the organization. The following facts and expectations should be discussed so that each member begins the year with the same understanding.

Cantamus is a University Interscholastic League class. This means that both outside-of-school and classroom rehearsal time is utilized. **Cantamus members have 1-2 after-school camps each semester. These are required rehearsals with a guest clinician and occur on Fridays. Camp runs from 4:15-6:15.** A schedule of these rehearsals will be handed out at least two weeks before they begin. Students should arrange for rides BEFORE rehearsals begin. Parents are encouraged to not schedule conflicts for the students (e.g. doctor's appointments, etc) whenever possible.

All members are expected to be at **ALL REHEARSALS AND ALL PERFORMANCES** on time unless the Director is notified in advance of the absence. One unexcused absence from a performance will result in a conference to determine the advisability of remaining in the choir program. Two tardies to rehearsals or performances will be reviewed as to the student's ability to participate properly. This can be reflected in the student's grade as well as removal from the group. The responsibility for communicating absences/tardies and the reasons for them is the responsibility of the student. She must tell the director ahead of time so that details may be worked out.

Please understand that these high standards are not meant to be a burden on the student or parents. Instead, they are put in place to ensure the best possible education for all students and to build on the reputation of Bellaire High School and the Fine Arts Department. There is no limit as to what we can achieve if we all work together!



THE FIRST CANTAMUS CAMP IS OCTOBER 4!

CANTAMUS BREAK-DOWN

Q: When does Cantamus rehearse?
A: During the regular school day & **after school for Cantamus camp 1-2 times each semester.**

Q: Are Cantamus Camp and other after-school rehearsals required?
A: YES. They are graded and part of the UIL mandate.

Q: What do I do if I cannot attend after-school rehearsals?
A: If you have a required Bellaire function – e.g. game – you must speak to me as soon as possible. **Religious holidays are excused without penalty.** Other Bellaire classes – e.g. yearbook, debate, theater, band – are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What absence will NOT be excused?
A: Club sports or events; work.

Q: When does Cantamus perform?
A: The following are **REQUIRED PERFORMANCES**
FALL: Fall Concert, Cabaret, Winter Concert
SPRING: UIL Showcase, UIL Concert & Sightreading, Pop Show

Q: What social events are required?
A: Choir kick-off (fall); Cantamus Camp (fall & spring)

Q: What fees are required for Cantamus?
A: General choir fee ($100) – includes polo

Q: Do Cantamus members attend fundraisers?
A: Yes – all choir students attend car washes and perform in Cabaret.

Q: When is the busiest time for Cantamus members?
A: February-April is our competition season. **Warning! Students will most likely miss school for UIL.** (Choir absences are "field trip" absences and carry no penalty at BHS.)

Q: Do grades matter for Cantamus members?
A: YES! Besides the obvious fact that you would like to graduate from high school, choir members cannot perform at UIL Solo & Ensemble, on trips, or compete in All-State if they are ineligible. **Students who do not attend UIL will not be eligible to move into Chorale and will be re-evaluated at the end of the year to retain their spot in Cantamus.**

Q: Do I have to audition for All-State or take voice lessons to be in Cantamus?
A: No, but both of these programs are opportunities given to you to make you a more confident singer and a better musician.

Q: Do I have to attend the trip?
A: No. However, the choir will not compete if only a few students attend.

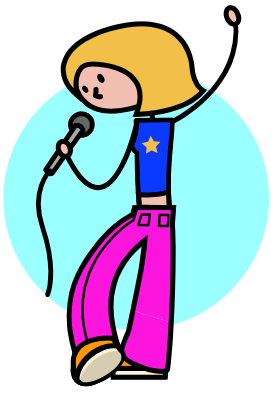
WHAT EVERY BELLE ENSEMBLE / BELLE VOCI STUDENT & PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Congratulations! You and your daughter have either been chosen or are returning to Belle Ensemble or Belle Voci Women's Choir. Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci are award-winning non-varsity choirs. Every student at Bellaire has the opportunity to audition for Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci. However, only those students that are show a strong desire to be in the choral program and musical promise are selected. To achieve the standards and goals that are a tradition of this organization, each member and parent will be expected to be active, dependable and consistently contributing their efforts to the organization. The following facts and expectations should be discussed so that each member begins the year with the same understanding.

Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci are University Interscholastic League classes. This means that both outside-of-school and classroom rehearsal time is utilized. **Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci members have a required, scheduled rehearsal Tuesday or Thursday afternoons from 4:15-5:15 for at least one month before performances in which the classes combine for performances or contests.** On occasion, Thursday rehearsals are on Tuesdays when there is a school scheduling conflict. A schedule of these rehearsals will be handed out at least two weeks before they begin. Students should arrange for rides BEFORE rehearsals begin. Parents are encouraged to not schedule conflicts for the students (e.g. doctor's appointments, etc) whenever possible.

All members are expected to be at **ALL REHEARSALS AND ALL PERFORMANCES** on time unless the Director is notified in advance of the absence. One unexcused absence from a performance will result in a conference to determine the advisability of remaining in the choir program. Two tardies to rehearsals or performances will be reviewed as to the student's ability to participate properly. This can be reflected in the student's grade as well as removal from the group. The responsibility for communicating absences/tardies and the reasons for them is the responsibility of the student. She must tell the director ahead of time so that details may be worked out.

Please understand that these high standards are not meant to be a burden on the student or parents. Instead, they are put in place to ensure the best possible education for all students and to build on the reputation of Bellaire High School and the Fine Arts Department. There is no limit as to what we can achieve if we all work together!



THE FIRST BELLE BASH IS NOVEMBER 15!
THE FIRST BELLE ENSEMBLE / BELLE VOCI AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSAL IS JANUARY 30!

BELLE ENSEMBLE / BELLE VOCI BREAK-DOWN

Q: When do Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci rehearse?
A: During the regular school day & **Thursdays in the spring from 4:15-5:15 p.m.**

Q: Are Thursday rehearsals required?
A: YES. They are graded and part of the UIL mandate.

Q: What do I do if I cannot attend after-school rehearsals?
A: If you have a required Bellaire function – e.g. game – you must speak to me as soon as possible. **Religious holidays are excused without penalty.** Other Bellaire classes – e.g. yearbook, debate, theater, band – are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What absence will NOT be excused?
A: Club sports or events; work.

Q: When do Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci perform?
A: The following are **REQUIRED PERFORMANCES**
FALL: Fall Concert, Cabaret, Winter Concert
SPRING: UIL Showcase, UIL Concert & Sightreading, Pop Show

Q: What social events are required?
A: Choir kick-off (fall); Belle Bash (fall & spring)

Q: What fees are required for Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci?
A: General choir fee ($100) – includes polo

Q: Do Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci members attend fundraisers?
A: Yes – all choir students attend car washes and perform in Cabaret.

Q: When is the busiest time for Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci members?
A: February-April is our competition season. **Warning! Students will most likely miss school for UIL.** (Choir absences are "field trip" absences and carry no penalty at BHS.)

Q: Do grades matter for Belle Ensemble and Belle Voci members?
A: YES! Besides the obvious fact that you would like to graduate from high school, choir members cannot perform at UIL Solo & Ensemble, on trips, or compete in All-State if they are ineligible. **Students who do not attend UIL will not be eligible to move into Cantamus or Chorale.**

Q: Do I have to audition for All-State or take voice lessons to be in either group?
A: No, but both of these programs are opportunities given to you to make you a more confident singer and a better musician.

Q: Do I have to attend the trip?
A: No. However, the choir will not compete if only a few students attend.

Major Choir Dates 2019-2020

ALL CHOIR MEMBERS (*Required)

Event	Date	Location
*All-Parent Meeting	September 19	BHS Auditorium
*Choir kick-off	September 20	Cafeteria
*Fall Concert	October 17	BHS Auditorium
*Cabaret	November 1 & 2	Willow Meadows Baptist Church
*Winter Concert	December 13	BHS Auditorium
Spring Trip Meeting	February 27	Cafeteria
*UIL Showcase Concert	March 12	Willow Meadows Baptist Church
Spring Trip	March 19-24	New York City & Carnegie Hall
*UIL Concert & Sight-reading	Mar 31-April 1 (NVarsity) April 15-16 (Varsity)	St. Peter's UMC (Katy) Westbury Baptist Church
*Pop Show Dress Rehearsal	May 14	BHS Auditorium
*Pop Show	May 15	BHS Auditorium
*Choir Banquet	May 29	Braeburn Country Club

CHORALE ONLY REQUIRED EVENTS

Event	Date	Location
Homecoming game	September 27	Butler Stadium
Lock-In	February 21-22	Willow Meadows Baptist Church
Singing Valentines	February 13	BHS
Pre-UIL Performance & Clinic	April 3	Willow Meadows Baptist Church
Graduation	TBA	Reliant

Major Choir Dates (cont.) 2019-2020

NV REQUIRED EVENTS - Cantamus, Belle Voci (BV), & Belle Ensemble (BE)

Event	Date	Location
Cantamus Camp #1	October 4	Choir room
Belle Bash #1	November 15	Choir room
Cantamus Camp #2	January 31	Choir room
Belle Bash #2	January 31	Choir room
NV Pre-UIL Performance & Clinic (Cantamus, BE, BV)	February 28	Willow Meadows Baptist Church

HONOR OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Event	Date	Location
All-State District Auditions *(Deadline: September 6)*	September 28	Cinco Ranch HS (Katy)
All-State Region Auditions	October 26	Morton Ranch HS (Katy)
Region Weekend *(Deadline: October 31)*	November 8 & 9	Cinco Ranch HS (11/9) Westbury Baptist (11/10)
All-State Pre-Area Auditions	November 16	Elsik HS (Alief)
All-State Area Auditions	January 11	Ridge Point HS (Fort Bend)
UIL Solo & Ensemble *(Deadline: December 6)*	February 8	Mayde Creek HS (Katy)
TMEA All-State Choir	February 12-15	San Antonio
Madrigal Choir Competition Trip	April 23-26	San Antonio or South Padre
UIL State Solo & Ensemble	May 30 or June 1	UT (Austin)

→ A COMPLETE CALENDAR WITH FUNDRAISERS, ETC. WILL BE HANDED OUT NO LATER THAN THREE WEEKS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

→ ADDITIONAL DATES MAY BE ADDED AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES.

Description of Choir Performances

FALL

♫ FALL CONCERT
The Fall Concert is the premier performance of all choirs to our parents, friends, and community. This is a **mandatory, graded** event.

♫ HOMECOMING
Chorale performs the anthem at one of the biggest games of the year. **Graded, mandatory.**

♫ CABARET
Primarily a fundraiser for the Spring Trip, this is an evening of popular music performed by the choir. Dinner will be served by the choir while selected soloists and ensembles perform for our guests. This is a **mandatory, graded** event.

♫ WINTER/HOLIDAY CONCERT
The second concert of the year, the Choirs combine with the Bellaire Orchestras for an evening of music to get you ready for winter break. A reception follows provided by the Friends of the Bellaire Choir and Bellaire Orchestra. This is a **mandatory, graded** event.

SPRING

♫ SINGING VALENTINES
Singing Valentines are performed at BHS on (or as close to) Valentine's Day by **Chorale** members. While only Chorale performs, all choir members can and should sell valentines.

♫ UIL SHOWCASE
This is the third concert of the year, held in March. Featured at this performance are students who received superior ratings on class I solos at the UIL Solo & Ensemble Festival. The choirs also perform the music to be sung at the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest in April. This is a **mandatory, graded** event.

♫ PRE-UIL PERORMANCE & CLINIC
Concert Chorale, Chorale Women, and Chorale Men participate in a Pre-UIL performance & clinic in preparation for UIL. In addition to a written critiques, each choir takes part in a workshop. This is a **mandatory, graded** event.

♫ UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING
The biggest competition of the year! Each choir performs three pieces and sight-reads before three distinguished judges. This event occurs during the school day. **This is a mandatory, graded event. Students who do not attend will NOT have a make-up assignment.**

Description of Choir Performances

SPRING (cont.)

♫ SPRING TRIP
This year's Spring Trip will be to New York City and a performance in Carnegie Hall! While the trip is a lot of fun, it is also a performance for the choirs. Chorale members are required to attend. (Exceptions can be made for very special circumstances.) Please see pages 20 & 21 for more information and a listing of fundraising opportunities. A pre-trip meeting is **required** for all attending students and their parents.

♫ POP SHOW DRESS REHEARSAL
The dress rehearsal for the Pop Show is a **required, graded** event. Students must be present at the rehearsal to perform in the pop show. The rehearsal is all day at BHS.

♫ POP SHOW
This is the final concert of the year. All choirs learn and perform choreographed songs. For this performance, the choir members wear costumes usually requiring a minimal cost. While this concert features the seniors, it is also part of the curriculum and is therefore a **mandatory, graded** event.

Description of Choir Social Events

♫ CHOIR KICK-OFF
This is a night of fun, fellowship, and food! The choir kick-off is the first social event of the year and a necessity for choir bonding. This is a required event for all choir members. The choir boosters provide pizza; students provide sides. **This is a mandatory, graded event.**

♫ CANTAMUS CAMP
Cantamus Camp is a night of music and fun in preparation for the fall concert and the year as a whole. The choir will rehearse, have dinner, and get to know each other outside of the regular school day. The spring camp is to prepare for the UIL competition season. **These are mandatory, graded events. Cantamus officers may schedule an additional camp.**

♫ CHORALE LOCK-IN
The lock-in is an overnight event in preparation for the UIL competition season. The choir rehearses Friday night and Saturday morning, as well as participates in team-building activities. **This is a mandatory, graded event.**

♫ BELLE BASH
Belle Bash (for Belle Ensemble & Belle Voci) is a night of music and fun in preparation for the winter concert. The choir will rehearse, have dinner, and get to know each other outside of the regular school day. The spring Belle Bash is to prepare for the UIL competition season. **These are mandatory, graded events.**

♫ BANQUET
The choir banquet is a fun night of food and fellowship. At the last social event of the year, students are presented with certificates and trophies honoring their participation in the Bellaire Choirs. Parents are encouraged to attend this formal dinner.

Description of Honor Opportunities

♫ MADRIGAL CHOIR
Madrigal Choir is a select group of 14-18 choir students. Singers must be currently enrolled in Chorale and have exhibited excellent choir skills and dedication. Rehearsals will occur 1-2 times a week after school and on some weekends. Madrigal Choir will perform at most concerts and contests, including the Madrigal Choir Festival in San Antonio. The choir is also responsible for improving public relations by performing at various middle schools, hospitals, and community centers.

♫ ALL-STATE CHOIR
Any Bellaire Choir student can audition for one of three All-State Choirs. The All-State Choirs perform at the TMEA convention in San Antonio in February. Students are selected from all over Texas through a series of auditions: **District, Region, Pre-Area, and Area**. Students begin learning the music in the summer before school begins. Interested students should talk to the director in the spring. This is an extra-curricular event.

♫ ALL-STATE DISTRICT AUDITIONS
The first stage in the All-State process. Fee of $20. *Deadline: September 6.*

♫ ALL-STATE REGION AUDITIONS
The second stage in the All-State process. Only students who have passed District participate in Region auditions.

♫ REGION CHOIR
Region Weekend is a two-day rehearsal & performance for select students in the choral program. Students are selected for the Region Mixed and Treble choirs based on their Region Audition. The Region Honor Choir is made up of students chosen by the Director. It is open to freshmen and sophomore women and men in all grades. Fee of $20. *Deadline: October 31.*

♫ ALL-STATE PRE-AREA & AREA AUDITIONS
The third and fourth stages of the All-State process. Only students who qualify out of the previous rounds of auditions participate. In addition to performing the All-State music, students must also sight-read for these rounds.

♫ UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE
Solo & Ensemble contest is beneficial toward the continual vocal development of the each individual as well as the entire choral department. Students sing a solo and/or perform in an ensemble for a judge. The judge provides feedback and rating on a scale of I (superior) – V (poor). Students who receive a superior rating on a class I solo can perform on the UIL Showcase Concert and qualify for the State Contest in Austin which takes place in May. **Madrigal Choir** is required to participate in this event. Eligibility is required. Fee of $10/solo; $10/ for each member in an ensemble. Accompanist fee separate. *Deadline: December 6..*

♫ STATE UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE
This is only for students who qualify from the February contest. Accompanist fee of $10.

SPRING TRIP

Each year the BHS Choir attends a music festival or competition outside the Houston area. This year all choirs will be going together to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall. An installment plan will be offered beginning September 16, 2019 and ending February 15, 2020. A deposit of $250.00 is due no later than September 16 and is a required to ensure the student has a seat on the plane. Please note that the estimated cost for this trip is $2200. This includes all hotel and festival fees, transportation, most meals, and any entertainment for the entire trip.

Each choir member will be excused from classes for the duration of the trip. Each choir member is responsible for earning his/her share of the trip cost. Students are given the opportunity to participate in fund-raising activities during the year to earn money to pay the individual cost. Parents are encouraged to chaperone the trip. Be aware, however, that chaperones are also required to pay the full cost of the trip or raise the money on their own. An itinerary, which will give all pertinent information concerning the trip and trip regulations, will be made available to students and parents prior to the trip.

Trip payment schedule

September 16	Deposit for Spring Trip	$250
September 30	Spring Trip payment	$250
October 15	Spring Trip payment	$250
November 15	Spring Trip payment	$250
December 16	Spring Trip payment	$300
January 15	Spring Trip payment	$400
February 15	Spring Trip payment	Balance due

Most Frequently Asked Trip Question: *Can I pay the entire cost in February?*
Unfortunately, no. We have to make payments every month to our tour company. If we miss payments, our trip will be cancelled.

CHOIR LETTERS

The Booster Club provides letters for any student who qualifies. A point sheet will be handed out in April for students to complete. Students can earn letter points by being in choir, auditioning for All-State, and participating in UIL Solo & Ensemble events. Students must be eligible for all events to earn letter points. Letters are awarded at the choir banquet at the end of the school year.

UIL ELIGIBILITY LAW

→ According to state law and HISD policy, each child must maintain eligibility (passing all classes with a 70% or above) to participate in any extra-curricular activity in which students are not graded. Extra-curricular activities which apply to this law are defined as:

- Those which are UIL-sponsored events. Concert & Sightreading is no longer under this rule. However, students must pass a voice test to attend.
- Any after-school performance or off-campus event which is not graded.
- Any competition or contest.

Participation also means leaving BHS. An ineligible student may not attend the event as a spectator.

FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

With hard work, it is possible for every student to attend a choir trip. These fundraisers are *your* opportunity to raise money.

Fall Semester

Car washes Sept. 14 & Oct. 5

Crosspoint Church (Bellaire Blvd & Avenue B)

Students are asked to work at least six hours (one full day or two half days). Funds will go into the Booster account to pay for choir activities and trip costs.

Poinsettia & Wreath Sale September-October

HUGE MONEY GENERATOR! Students have earned as much as $1000 on this fundraiser. Students and parents sell poinsettias during the above dates; delivery in December. Students will earn money based on number sold.

Cabaret (Willow Bend Baptist) November 1 & 2

Parents and students sell tickets to Cabaret performance and dinner. Proceeds will go in the Booster account for choir activities and trip costs.

Spring Semester

Singing Valentines Jan 30 – Feb 12

All choir members sell singing valentines to the student body. Chorale will perform Valentines on February 13th. Students will earn money based on number sold.

Year-long – a GREAT way to raise money for your choir fees and the trip!

Ad Sales and Donations

Businesses and parents can purchase ad space to be included in the programs of each of the four choir concerts of the year. One ad form (pink) and one donation form (green) are available in the back of this handbook; photocopy as needed. 50% of ad sales and donations are allocated for the trip of the student in whose name the ad or donation is placed. The remaining 50% goes into the Booster account.

QUESTIONS???? JUST ASK! WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

BOOSTER INFORMATION

Parents: This page is for YOU!

What does it mean to be a choir parent?

First and foremost, your child needs your support at concerts.
If you can't do anything else, please attend performances – it means a lot to the students to see family in the audience.

Second, your child needs you to chaperone events.
We cannot attend competitions without parents. This is the law!

Third, the choir needs volunteers at fundraisers.
Your time is valuable! Many hands make light work.

Finally, your child needs you to **understand** and **respect** the choir calendar.
This means checking the calendar for required events before scheduling doctor's appointments, family vacations, etc. ***Most importantly, help your child balance schoolwork, choir, and the numerous other activities in which he or she is involved.***

But don't worry! You have help. The following parents have graciously volunteered to lead the Boosters. They need YOU to attend meetings & events – GET INVOLVED!

E-mail: bellairechoirboosters@gmail.com

President: Gil Arrazolo
VP: Kevin Davidson
Secretary: Michelle Ohler
Treasurer: Erin Kimzey
Car wash Chair: Greg Roberts
Cabaret Chair: Jeff Hardin
Poinsettia Chair: Michelle Ohler

Parent Booster meetings

Fall
Sept. 19 – 6:30 p.m. (Cafetiera) **Mandatory!**
Oct. 10 – 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes)
Nov. 14 – 6:30 p.m. (Choir room)

Spring
Jan. 9 – 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes)
Feb. 20 – 6:30 p.m. (TBD)
April 9 – 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes)
May 7 – 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes)