

2025-2026

Bettendorf High School Show Choir Handbook

Director Contact Information

Director: Mr. Trent Teske – tteske@bettendorf.k12.ia.us


Assistant Director: Ms. Katelyn Skillett - katelynskillett@bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Show Band Director: Mr. Scott Bosco - scbosco@bettendorf.k12.ia.us


Dear Parents, Singer/Dancers, Crew, and Band members of BHS Show Choirs,

Congratulations on being selected into the BHS Show Choir Program for the 2025-26 season! You should be extremely proud of achieving this honor and excited for the experiences that await you this coming school year. TOGETHER, we have the opportunity to continue and raise the standard of excellence of the BHS Show Choir Program. Please understand that it will take a lot of hard work and working as a team (singer/dancers, band members, crew members, parents, directors, etc.) in order for us to reach our goals. Success does not come easily, nor does it happen automatically; however, if you put your very best efforts into the group this year, everything we do over the course of the year will be more than worth it. Through your hard work and dedication this year, you will become a stronger and more confident person who can be proud of putting together a high quality show that will entertain thousands of people over the season. Most importantly, you will make memories that will last a lifetime!

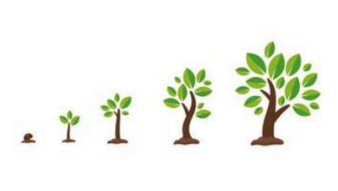
Philosophy




Director's Philosophy



Students having a **Great Experience!**



Developing and **Improving** as individuals and as an ensemble as we learn the show. Then making the next performance better than the last.



To achieve high placements in class 4A, make it to finals evening performances, and to improve from daytime scores with judges feedback.

Suggested Donations

This year, we are requesting a **suggested donation** of \$500 for "Surround Sound" Show Choir (from Singers/Dancers) to help offset the cost of the many expenses that come with this activity. We only charge what we absolutely need for this activity that isn't already provided through fundraising. The payments can be made via PayPal through BFAB, or you can send a check.

Starting August 1st, you can either donate all at once, or in installments over a couple months. The sooner you can donate, the better; as this helps us with future fundraising planning. As always, we **NEVER** want to deny a student the opportunity to be a part of this amazing activity. If a family is seeking financial assistance, please reach out to the director and they will work with our Bettendorf Fine Arts Boosters to assist any and all families.

Communication

All pertinent information will be shared via email for this year. We will also be using other forms of communication for weekly reminders, emergency notifications (weather alerts/updates), or fun student highlights throughout the season. These communication platforms include:

Remind: We highly recommend that parents and students opt in to receive text messages via Remind (to be used for reminders, cancellations due to weather, etc.)

Please text @bhssurr to 81010

Facebook: Like and follow our BHS Choirs page to stay up to date on announcements and student accomplishments!

Please let a director know ASAP if you have not been receiving emails or if at any point in the season you feel like you are missing some communication. ***It is imperative that you directly contact the directors with any questions or concerns you have.*** We greatly appreciate our parent volunteers and don't want to put them in positions where they are fielding questions that should be handled by the director.

Group Members

Singer/Dancers – Students in this group make up the majority of our team and are the individuals on stage singing and dancing. They are required to attend every rehearsal.

Show Band – The band is a vital part of our team and is crucial to our success. The show band typically starts rehearsal in the fall on a bi-weekly basis and starts rehearsing weekly in October. They will report to Mr. Bosco.

Crew – The crew is solely made up of students who play a vital role in the logistics of the show. These individuals support the singers, assist with costumes, ensure microphones are ready, help organize items, etc. Crew will attend rehearsals as necessary and attendance requirements will be communicated in advance of rehearsals. They will report to Mr. Teske.

Iowa High School Music Association Participant Regulation

10. In addition to IHSMA Constitution Article VI, Section 1 (Fall Bulletin, No. 261, p. 40), participation is restricted to students from member schools of the Iowa High School Music Association and enrolled in grades 7-12. Participating students must be currently enrolled and in good standing in an appropriate curricular musical ensemble within their school. This should be interpreted as the minimum requirement for school districts to meet. To be considered a member of the respective ensemble, a student must be enrolled and in attendance at a minimum of 50% of the scheduled rehearsal sessions. The majority of the ensemble must be of at least 9th grade status. Students enrolled in 7-8th grade chorus and in attendance at 50% or more of the rehearsals meet the enrollment requirement for participation in Show Choir.

Rehearsal Policies

Rehearsal Attendance

Attendance at **every** rehearsal, choreography camp, vocal camps, and competitions is necessary for the success of this ensemble. We share our dates out well in advance and ask that you mark these dates in your calendar so students can be present at every one of the events listed. We want all students at BHS to be able to participate in as many school activities as they desire, as long as they can maintain academic progress and perform at an acceptable standard in each activity. We ask that students who have conflicts **communicate** those with directors in advance and work with the director to find time to make up for time lost.

School Attendance:

In order to attend rehearsals you must be in attendance at school that day or have an excused (non-illness related) absence and appropriate communication must be made with the school attendance office. School policies dictate excused vs non excused

school absences; this is not up to the discretion of the director.

Rehearsal Expectations

Basics:

- Students will have their music, pencil and water at **EVERY** rehearsal.
- Students will treat all members of the group with respect at all times.
- ALL Students will help with set up and tear down of any and all equipment when needed.

Attire:

It is important that you wear comfortable clothing that allows for movement throughout the entire body.. The best attire for success would be T-shirt, Athletic Shorts, Socks & Shoes when not rehearsing in costume.

Behavior:

During rehearsals, team members are expected to act appropriately – giving full attention to the director when instructions are given, having music marked and prepared, respecting student leaders in their respective roles, etc. Students are expected to be prompt at the start of rehearsals as well as when they return from breaks.

Food/Drink:

As a member of a show choir, you are an athlete. The choreography we perform increases your heart rate and is a work out! Please ensure you have water at every rehearsal, have eaten a well balanced meal before rehearsal or right after, and get plenty of sleep.

Cell Phone Policy:

Students will NOT BE ALLOWED to have their cell phones out during rehearsal. The phone pouches will be used to hold student phones until they are able to be used during a rehearsal break.

Academic Policy

It is important to remember that show choir is an extracurricular activity which falls under our school's eligibility guidelines. Please seek out help if academics become a problem, we are more than willing to help you to ensure your individual success both on and off the stage.

Accountability and Support

The audition does not end when the student is selected for membership in the group. Each rehearsal and performance is a chance to improve skills and to work with others toward the same goal. Students are not guaranteed a place on the performing stage simply by passing the audition, but by earning that position through hard work and dedication in rehearsal.

When a student is not performing up to their abilities, several methods of interventions are available including PRIDE sessions, peer tutoring, and assistance from the directors. A student will receive fair warning that their performing status is in jeopardy. In the event that a student's attendance record and/or performance level is lacking, at the discretion of the director, a student may be held out of certain portions of the show until that student's level of proficiency has improved to a suitable level.

All school rules, regulations and policies apply at all times. We do not tolerate discrimination, bullying, or harassment. **At the end of the day, it comes down to respect. Respect for our program, for one another, and for yourself.**

Social Media Policy

Team members are encouraged throughout the year to promote the show choirs at BHS through Facebook, Twitter, etc. in a positive manner. Social media is a great way to spread the word to friends, family, community and the show choir world of the latest news for the BHS groups. Social media is a great way for us to help create a positive image for our performers and ensembles if used in the proper manner. When posting online, team members must adhere to the following policy regarding social media posts:

1. Team members will not post negative or harassing messages/pictures that could damage the respect or integrity of our team, school, or any individuals associated with BHS Vocal Music Program.
2. Any posts made in regards to another school, team, competition site, or individual outside of our program must be of a positive, constructive nature.
3. Cyberbullying in any form is unacceptable and students will refrain from making any negative comments directly to or regarding ANY other student (not limited to students in the show choir program). If you are aware of cyberbullying happening (involving OR not involving you personally) it is imperative that you report it to your director immediately. Any report of cyberbullying will remain anonymous with the director.
4. Posting videos on social media platforms or the internet of any portion of our show is **strictly prohibited** due to copyright violation. We want you to take pride in our show and encourage you to share highlights of your season online.

Students in violation of this policy are subject to discipline from the director. In instances of cyberbullying, district policy will be enforced. This may include suspension from competitions and/or dismissal from the team.

One single negative post can destroy months of positive promotion of our team!

Costumes

Through fundraising and suggested donations, all costume items will be selected and purchased by the direction team and distributed to students/families. We will have a seamstress present at rehearsals to help with measuring and fitting, but students are more than welcome to make adjustments with someone outside of the school or at home. Students are responsible for their items all throughout the show choir season, and any lost item(s) will be charged to the student. Once the competition season is done, any items purchased through current suggested donations and fundraising will go home with the students.

Bettendorf Fine Arts Boosters

We would be unable to continue this extra-curricular activity without the generous support of the Bettendorf Fine Arts Boosters and the Patron Program that is established with them. It is vital that families within the show choir program meet the request for the three volunteer opportunities to help with concessions each school year, as this is the largest fundraiser for BFAB. The truth is that Show Choir is not a cheap activity. We can not solely rely on BFAB to meet the financial needs of this activity, as it would not be fair for the other activities that BFAB supports.

Show Choir Parent Committee

Our ensembles would not be possible without the volunteer efforts of each and every parent within the group (singer/dancers, band, and crew). It is necessary for parents to be willing to help provide time and/or donation items at various points throughout the year. This is IN ADDITION to the volunteer requirement at our home competition. Parents will be required to fill out the volunteer form with the handbook contract.

Home Competition

To ensure that there is equality between show choir and the other performing arts activities, we also host our own competition each year, a mandatory event for all show choir families to participate in running. We ask that each family volunteers two

4-hour shifts. **This year's competition is Saturday, February 7th.** It's not only an incredible opportunity for us to help raise money for our program, but for the students to work with other students from other districts, representing the best that Bettendorf has to offer! This is a HUGE undertaking for us that will require all hands on deck.

Travel Policies

Traveling with students is an enormous undertaking on the part of the school district and its employees. The purpose of traveling is to provide an educational, motivational, and fun opportunity for students. Of course, the safety of every child is of the utmost importance. In order to fulfill this goal, the following policies and guidelines have been established:

- No student will be allowed to drive themselves to an event. Students must arrive at the bus on time, we will not wait for late students.
- All students will help with loading and unloading of equipment.
- Groups will have assigned outfits to travel in depending on the event. This will either be spirit wear or dressy attire.
- Students should be mindful of what they bring on trips, the school and show choir program is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.
- Itineraries will be provided for each competition. Please ensure to follow all directions as listed on the itinerary.
- If you (your student) holds an intermediate driver's license there are many competition days that we leave prior to and arrive home after curfew hours. If you (your student) is driving to and from school these days, it is important to have an Intermediate Driver waiver filled out. Intermediate Driver waivers can be found on the www.bettmusicdepartment.com website.
- If a situation arises in which a parent would like to transport a student to or from an event this needs to be discussed with and approved by a director prior to the event.

BHS Show Choir Calendar of Events 2025-2026

<u>August 2025</u>						
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Choreography Camp - 10:30am-6:30 pm	7 Choreography Camp - 12pm-6:30pm	8 Choreography Camp - 9am-1:30pm	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 First Day of School	26	27	28 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	29	30

September 2025

31	1	2	3	4 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	12	13
14 Choreography Camp - 12pm-6:30pm	15 Choreography Camp - 3:45-8pm	16 Choreography Camp - 3:45-8pm	17	18 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

			1	2 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	31	1

November 2025

2	3 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	4	5	6 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	7	8
9	10 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	11	12	13 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	14	15
16	17 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	18	19	20 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	21	22
23	24 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

	1 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	2	3	4 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	5	6
7	8 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	9	10	11 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	12	13
14	15 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	16	17	18 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

				1	2	3
4	5 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	6	7	8 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	9	10
11	12 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	13	14	15 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	16	17
18	19 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	20	21	22 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	23	24
25 Winter Preview	26	27	28	29 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	30	31 Davenport North Comp.

February 2026

1	2 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	3	4	5 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	6	7 Rhythm on the Riverbend
8	9 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	10	11	12 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	13	14 North Polk Competition
15	16 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	17	18	19 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	20	21 Cedar Rapids Jefferson Competition
22	23 SS Rehearsal 6-8pm	24	25	26 SS Rehearsal 6-9pm	27	28 W. Dubuque Competition

March 2026

1	2 Spring Showcase	3	4	5	6	7 Spring Showcase
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Please Sign and Return This Form

This form is mandatory for ALL students. It is important to realize that as a member of the BHS Show Choir Program you represent the ideals and expectations of our choir program and our school. You are expected to set a positive, respectful and supportive demeanor at all times.

Please read the following statements and sign below signifying your understanding of our policies and expectations.

Student will treat all adults, superiors and fellow students with respect and honesty.

Student will be responsible for their costume pieces and keep them in good repair.

Student will come to rehearsal on time and with a supportive and willing attitude.

Student will refrain from talking at inappropriate times and will stay focused and engaged throughout rehearsal.

Student will use appropriate language in rehearsal and when on a sanctioned choir activity.

Student will maintain a positive, supportive outlook at all off-campus events and represent BHS with PRIDE.

Student will use social media only to contact and support fellow choir members, not to deride, degrade or belittle another person, choir, judge or event.

Student will abstain from drinking, smoking or using drugs and keep body in performance condition and be an asset to my team.

Student will be loyal to classmates and offer them support and assistance to the betterment of the team.

Student will bring all materials to rehearsal (appropriate dress attire, water, music, pencil, etc.)

I will have transportation immediately following practices and events.

Student will not use their cell phone during rehearsal. *I understand that I can contact the director during rehearsal in case of an emergency.*

I understand that if my student is not fulfilling the above requirements, they may forfeit their right to participate in the BHS Show Choir program.

I understand and agree to uphold all the statements above as well as all the policies and expectations outlined in the 2025-2026 BHS Show Choir Handbook.

Student's Name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____