**Please fill out this form and turn into Mrs. Rickert. Keep the Choir Handbook for your reference.**

**2016-2017 Choir Permission Slip**

**My child has permission to participate in choir rehearsals and choir concerts during the 2016-2017 school year. I have read and understood the expectations in the BPMS Choir Handbook. I also give permission to have photos and video taken of my child during concerts and events for the purpose of publicity for BPMS Choir which may be seen in newspapers, school websites, and the like.**

**Choir is a year-long commitment. Choir rehearsals will be held during Encore during the school day. Once signed up, students will then be committed to be in choir at the designated rehearsal times. The deadline to submit permission slips to join choir is Friday, August 26, 2016.**

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2016-2017 Choir Information Form**

**Student information**- **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Team \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Have you been in choir before?* \_\_yes \_\_no If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_\_

*Are you in Band? \_\_yes \_\_no If yes, which band? \_\_\_Cadet \_\_\_Concert \_\_\_Symphonic*

*Do you play piano? \_\_yes \_\_no If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_*

**Parent/Guardian information**- **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) (please list the number that is best to reach you) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Email (required)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Will your child take the bus or get picked up from after school rehearsals?* \_\_\_\_bus \_\_\_pick-up

**Please check off any volunteer opportunities you might be interested in:**

\_\_Chaperone events \_\_Fundraising assistance \_\_Concert day- photos/video

\_\_Concert day- setup/tear down equipment \_\_Concert day- help at the door

**\*Please read entire handbook, sign and return the permission slip. Keep this handbook for your records.**

**Beach Park Middle School Choir 2016-2017 Handbook**

Jennifer Rickert, Choir Director

Phone: 847-596-5817

Email: [jrickert@bpd3.org](mailto:jrickert@bpd3.org)

Website: <http://bpd3music.weebly.com>

**Purpose of Choir**

Beach Park Middle School Choir (BPMS Choir) is a performance-based music group. The purpose of choir is to teach the basics of healthy singing using a variety of choral literature. Choir fosters a drive for excellence while teaching the importance of teamwork, dedication, and creativity. Through this, choir prepares students for choral experiences in high school as well as a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts.

**Rehearsals**

**Choir is a year-long commitment. Choir rehearsals will be held during Encore during the school day. Once signed up, students will then be committed to be in choir at the designated rehearsal times. The deadline to submit permission slips to join choir is Friday, August 26th, 2016.**

**6th-8th Grade Choir will meet everyday during the Encore period (1:20 PM-1:55 PM).**

**Students can be in both BAND and CHOIR. This requires pre-approval from both the band directors and the choir director. Students in both band and choir will meet for Choir on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.**

**Students in RTI cannot be in choir since both classes meet during Encore. If, however, students no longer need RTI as a class they can join choir at the beginning of the new trimester.**

Occasionally after school rehearsals will occur throughout the year. Some examples will include choir whole choir rehearsals to prepare for an upcoming contest or concert, solo auditions, fundraising activities, or parties. After school rehearsals will be from 2:00-3:30. There will be a 3:30 activity bus available to take students home in the afternoon. Please indicate on the permission slip/information form whether your child will need the bus or will be picked-up.

**Rehearsal Attendance**

Choir is a performance based group. **Consistent attendance of all choir members is crucial to the success of a performance.** We are a team and every member is important! Students must attend rehearsal in order to participate in concerts, contests, parties, and solo auditions. With that in mind, an attendance policy is necessary for the success of the whole group.

**Excused absences**

Students will have an excused absence from rehearsals and concerts if they were marked absent from school that day. Other excused absences include doctor's appointments, funerals, and family emergency situations. I will require an email from choir member's parents/guardian to make the absence excused. Students are still responsible for making up missing work given during a rehearsal as well as learning their part for a performance. **Students that do not attend a concert, even if it is excused, will need to make up their performance grade by singing their part for the choir director at a time determined by the director.**

**Unexcused absences**

Students who have 3 unexcused absences may be asked to discontinue choir. Examples of unexcused absences include: missing a choir rehearsal during Encore, missing an after school rehearsal without notice, missing concerts. This includes going to another club instead of a mandatory after school rehearsal.

**After School Clubs and Activities**

There are many instances where students want to participate in other extracurricular activities and sports in addition to choir. I want students to have the ability to be involved in many different things. Choir during Encore allows students to participate in more. After school choir rehearsals will usually occur right before a concert or contest and therefore will be mandatory. However, if there is a direct conflict with choir rehearsals and another activity, the student will need to decide which activity they will participate. Students may use one of their three unexcused absences from choir if they choose to go to another club or sport instead of a mandatory rehearsal. As said before, choir is a performance based group and each member is important to its success. If a student is not present at rehearsals, they will not be as prepared as others for the performance which will affect the group.

**Grade**

Choir is a graded subject, similar to any other exploratory class and performance ensemble such as band. Grades and assessments are based on student knowledge and understanding of concepts and skills learned in rehearsal in addition to the demonstration of developing singing skills. Choir students are responsible to make-up any missing written work and assessments. Grades will be determined by the following scale:

**40%- Daily rehearsal participation**. This includes singing and written work.

**20%- Written assessment.**  The written assessment will be given once a trimester and demonstrate student knowledge in music concepts such as note reading, music symbols, and interpretation of music.

**10%- Individual singing assessment.** The singing assessment will also be given once a trimester. It will include sight-singing as well as singing a part from music prepared during rehearsal.

**30%- Concerts.** Singing in a performance demonstrates the culmination of all ideas learned in rehearsal and is the end result of our goals.

**Choir Expectations**

Choir is a school activity and will follow the same **Eagle Expectations** used throughout the school. In all choir events, including rehearsals, concerts, and parties, I expect students to do the following:

**Be Safe**

* Keep hands and feet to self.
* Keep gum and food out of mouth during rehearsals (this is a choking hazard).
* Walk in the classroom.

**Be Responsible**

* Be prepared with materials posted on the board before rehearsal starts.
* Be on time.
* Be ready to sing and participate.
* Use music equipment appropriately.
* Put materials away after rehearsals and concerts.

**Be Respectful**

* Use kind words to everyone in choir.
* Listen to others.
* Follow directions from the choir director.
* Talk only during appropriate times (before and after rehearsal, between songs, during breaks).
* Keep electronic devices in lockers.

Students who do not follow expectations will receive consequences in this order:

* Student/teacher conference
* Consequence in accordance with school discipline policy
* Parental contact
* Removal from choir

These consequences are meant in particular for instances where a student continually displays physical contact, unkind behavior, does not follow directions and/or participate through singing. I want choir to be a safe and fun place for all students.

**Concerts**

Performing in a concert is an exciting experience. All of our hard work in rehearsals is demonstrated when we sing for our family and friends. The following concerts and contests have been scheduled for the 2016-2017 school year. Please mark your calendars!

Fall Band/Choir Concert @BPMS 7PM- **November 3, 2016**

Spaghetti Dinner Concert@BPMS 5PM-8PM**- January 26th, 2017**

Pop&Feeder School Concert @ZBTHS- **February 21, 2017**

NIMCon Solo and Ensemble Contest @Lake Zurich(7th and 8th grade by invitation only)- **February 25th, 2017**

NIMCon Organizational Contest @Hawthorne MS- **March 10th, 2017**

Festival of Fine Arts @BPMS- **April 8th, 2017**

Spring Contest- TBA

Spring Concert- TBA

Other performances will be announced well ahead of time. Students are responsible for transportation to and from concerts. Appropriate attire and behavior is expected**. Attendance at concerts is mandatory.** Only students that are absent from school the day of the concert or whose parent/guardian has communicated with the director via email about their absence will be excused. If the student does not attend the concert, they are responsible for making up the grade by singing their part at a time determined by the director.

**Field Trip**

We are planning an optional trip to see a musical at a local venue this year. The field trip will be after school and cost will be determined by the number of students and parents attending. This is great experience for students to see professional vocalists perform.

**Concert Attire**

Depending on the concert, we will dress in either formal or casual attire. I will announce well ahead of time which attire is needed for different concerts. The BPMS dress code applies to choir events.

**Formal/Contest attire**:

Black dress pants/skirt (fingertip length or longer)- no jeans, no leggings unless under a skirt.

Black dress shoes -no sneakers or flip flops

White dress shirt (such as a button down blouse)- no t-shirts. Shirt must be all white, please no other color including off-white, stripes, polka dots, etc.

Boys- black tie (clip-ons are OK)

**\*During a contest we will wear our choir shirt instead of the white dress shirt but still wear black pants and shoes.**

**Casual attire**:

Choir t-shirt (order form will be sent home). Every choir student must order a t-shirt

Jeans- no holes in jeans.

Shoes- no sandals

**Fundraising**

Choir is a self-funded activity. Fundraising is essential to maintain growth in our choir program. Students need to participate in at least one choir fundraiser to attend our Spring Contest. We need funds to purchase the following:

* Music
* Accompanist fees
* Supplies
* Contest Fees
* Sound Equipment

**BPMS Choir Boosters**

All parents of choir members are automatically part of the BPMS Choir Boosters. Parents can serve on one of several committees such as fundraising, publicity, social event planning, performance attire. There will be an informational meeting at the beginning of the school year to organize booster efforts.

**Choir Committees and Officers**

Every student in choir will have an opportunity to sign-up to be on a committee. Committees will include music library, flyers and posters, choir recruitment, equipment crew, and fundraising. Occasionally committees will meet after school.

Student leadership is a valuable part of choir. 7th or 8th grade students who have participated in choir for at least one year may be appointed for a choir officer position. If chosen, choir officers should set an example to other choir members by going above and beyond during choir rehearsals, being respectful during rehearsals and concerts, and encouraging other members.

**Choir Awards**

Students need to be recognized for their hard work and commitment to choir. Every choir member that completes the year will receive a certificate and a choir pin. In addition, one choir member from each grade level will receive an award for showing excellence and going above and beyond in choir.