Middle School Show Choir 2014-2015

A Show Choir is a group of students who puts on a performance using song and dance. There are four show choirs in Bemidji, Minnesota: Pizazz and Jive at the middle school level and La Voce Ballo and Vocalmotive at the high school level.

Jive is open to all middle school age boys, all 8th grade girls and most 7th grade girls; Pizazz is open to all 6th grade girls and some 7th grade girls. Students in middle school show choir must be willing to dance, sing, and work together to put on a great performance! The directors of the middle school show choir program are Ashley Sands and Jess Binstock.

**Pizazz rehearsals**

Weekly rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday mornings from 7:15 to 8:15 am. If there is no school or if school is 2 hours late on a certain day, there will be no practice. Rehearsals will be held in the South Gym unless told otherwise. You will receive a **tentative** schedule of every practice this season.

**Jive rehearsals**

Weekly rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 7:15 to 8:15 am. If there is no school or if school is 2 hours late on a certain day, there will be no practice. Rehearsals will be held in the South Gym unless told otherwise. You will receive a **tentative** schedule of every practice this season.

-All students in BMS show choir are expected to work hard, have a good attitude, respect their directors and fellow students, and to attend all rehearsals on time. Members of Pizazz and Jive must be willing to learn their music and choreography not only in rehearsals, but also at home.

**Snow Days and Late Starts**

If there is a snow day, or 2-hour late start, there will be NO show choir that morning. A Wednesday morning makeup may be scheduled.

**Attendance, Absences and Behavior**

Attendance will be taken at **all** practices. We understand that there will be times when a student will need to be absent -absences may be excused with a **note or phone call** from a parent prior to the absence, or at the following rehearsal, or it will count as an unexcused absence. If unexcused absences become a problem, students may be removed from a performance. If a student is more than 15 minutes late for a rehearsal, it will count as an absence.

If a student is being disrespectful or disruptive, he or she will be asked to leave and it will count as an unexcused absence. If a student has a recurring conflict with rehearsal, he or she will need to discuss with the directors and a makeup time will be scheduled.

**Additional Practices**

There will be additional Saturday rehearsals that are listed on the schedule. These are important rehearsals, as students will be able to rehearse in the performance space. Please plan on being there. These extra rehearsal dates are **tentative** at this time and we will update with confirmed dates as we receive them.

**Fees and Other Costs**

~**$5.00 show choir fee** to cover initial costume fees. This should be brought to the director with the registration information received with this letter.

~**$50** activity fee if the student has not been in an activity yet this year (cash or check paid to BMS). If the student has already been in an activity this year, the fee is **$35**. Students will need to **bring this to the office.** If they have not had a physical and the office doesn’t have their records, they will need to take care of that before they can practice.

*~Please keep the $5.00 show choir fee and the Activity fee separate. The $5.00 fee comes back to the directors. The physical form and activity fee go to the front office.*

~ Later in the season, the kids will need to purchase performance attire/costumes for their performances. Students will get to keep costumes they purchase! We do our very best to keep these costs as low as possible. We plan to do a fundraiser to offset costume costs. More information will come later in the season.

**Jive/Pizazz Performances**

Students will perform at their very own BMS show choir concert. Both groups will also have the opportunity to perform on a Six Appeal concert, a male a cappella singing group. We are also hoping to have an All Show Choir Concert with all of the show choirs in Bemidji. Confirmed performance dates are listed in the schedule. Please mark these dates on your calendar. If there is a conflict, please let us know as soon as possible. We may add additional performances throughout the season and will provide information as we receive it.

**Contacting the Directors**

Ashley Sands: ashley\_sands@bemidji.k12.mn.us or 218-333-3215 ext. 53021

Jess Binstock: jmbinstock89@gmail.com

We will be using the new Show Choirs of Bemidji website to post information about our season and our schedule. [www.showchoirsofbemidji.com](http://www.showchoirsofbemidji.com) has a Jive/Pizazz tab, which we will update regularly.

Students and/or parents will also have the opportunity to join a BMS Show Choirs group on Facebook to receive updates, announcements, information, and practice videos.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to a great season!

Ashley Sands and Jess Binstock

Bemidji Middle School Show Choir

Co-Directors