

BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

Music Program Handbook 2010-2011

Music Department Faculty:

**Todd M. Mastric
Michael Weinberg
Laura Van Duzer**

703-237-1462

**tmastric@bishopoconnell.org
mweinberg@bishopoconnell.org
lvanduzer@bishopoconnell.org**

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Bishop O'Connell Music Program

Concert Band-Mr. Mastric

Admission to the course is based on playing experience and a placement examination.

Students will learn about musicianship through the performance of traditional and modern band literature. The goal of this course is to develop the student's skills as a musical artisan. That means guiding the students to learn the theoretical concepts behind what is being performed, to develop skills as an instrumentalist, and to gain knowledge in proper concert performance etiquette. This course will also develop each student's concept of teamwork and esprit de corps.

Symphonic Band-Mr. Mastric

Admission to this course is based on playing ability through a placement examination. In this course the advanced students will earn honors credit and continue to progress in band performance. The students will also be challenged through learning the music theory behind what will be performed. The goal of this course is to further develop musical artists. That means guiding the student to become independently thinking, working, and literate musicians. Because this is an honors course, a strict code of practice, discipline, and performance is required to succeed in this class. This course will also take the development of teamwork and esprit de corps to the highest possible level. Projects for this honors class include participation in out side of class groups related to the student's instrument.

Orchestra-Mr. Weinberg

Admission to this course is based on playing experience and a placement examination. The orchestra consists of violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students study and perform all periods and styles of orchestral literature. The goal of this course is to grow as musical artists. That means guiding the students to become independently thinking, working, and literate musicians. Students will not only play as a full orchestra, but will also create smaller ensembles to cover a larger variety of string music. This course will also take the development of teamwork and esprit de corps to the highest possible level. Honors credit is available for students after playing in the orchestra for two years.

AP Music Theory-Mr. Mastric

This course is offered to students who have a strong foundation in music, and who have the desire to further understand Western music. Students will work at a college pace mastering musical rudiments such as notation, intervals, scales and keys, chords, metric organization, and rhythmic patterns.

Students will also work on aural skills, compositional skills, sight-singing skills, and analytical skills as they apply to music theory. Success on the AP exam is the main focus and goal of this class.

Jazz Ensemble-Tuesday and Thursday School 3:15pm to 4:30pm

Mr. Mastric/Ms. Van Duzer

Admission to this course is based on playing ability through a placement examination. The ensemble will be made up of the standard big band instrumentation. Students will learn many different styles of popular music including, jazz, rock, fusion, Latin, and blues. Each student within the ensemble will also learn jazz theory, jazz history, and the art of improvisation. This class meets Tuesday and Thursday after school.

Concert Choir-Mr. Weinberg

Concert Choir is a mixed ensemble for all types of singers. Honors credit is available for singers who have been in a choral ensemble for two or more years. The students perform at major concerts, special performances, and occasionally mass. The students will also be challenged through learning the music

theory behind what will be performed. The goal of this course is to develop musical artists. That means guiding the student to become independently thinking, working, and literate musicians. This course will also develop each student's concept of teamwork and esprit de corps.

O'Connell Singers-Mr. Weinberg

Admission to this ensemble is based on singing ability through a placement audition. The O'Connell Singers is an elite group of individuals dedicated to producing high-quality performances and inspiring liturgical music. Students will receive honors credit and will be challenged through learning the music theory behind what will be performed. The goal of this course is to further develop musical artists. That means guiding the student to become independently thinking, working, and literate musicians. This course will also take the development of teamwork and esprit de corps to the highest possible level.

Beginning Guitar-Ms. Van Duzer

Beginning Guitar is a course designed for those with little to no knowledge of how to play guitar. The focus of this class will be on basic classical guitar techniques and playing styles. A mixture of older traditional songs and more contemporary pop tunes will be used to educate the student on the proper methods of playing. Basic music theory, guitar history and the ability to read music will be taught as well.

Intermediate Guitar-Ms. Van Duzer

Admission to this class is based on playing experience and placement examination. Intermediate Guitar is a course designed for those with a basic understanding of classical guitar playing. The focus of this class will be on more advanced classical guitar music and techniques. A mixture of older traditional songs and more contemporary pop tunes will be used to further educate the student on the proper methods of playing. Some music theory and history will be taught as well.

Advanced Guitar Honors-Ms. Van Duzer

Admission to this class is based on playing experience and placement examination. Students will explore more advanced concepts of solo and ensemble guitar playing through the study of classical and popular guitar technique and theory. The goal of this class is to produce independently thinking and literate musicians. The students from this class will have performance opportunities as Mass, on retreats, in guitar showcases and at the Festival of the Arts. As an honors course the students will be challenged to learn the related tenants of music theory, will be required to attend performances outside of class for credit and to perform in a small group as an honors project. This course will take the development of teamwork and esprit de corps to the highest possible level.

Piano Seminar-Ms. Van Duzer/Mr. Weinberg

Piano Seminar is a course designed for people with all levels of piano playing experience. This class will cover basic theory and harmony, scales and arpeggios, improvisational techniques, music history, and performance practices. This course is designed to shape a well-rounded pianist.

Piano Seminar Honors-Ms. Van Duzer

Admission to this class is based on playing experience and placement examination. Students will explore more advanced concepts of piano playing through the study of classical and popular piano technique and theory. The goal of this class is to produce independently thinking and literate musicians. The students from this class will have performance opportunities as Mass, on retreats, in piano showcases and at the Festival of the Arts. As an honors course the students will be challenged to

learn the related tenants of music theory, will be required to attend performances outside of class for credit and to perform in a small group as an honors project. This course will take the development of teamwork and esprit de corps to the highest possible level.

Pep Band/Small Groups/After School Ensembles

During the year we will have many opportunities for students to participate in different types of groups. All of the members of the Symphonic and Concert Bands make up our Pep Band that plays at selected sporting events. We will also have small instrumental and vocal ensembles (required for honors students). These groups will have opportunities to perform in the school and in the local area in places such as retirement communities. For students not signed up for a performing ensemble that meets during the regular school day these small ensembles are not offered for school fine arts credit but any non-honors music student participating in them will receive extra credit toward their grade.

Attendance Policy

Music is a performing art. As a performing art each student's participation affects the group outcome every day. Like a sports team we count on each other to do our parts to reach our goals. But unlike a sports team, we don't have players that are waiting on the sidelines to get into the game. If someone is missing from the musical groups it creates a hole that we cannot fill. Each student plays a valuable and irreplaceable role in every group in which they play all of the time. It is therefore imperative that we establish and follow attendance policies that will assist us in attaining our goals for this year.

ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE ON TIME TO ALL REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES. ON TIME MEANS: SEATED WITH THEIR INSTRUMENT (IF APPROPRIATE) AND MUSIC OUT. WARMED UP, TUNED UP AND READY TO PLAY OR SING.

It is the policy of the music department to be reasonable and work around reasonable conflicts. However, the calendar for performances is posted in several places online and it is announced in class. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO PLAN AHEAD TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS AND TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM IN ALL PERFORMANCES. If an absence cannot be avoided a form requesting that the absence be considered excused must be submitted to the music faculty as soon as the conflict is identified. The faculty will be reasonable in granting excuses however, if the reason for the absence could have been rescheduled or originally scheduled for another time then the absence will be marked unexcused. Failure to submit the form prior to an absence (other than sickness) or in a timely fashion will result in the absence being marked unexcused. Informing the music faculty in any other fashion will not satisfy this requirement.

- *If an emergency does occur it is the student's responsibility to call 703-237-1462 and leave a message prior to the start of the concert or rehearsal.*

Grading

Grading is based upon the following items:

- Participation in rehearsal or class.
- Theory examinations.
- Playing, singing, or sight-reading/singing tests.
- Attendance at concerts and performances.
- Submitted practice charts.

Playing tests may be given at anytime during the school year, and may not be announced. These tests may include but are not limited to scales, theory exams, and/or excerpts from music selections. *The BISHOP O'CONNELL HS grading system will be used for all grades during the school year. Student grades during the quarter may be monitored on PowerSchool, however, final grades are at the discretion of the instructor.*

Concert/Performance Attendance

All concerts are mandatory and are heavily weighted with regards to grading. ***ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING GIVEN A FAILING GRADE FOR THAT SEMESTER.***

Daily Class Requirements:

The daily grade will be based on the following areas:

- Attendance at and full participation in all events (this includes any before or after school rehearsals such as sectionals).
- Having your instrument and all related items in class (Band/Orchestra/Guitar).
- Having your music or music book and a sharpened pencil in class.

Students will lose points off their grade if they do not have the above materials or if they fail to participate fully in class.

Practice Sheets/Attendance

This portion of your grade will be based on your weekly submitted practice sheet (Instrumental students are required to practice for 30 minutes per day 6 days per week). Extra points are given for each 30 minutes practiced above the requirement.

Quizzes/Tests (Playing or Written)

The quizzes and either written or playing tests will be based upon content covered during rehearsals and/or class.

Honors Students:

All students in honors music classes will also be required to:

- Audition for All-District Band/Chorus/Orchestra.
- Attend three outside musical performances per semester and provide proof of attendance such as a program or ticket. One concert per semester may be a pop/rock performance. Please check with your instructor before attending a performance to make sure it is appropriate.

Extra Credit: Points added onto daily grade

Participation in small group rehearsals and concerts (non-honors students).

Audition for All-District Band/Chorus/Orchestra (non-honors students).

Participation in All-District or All-State Band/Chorus/Orchestra.

Participation in Honor Bands/Chorus/Orchestra in the local area.

Non Tri-M Service to the music program to be determined by the director.

Basic Behavioral Guidelines

In order for us to have a successful year, there are some guidelines that must be followed so that we can make the best use of our time and resources. Additionally, as students of Bishop O'Connell High School, we are expected to meet and exceed certain basic tenants of respect and self-discipline.

Please note the following guidelines:

- Students must be mindful that this is a Catholic institution and that we will maintain a proper respect for the catechism of the Catholic Church.
 - School uniforms will be worn in accordance with school policies and procedures at all times.
 - Students will be seated with all necessary class items by the time the bell rings or by the published report time.
 - Students are expected to give their best effort at all times.
 - An attitude of proper respect for each other, others outside of our groups and for faculty and staff will be maintained at all times.
 - Students will be absolutely expected to follow through on every commitment that they make.
 - No food, drinks, or gum will be allowed in any part of the space except for the faculty offices.
-
- Talking during class must be kept to comments focused on improving our performance. Excess talking is not permitted.
 - Our equipment is expensive and difficult to replace. No abuse or vandalism of our equipment or space will be tolerated.

It may be expected that failure to follow these guidelines will have disciplinary consequences. Such consequences will be based upon school policies and procedures.

Instrument Storage Room

Students will be assigned an instrument storage space and should keep their instruments in the instrument storage room. The storage cabinets are lockable and each student is required to provide their own combination lock. The combination of the lock will be maintained by the music faculty in a secure location. The storage room remains locked after hours even if the band room itself is open. The school is not responsible for instruments lost or stolen. We suggest that parents check into coverage through their homeowners or renters insurance policy. Make sure you have a copy of the instrument name, make and serial number to identify your instrument if necessary. **Keep a nametag on your instrument at all times.**

Only instruments may be stored or placed in the instrument storage room. No music, school books, clothing or any other item may be stored by students in the instrument storage room without the expressed written permission of the music program director.

In order to help safe guard the instruments in the room, students will remain in the instrument storage room only long enough to drop off or retrieve their instrument. No loitering in the instrument storage room will be allowed. No student will retrieve another student's instrument without the expressed written permission of that student or their parents.

Care of Sheet Music

All music must be stored in the folders provided and said folders must be kept in their proper slots in the music folio cabinets. Students must write on music with #2 pencils ONLY, not pen, and erase all marks prior to handing in all music. *Students who do not return music on time and in good condition will be charged for the cost of replacement.*

Care of Instruments

It is the student's responsibility to keep his instrument in good repair. Instrument inspections will be done periodically at unannounced times. Instrument inspections involve proper playing repair such as corks, pads, keys in alignment, valves properly cleaned and oiled, tuning slides lubricated and movable. Case inspections involve ensuring that extra reeds, valve and slide oil and any other necessary supplies are properly stored. Cases should only contain the instrument and supplies, not music, food or debris.

Uniforms

Students are required to wear a uniform for each of their performances. There are two different types of uniforms that will be worn at performances. The formal uniform will be worn at concerts and competitions. The informal uniform will be worn at school events or community performances, including all pep band and small ensemble performances.

Formal Uniform

Uniform for Bands – It is the responsibility of the student to furnish the following items:

- Black collard button down shirts.
- Black pants/black ankle length skirt (Female students may wear pants if sitting in a proper playing position is unreasonable in a long skirt).
- Black shoes (not open toe).
- Black socks or stockings.

Uniform for Orchestra and Chorus- Tuxedos and Dresses will be supplied for each student by the school. It is the responsibility of the student to furnish the following items:

- black shoes (not open toe).
- black socks or stockings.

Students are expected to keep the school owned clothing clean and will turn it in at the end of the year in the cleaners bag.

School uniform regulations will be followed with respect to wearing jewelry.

Informal Uniform

Uniform for Bands/Orchestra/Choruses- One Bishop O'Connell HS Music Department Polo shirt will be provided for each student. Students may request a replacement shirt if they outgrow their shirt. Students are responsible for purchasing replacements for lost or damaged shirts. It is the responsibility of the student to wear the following with their music polo shirt:

- Khaki Pants (female students may wear their skirt).
- Appropriate Footwear (see student handbook).

Uniform Care and Maintenance

Formal uniforms are the property of Bishop O'Connell High School and should be treated with care. It is the responsibility of the student to keep their uniform clean and in good repair. All individual tailoring costs and the repair of any damage will be the student's responsibility. All tuxedos and dresses must be hemmed according to the length determined at the beginning of the school year. At the end of the year, all elements of the formal uniform (tuxedo shirts, tuxedos, dresses) will be turned in. If the uniform is returned in unserviceable condition or dirty, the cost of replacement or cleaning will be charged to the student. The school will seek reimbursement if any student fails to return a formal uniform.

School Instrument Rental

School instruments may be rented as needed. The cost of renting the instrument is \$50.00 and is a yearly flat fee regardless of how much of the year the instrument is rented. Percussion students will pay \$50.00 per year to use the percussion equipment that is provided.

The care and maintenance of the rented instrument is the responsibility of the student. All instruments must be returned in playable condition. If the instrument is not returned in playable condition, the cost of returning the instrument to playing condition or replacing the instrument if it is beyond repair will be charged to the student.

Should any student damage, destroy or lose an instrument that is owned by the school, the cost of repairing or replacing that instrument will be charged to the student.

School Trips

We will make several local trips to play for retirement communities and/or other offsite concerts during the school year. We will also take a spring trip that will require overnight travel. The local trips may or may not include all groups. It is our intention to have all of the groups play at area retirement communities and other performance venues, but it is not logistically reasonable to bring all groups to each event. ***However, all of our groups will participate in the spring trip, excluding guitar and piano classes.***

The local trips should not incur extra costs to participate. The cost of the spring trip will be announced as soon as we finalize the itinerary for the trip. All students are expected to perform in all scheduled performances. There will be fundraising projects made available to the students so that they can earn their way onto the spring trip if this is necessary. Because we make this available, it is expected that all students attend the spring trip.

In most cases we will meet at the concert site for any local concerts. Students will be responsible for providing their own transportation. ***However no student may ride to a concert site or school function with another student who is driving unless written permission has been given by his or her parent or guardian.***

We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances for off site performances and the spring trip, so please do not hesitate to call as soon as you know of a conflict. We do require, however, that every effort be made to attend all performances.

A student's inability to attend an outside performance will not be a reason to be excluded from our program.

Spring Trip

A trip to Atlanta, Georgia for all of the Bishop O'Connell performing ensembles is being planned for March 31 to April 2, 2011. The trip will be 2 nights/3 days at a festival where the ensembles perform for nationally renowned adjudicators. We will receive feedback, clinics and awards in an educational setting. A trip proposal, draft itinerary and payment schedule will be provided in early fall. The trip fee will include hotel, charter bus transportation, sightseeing admissions and some meals. The fee will be collected in payments spread over several months and based on group rates. Collected fees are not refundable after a certain date, which will be announced. ***100% participation is needed to make this trip a success, and students will be offered additional fundraising opportunities to help with expenses.***

Musical ensembles have performed in New York City, at Walt Disney World in Florida, Kings Dominion, Virginia Beach and Busch Gardens in the past few years. Trips are a great opportunity for experience, fun and memories. To make this trip happen, we need VIRTUS trained chaperones – one adult for every ten students. Please volunteer if you would like to spend some time with a great group of students! (VIRTUS training is a half day course that is offered many places throughout the diocese. If you are not currently trained please don't let that be the reason that you don't volunteer if you want to go on the spring trip. We can help you get the training).

Music Boosters

The success of your child's musical experience here at O'Connell High School depends on YOUR INVOLVEMENT. Your encouragement is an essential ingredient to our program. Listen, praise and give constructive criticism. Arrange for family activities around your child's concerts, performances or recitals.

YOUR PARTICIPATION in the MUSIC BOOSTERS is also ESSENTIAL for a successful program. The Boosters meet on the first Wednesday of every month to plan program support and enrichment as well as fundraising activities. Please contact your student's instructor, the music program director - Mr. Mastic, the 2010-2011 music booster president – John Hentschel, or any music booster to find out how you can help!

Note to Parents

Music classes are elective courses here at Bishop O'Connell HS. That means you choose to take them. Therefore we expect every student to live up to the challenge of this program and be responsible under the assumption that you want to be a part of it. This handbook is made available for your inspection so that you are not surprised in any way. Your signature (on the

handbook agreement page) attests to the fact that you have read it and that you understand it. Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding any part of this handbook.

If you have a concern, please contact your student's instructor or Mr. Mastric, the music program director. We will work as closely as necessary with you to ensure that your concerns are addressed and that your student gets the most out of our program.

Music Program Fee

Every year there is a small fee to ensure that your child receives the best possible music education at Bishop O'Connell HS. All students and parents must pay this fee in order to be a part of the program. The fees are as follows:

Band/Choir/Orchestra/Jazz/Guitar/Piano: \$40

- This fee covers uniform rental, one royal blue polo shirt embroidered with the O'Connell music logo and incidental expenses for band, choir and orchestra students. This fee will also cover the instruction book and music for guitar and piano students and a tuner for the guitar students.

Band/Orchestra/Jazz School Instrument Rentals: \$50

- This fee covers the rental of a school instrument for one full school year, including the use of school percussion equipment by student percussionists.

Polo Shirts for Parents: \$25

- Parents may order a white polo shirt embroidered with the O'Connell music logo. Checks should be made payable to Bishop O'Connell Music Boosters, and orders will be taken through September 9, 2011. All parents, especially those planning to be a trip chaperone, are encouraged to purchase a polo shirt.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an important part of making this year and coming years a success. The Music Boosters sponsor several major fundraisers each year:

- Opera Night – The Washington Vocal Arts Ensemble will perform “Opera Night” here in the auditorium on November 6, 2010. This is a major event and we will need a lot of help to make it successful. This fundraiser benefits the music department. We purchase instruments, music and equipment for the music program with these funds.]
- Candy Bar Sale - All the money raised by this fundraiser goes into the student's trip account maintained by the Music Boosters.
- Easter Candy Sale - All the money raised by this fundraiser goes into the student's trip account maintained by the Music Boosters.
- Additional fundraisers may be announced during the year. In addition to the fundraisers, tickets to each of the concerts are sold at a price of \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Varsity Letter Requirements

1. Member of a performing ensemble class all year. 25 points
Qualified ensembles are: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra, Concert Choir, O'Connell Singers, Guitar Ensemble, Stage Band.
2. Pep Band/Mass Music Team. 20 points
3. Perform all year in a chamber ensemble. 25 Points
Qualified ensembles are: Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, Sax Choir, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet, Brass Choir, Knightingales. Other Chamber ensembles can be authorized if they have regular rehearsals and performances. Certain Orchestra and Choir performances will be qualified as chamber ensemble performances and the points will be awarded. These points are awarded only once per year.
4. Audition for District Band/Chorus/Orchestra. 15 Points
5. Make District Band/Chorus/Orchestra. 35 Points
6. Audition for State Band/Chorus/Orchestra. 25 Points
7. Make State Band/Chorus/Orchestra. 100 Points
8. Must perform a solo or an ensemble at either the Festival of the Arts or the Solo and Ensemble Festival. 25 Points for each performance.
Solos and Ensembles must be approved by the music faculty.
9. Spring trip. 50 Points
10. Take private lessons. 25 Points
11. Perform at Mass. 10 Points
12. Qualified outside performances. 10 to 25 Points
If you perform in a group outside of school it may qualify for points. You must play the same instrument that you play in your normal class or sing and be a member of one of our choirs in order to earn these points. The points will be awarded once for each group in which you play.

You may transfer points from one year to the next only if you did not earn an award in the year in which you earned the points. If you earn an award in any year you must begin the next year with no points, even if you had points above the minimum threshold for an award.

Awards:

Letter: 175 Points

Bronze Medallion: 250 Points

Silver Medallion: 300 Points

Gold Medallion: 350 Points

Handbook Confirmation Form

Dear Student and Parent:

We want your musical experience at Bishop O'Connell High School to be a positive one. This handbook has been prepared to inform you of the Bishop O'Connell music program and to hopefully eliminate any misconceptions about the program. This handbook is consistent with the policies governing many successful music programs throughout the nation. After you have read the handbook, please print out this page and returned a signed copy to your music instructor.

Please initial the following items that pertain to you and your child:

___ Enclosed is my child's \$40 music department fee. Make check payable to Bishop O'Connell High School.

___ Enclosed is my child's \$50 instrumental rental for the school year (can be added to the music fee check).

Please indicate your child's instrument: _____

Print Student Name and Ensemble

Date

I have read and understand the Bishop O'Connell HS music handbook, which includes the grading policy. I understand that this handbook includes policies that govern the ensembles at Bishop O'Connell, and in the event of conflict will be referred to for guidelines and procedure verification.

I understand and consent to the school nurse providing a copy of my student's Diocese of Arlington Permission for Emergency Care form to the Director of Music. With this consent, I authorize teacher-chaperones to act in my behalf in case of an accident or illness during a Music Department field trip. I understand that permission forms will be required for all field trips and that an updated emergency care form may be required for overnight travel.

Parent / Guardian Signatures/Phone Numbers/Email Addresses

_____ - - _____ @ _____

_____ - - _____ @ _____

Student Signature/Cell Phone Number/Email Address

_____ - - _____ @ _____

Date