

# Student/Parent Handbook

for the Belmont

# All-Town Chorus

Directed by Christine Servilio



Dear Parents and Singers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the BPS All-Town Chorus!

The Belmont Public School District has a strong tradition of excellence in its choral programs and is recognized for its outstanding choirs locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. The All-Town Chorus is where singers in the district can embark on a musical journey and become a member of this amazing program.

My personal philosophy is that EVERY PERSON CAN SING! And by that I mean every person *can* learn to sing healthily and beautifully. Often times our society perpetuates a “superstar” or “idol” mentality, making us believe that one is either born with singing “talent” or not. I do not buy into that mentality because I have seen time and time again how a person who “can’t sing” or is always “out of tune” learns to sing healthily and beautifully. It is my mission, both in the All-Town Chorus and in my daily teaching, to help each student find and use his or her own singing voice.

The All-Town Chorus (ATC) is a wonderful ensemble for young singers. Every week, we work on singing technique and musicality in fun ways. We also strive to become “one voice:” a choir with blend, balance, and expression.

Thank you so much for supporting your children in this endeavor—driving them to and from rehearsal, attending our concerts, and encouraging their love of music. I look forward to a wonderful year of singing together!

Musically yours,

Christine Servilio  
All-Town Chorus Director  
[cservilio@belmont.k12.ma.us](mailto:cservilio@belmont.k12.ma.us)

## All-Town Chorus Schedule 2013-2014

\*All Tuesday afternoon rehearsals are held 3:30-5 in the Wellington Music Room

\*Both concerts (Nov. 18 and April 7) will be held at 7 p.m. in the Belmont High School auditorium

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### SEMESTER I

Sep. 24

Oct. 1

8

15

22

29

Nov. 5

12

**Monday, Nov. 18: Singarama Concert, 7 p.m., BHS (Snow date Nov. 19)**

*(No rehearsal Nov. 19 and 26 no rehearsal)*

Dec. 3

**Sunday, Dec. 8: Tentative informal concert at Neville Place**

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### SEMESTER II

Jan. *(No rehearsal Jan. 7)*

14

21

28

Feb. 4

11

18

*(No rehearsal Feb. 25--vacation)*

March *(No rehearsal March 4—Ms. Servilio has a meeting)*

11

18

25

April 1

**Monday, April 7: CONCERT, 7 p.m., BHS**

## **Rehearsals:**

Attendance and being prompt are very important in showing your fellow choristers and your director respect. I understand things happen, but please try to arrive and leave on time.

## **Rehearsal Behavior and Effort:**

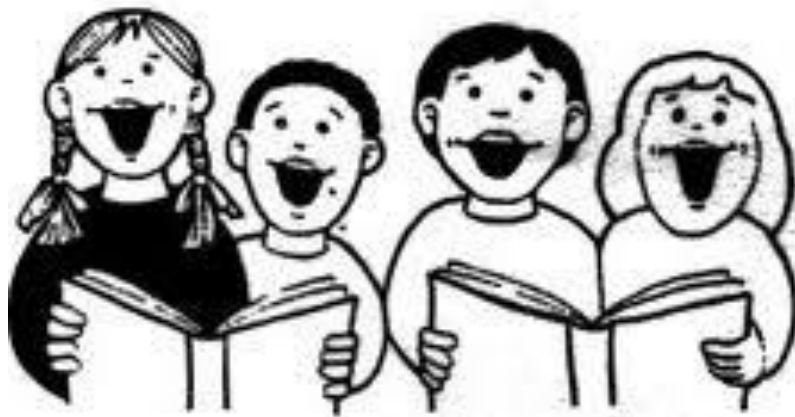
There are many choristers and one teacher—I will hold students to high expectations for behavior and effort.

## **Folders and Sheet Music:**

Please take care of your folder (although feel free to decorate it!), and bring it to every rehearsal! The sheet music is borrowed from the school and needs to be returned at the end of the semester, so please keep it in good condition.

## **Bathroom and snack break:**

I will give students a **three-minute** bathroom break in the middle of rehearsal. Students in the past have taken this opportunity to eat a quick snack, but please keep in mind that three minutes is not a lot of time! Eat a snack and go to the bathroom before you come to rehearsal, please.



## **Concerts:**

We have 2 concerts a year where we share our music with our families, friends, and teachers.

Concerts are really fun, but they can also make you a little nervous. If you feel nervous, don't worry! That's normal. We'll all be there together, and you'll feel better once you start singing.

## **Concert Dress:**

Boys: Dress pants and shoes, button down shirt

Girls: Dress pants or skirt, nice top, dress shoes  
or a dress and dress shoes  
(Any colors are fine)

## **Concert Behavior:**

All-Town Chorus members are representing 5 schools: Burbank, Butler, Wellington, Winn Brook, and Chenery. Therefore, I have very high expectations for concert behavior:

- Stay for the whole concert (I know Singarama is long, but it only happens once a year!)
- Do your best listening to the other groups (see the choruses you can join in middle and high school!)
- Stay in your seat (if you have to go to the bathroom, you can go in between groups)
- Do your best singing when it's our turn to perform!

## **Tips for Excellent Singing:**

1. Relax completely! Singing is a full-body experience.
2. North-south vowels (not east-west)
3. Good posture!
4. Low, deep breathing. Use all the air!
5. Sing long, beautiful phrases.
6. Clean, clear diction—move your lips, teeth, and tongue.
7. Remember why you love singing, and FEEL the music!

**Please sign and return this page**

After having read the All-Town Chorus Handbook, please complete the form below and have your child return it to me at the next rehearsal.

I have read the handbook and agree to all that has been presented.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the handbook and agree to all that has been presented.

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

**Contact Information (Please print clearly)**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact #1**

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact #2 (optional)**

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact other than parent

\_\_\_\_\_

Other pertinent information you would like to share about your child, please write below (including any allergies):