**Choirs Syllabus - 2016-2017**

Welcome to parents and students! I am now looking back at 18 finished years at Berean and I am so thankful to God, my students, their parents, my fellow teachers, and the amazing administration. Our music department is an exciting place to be and it has taken all of these people to build it to what it is.

**Program overview**

The BCHS Choral Program has a place for everyone, regardless of grade level or previous music experience. The only requirement is that you show a sincere commitment to singing, a readiness to learn, and an attitude of respect and cooperation.

We want to build both the love and knowledge of music.  The three choirs will learn a variety of music styles and genres: sacred and secular.  Each choir will sing pieces chosen especially for their level of experience and a number of pieces will be sung with all three groups together. These stretch the newer members and add ‘umph’ for the audience. You will enjoy these pieces in the concerts.

**Learning outcomes**

In the BCHS Choral Program, the teaching and learning process is directed toward producing three primary outcomes.

Choir students will learn to use their voice as an instrument. The language of music will be learned and refined, and also the skills will be taught that are needed to participate successfully in an ensemble. We have a number of concerts and singing opportunities throughout the school year.

**Attendance**

It is vital that each choir always sings at their highest level, and that each choir gains valuable experience in learning to work as a group.  Musicianship, good citizenship, enthusiasm, and positive group interaction are expected of every member.  Consequences of poor participation will result in a loss of weekly participation points.

**Concert attire**

For the school chapel performances at Easter, Christmas, and the Pop’s Concert, the students will need to have nice black slacks, or a long black skirt, and a nice shirt or top. Our more formal concerts, which are the Christmas and Spring Concert, and the tours for the Chorale and Singers, will be the time for our formal wear: Choir robes for Concert Choir, Dresses for the Girls’ Chorale, and Tuxes and Dresses for Singers. Ordering will begin soon after school begins for the Chorale and Singers. The choir robes are free, and the dresses will be approximately 85.00, which includes all of the measuring and fittings. The young men in Singers need to have a black suit or black tuxedo and tux shirt, bow tie, and cummerbund. The dress company can measure and provide the tux, but you are free to buy your own also. It's good to get going on this soon because you can take advantage of sales and not be in a rush when they are needed.

**Grading policy**

Each choir student has the opportunity to earn an “A” grade in choir.  This grade will be based on your daily class participation and performance attendance, not your talent or personality.  The concerts are much of the student’s grade because these are Performing Art’s classes. Other grading criteria include conduct, behavior, and readiness to learn.

**School Chapels and Concerts for all Choirs**

Pops Concerts - Friday and Saturday - October 7 and 8, 7 pm in the gym.

ALS sing for Prospective parent day - Nov. 5, 2016 - (9:00-10:05)

Christmas Chapel - Wed., December 14, 9:55 am, gym

Christmas Concert - THURSDAY (yes, Thursday), December 15 - 7:00, gym

Rehearsal for Choirs - 4:30 pm.

Wed., April 12 - Easter Chapel, 9:55 am, gym

April 21&22, Friday and Saturday, Spring musical, 7:00, gym

May 12, Friday, Spring Concert, 7:00, gym, Rehearsal for Choirs, 4:30 pm

May 21, Sunday, Baccalaureate, 3:00, NorthCreek Church in Walnut Creek

May 27, Friday, Graduation, 7:30, at Golden Hills Church in Brentwood

For Girls Chorale and Singers - You will receive more detailed letters a couple of weeks before each tour

Chorale Tour - Feb. 15-19 - Wed. through Sunday - cost 350.00, tours include all food (except Wednesday’s lunch), add $43 for a park hopper pass

Singers Tour - March 1-5, - Wed. through Sunday - cost 350.00

(Singers, affectionately called ALS, (Abundant Life Singers - the old name) have several outside school chapels and or concerts during each school year.  They will find out the dates as they are schedules during the school year.)