

## **Bishop O'Connell High School Vocal Scholarship**

At Bishop O'Connell High School our students have the opportunity to participate in a rich experience of visual and performing arts. Students seeking admission to Bishop O'Connell who display an exceptional level of talent, professionalism, and passion for the arts may be offered a scholarship in recognition of their gifts. The Vocal Scholarship is given to students who exhibit these abilities through vocal performance.

### **Audition Prerequisites:**

- Students must apply for admission to Bishop O'Connell High School.
- If granted the scholarship, students must enroll and participate in chorus their freshman year and sophomore years (at a minimum), and are encouraged to be in a choral ensemble all four years.

### **Audition Procedures:**

Students should report to the auditorium lobby fifteen minutes before their audition time where they will be directed to a warm-up room. The vocal auditions will be held in the choir room. Students will be evaluated on their vocal abilities in relation to vocal tone, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and interpretation.

Students will prepare and perform one song of their choice appropriate for their voice part. The musical piece must be approximately three to five minutes in length and from the musical theater, art song, or popular music traditions. Students are encouraged to consult a vocal instructor for repertoire selections that are appropriate for their vocal abilities. *\*Students are expected to provide their own accompanist at the audition for pieces that require piano accompaniment. A speaker system will be available for students using a ipod or similar music playing device for song accompaniment.*

A sight singing excerpt, eight measures in length, will be administered at the audition. The audition proctor will provide the starting pitch and tonality of the exercise and the student will have thirty seconds to rehearse the excerpt. When the rehearsal time is completed the starting pitch will be provided again and the student will have one opportunity to perform the excerpt. The keys for the sight singing excerpts are as follows: Soprano/Tenor – G major, Alto/Bass – D major

Following the sight singing portion of the audition the student will be asked to perform an aural exercise by matching three note patterns played from the piano. The audition proctor will play the pattern and the student will respond by singing the pitches on a neutral vowel (ah/oo). Auditioning students are encouraged to practice this exercise in advance of the audition day. Students will also be given a short interview, where they will have the opportunity to describe their musical experience.

### **Dress Expectations:**

Professionalism is an important component of the educational experience at Bishop O'Connell High School particularly within the Arts curriculum. Students should dress in a way that is appropriate for a musical performance. Although appearance is not a category for evaluation, all auditioning students should seek to present themselves and their music in the best manner possible.

If you have any questions regarding the audition process or vocal program at Bishop O'Connell High School please do not hesitate to contact us.

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