

Diamond Bar High School Choir Handbook

Year: 2018-2019

***Great expectations lead to great
achievement***



Dear Diamond Bar High School Choir Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I am so pleased that you are all a part of our Choir family! I am so excited for this school year. This year is going to be filled with many challenges. In rebuilding this program, we are going to need parents and student support as we continue to grow our program into one of the best in the country. Scheduling and grading will be a little different than previous years. It is my goal to give your students the greatest choir experience that any school can give. More information will be coming to you within the next couple of weeks. I cannot wait to personally work with every single one of you this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. O'Connell

Great Expectations/Great Achievement

When you become a student of the DBHS Choir Program, you become part of an ongoing family. Here at Diamond Bar, great expectations are put upon you not only by the school, but by Mr. O'Connell. Here is how our programs meets these expectations.

1. We begin after school Wednesday rehearsals for our competing groups (Solitaire 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Marquis 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) On August 29th 2018. These rehearsal and mandatory, however arrangements can be made if a student needs to miss a rehearsal. An email must be sent to me 24 hours in advance.
2. Saturday Rehearsals will be held before any concert except for Show Choir Showcase.
3. Competition season starts 2/16/19 to 4/13/19

4. We will have Fall, Winter, Showcase, and Spring shows.

The choir room is a place where hard work, dedication, and respect are required. This is how our groups will become extraordinary! These are my 4 basic expectations in the choir room.

1. When the instructor speaks, you do not.
2. Be ready to work BEFORE the bell rings.
3. On music days you should always have a pencil with you.
4. Respect your fellow classmates.

These expectations are to help you grow!

Grades:

Grading is simple in choir. 50% comes from participation. Students are graded each week for participation. Each week is a total of 50 points equating to 10 points a day, unless it is a short week. Students will lose 5 points a day if they are tardy and 10 points if they are absent. A general rule of thumb is if the school excuses a tardy or absence than I will excuse a tardy or absence and the student will get all 10 points for the day. If you are going to miss a day you need to email Mr. O'Connell 24 hours in advance.

On Saturday rehearsals, Wednesday after school tech rehearsals, and Show call times, students will be required to sign in. If they do not than they lose all the points for the rehearsal or performance. The only way they can make up these points is if they help clean up after rehearsal or performance is done. For Solitaire and Marquis, competitions also count as shows and are graded as such. These rehearsals and shows are worth 100 points.

Wednesday tech rehearsals, Saturday rehearsals, Shows and Competitions cannot be missed unless there is; a loss of a family member, serious medical emergency, a vacation planned before you received these dates, and any other emergencies or situations. If this is the case please let Mr. O'Connell know A.S.A.P.!

The other 50% comes from writing assignments. Writing assignments will be given throughout the year. A student will always get full credit if they turn the writing in on time and if the student has thoughtfully completed the assignment each writing assignment is worth 50 points.

Donations:

A donation letter will be handed out separately from this documents, more info will be presented there. Donations can be made all at once or scheduled throughout the year with Mr. O'Connell. Donations are vital to our program. Once again more info will be put into another documents. This being said: any contribution to this program is voluntary. No student's participation in the program will be affected by whether the student donates money or an item to the program.

Sponsorships and Advertisements in our Programs:

I am currently planning to ask for sponsorships. I have created a form that can be given out with our info. I am asking for your help finding sponsors. If you or someone you know owns a business or would want to make a tax deductible donation/sponsorship, please let me know! We will also be putting advertisements in our programs. This info will be on another document.

Choir Schedule 2018-2019:

Fall:

9/29/18: Saturday Fall Choir Concert Rehearsal: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10/3/18: Wednesday Fall Tech Rehearsal: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

10/4/18: Fall Choir Concert: Call time 6 p.m./Show Time 7 p.m.

Winter:

12/1/18: Saturday Winter Choir Concert Rehearsal: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12/5/18: Wednesday Winter Concert Tech Rehearsal: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12/7/18 - 12/8/18: Winter Choir Concert: Call time 6 p.m./Show Time 7 p.m.

12/20/18 – 12/21/18: Marquis Retreat: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

12/22/18: Bingo!

1/4/19 – 1/5/19: Solitaire Retreat: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Spring (Competition Season):

2/16/19: Arcadia Show Choir Comp (Times TBA)

2/22/19 – 2/23/19: Chaparral Show Choir Comp (Dates and times TBA)

2/27/19: Walnut Valley USD Choral Fest: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

2/28/19 – 3/1/19: Show Choir Showcase: Call time 6 p.m./Show time 7 p.m.

3/9/19: Bingo!

3/15/19 – 3/16/19: Los Alamitos Show Choir Comp (Dates and times TBA)

3/22/19 – 3/23/19: Katella Show Choir Comp (Dates and times TBA)

4/13/19: FAME Hollywood (National Show Choir Competition): All day event

Spring:

5/11/19: Saturday Spring Show Rehearsal: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

5/15/19: Wednesday Spring Show Tech Rehearsal: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

5/16/19 – 5/17/19 Spring Choir Show: Call time 6 p.m./Show time 7 p.m.

Our Staff 2018-2019

Vince O'Connell – Director

Keresey Dillon – Choreographer

Alyssa DeBoo – Choreographer

John Burlace – Competition Season Arranger