

## BOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Memo

To: Mary MacMichael

From: Craig Stephenson

Date: January 15, 2021

Re: Approval of Sponsors of Bowe Co-Curricular Activities for Quarter 3 & 4 of the 2020-21 school year

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In the effort to enhance student engagement in their school experience, it is important to reintroduce some of our co-curricular programs at this time. Many of our students are in need of increased positive interactions with peers, and our co-curricular programs provide an opportunity for students to connect with their peers and engage in collaborative activities and/or discussions that support their social/emotional wellbeing. For the foreseeable future, these activities will be conducted in a fully virtual setting during hours outside of the academic day at Bowe (which concludes at 3:15 PM).

The following GPSD/Bowe staff member(s) should be approved by the Board of Education as the Advisors for our Co-Curricular Activities for the 2020-21 school year effective ASAP. They should be approved for reimbursement at the negotiated rate following completion of their 2020-21 responsibilities. Until it is deemed safe and appropriate for these activities to resume meeting in person, all meetings, practices, and/or programs will be conducted virtually:

1. Choir  
Katharine Baer (GIS Employee)
2. Band (Beginner and Advanced)  
Angelina Coppola
3. Orchestra (Beginner and Advanced)  
Rachel Johns

# Virtual Bowe Choir Proposal 2020-2021

Prepared by Katharine Baer

**Goal/Mission:** Bowe choir is a non-auditioned vocal ensemble available to all interested fourth to sixth grade students at Bowe. This is a year-long extracurricular activity that meets once a week. The focus of this ensemble is to give students a musical and creative outlet in which to share their abilities and talents within an ensemble setting by encouraging teamwork, while training and educating them to be future musicians and/or appreciators of music. This ensemble will work to create a whole musician by training students to understand proper vocal technique, music notation, ear training and sight singing, relationships between music and its contextual history and cultural influence, by providing performance experience and development of the independent singer along with a well-disciplined member of the ensemble.

## **Overview of Virtual Operation of Bowe Choir:**

Rehearsals will be modeled after regular in-person rehearsals including breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups, repertoire study, listening exercises, introduction to sight reading

Students will:

- Sing with mics on mute during rehearsal while listening to the teacher sing, play piano and play recordings (Due to video conference latency issues *on all platforms*, students cannot perform all together unmuted.)
- Listen to recordings of the selected repertoire performed by professional ensembles
- Be provided with practice tracks to sing outside of rehearsal time
- Learn the procedure for creating a recording of their own singing to be compiled with peers' to create virtual performance (audio only)

Other Notes:

- Special guest visits from in-district student-musicians or teachers to perform or present

## **Meetings Schedule:**

Tuesdays, 3:15pm-4:00pm on Zoom - starting ASAP through the end of the school year

## **Culminating Showcase Experience:**

**Mid-Year Talent Showcase** - Students will shared recorded videos of individual performances and these will be compiled and shared with all choir students

**End of the Year Showcase Meeting** - Students will meet on Zoom the final day of choir, dressed in concert attire and with families gathered for a final performance and demonstration of what they have learned through the year. Students will sing along to recorded tracks with mics on mute.

**Virtual Bowe Band Proposal**  
**2020-2021 School Year**  
**Prepared by Ms Angelina Coppola**

*Goal/Mission:*

- To allow Band students the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular activity similar to what they would have during a “normal year”.
- To provide students with more opportunities to play their instruments and grow as musicians in other ways.

*Detailed overview of how your club will operate 100% virtually while still meeting your goal/mission.*

- **Advanced Band**: students who have started playing their instruments in October 2019 or earlier.
  - **Playing**: Most students will be “muted” when we play together as the video chat can create a lag. Teacher will have mic on to lead the exercises and model good playing technique. Teacher may also choose a student leader (either one per meeting or alternate throughout the meeting) to unmute his/her mic and lead the group. (This will be predetermined before the meeting and leaders will be aware of expectations ahead of time.)
    - **Warm-up exercises and scales.**
    - **Exercises from the method book.**
    - **Band Arrangements** (longer pieces, these make up the bulk of Advanced Band concert music). The “ensemble” feel can be recreated by sharing videos of other groups performing the Arrangements so students can hear the other parts as they play.
  - **Listening**: This is an important part of being a musician that sometimes gets skipped over in rehearsals, especially as concert time approaches.
    - Listening to/watching videos of other ensembles playing familiar and unfamiliar pieces to identify musical concepts that we know.
    - Listening to/watching videos of other ensembles playing pieces in our repertoire to critique their performance or compare their playing to our own (to improve our own playing).
    - Listening to/watching videos of unfamiliar pieces to identify musical elements (volumes, tempos, etc) and determine how they impact the mood and feel of the piece.
  - **Other musical activities**:
    - Introduce students to different tools and resources that can be helpful for growth as a musician.

- Talks/Presentations from guest musicians including but not limited to: Mr Myers (and his ensembles at GIS/GHS if possible), band members from GIS/GHS, other musicians.
- **Beginner Band**: students who are starting to learn their instruments this year. This will run similarly to Advanced Band. The **Playing** component will mostly focus on **warm-up exercises and scales** and **exercises from the book** since they will be *brand new* to their instruments and their ability will be limited. In a normal year, Beginners start lessons earlier in the year and play mostly songs from their method book in the concert with one **Band Arrangement** on the program.

*A schedule of meetings/practices (via Zoom) with hours that do not begin before 3:15.*

- Advanced Band: Mondays from 3:15 to 4:15pm on Zoom, starting ASAP.
- Beginner Band: Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:15pm on Zoom starting early February, 2021. (Beginner Band registration will take place in early January 2021.)

*Identification of a culminating concert and/or product that provides an opportunity to showcase (virtually in real time or in a recorded presentation) the musical performances of your students.*

- "Synchronous Virtual Concert" - dates/times TBD.
  - Students will join a Zoom meeting, dressed in their "concert attire", and invite their families to gather and listen in.
  - Teacher will share an audio recording of concert pieces while she conducts. Students will play concert music along with the recording for their families.
  - Possibility of recording the "concert meeting" for those who are unable to attend the concert time synchronously.
- "Asynchronous FlipGrid Recital"
  - This will function similarly to the Bowe Talent Show that was held at the end of 2020.
  - Students will prepare solo pieces on their instruments and upload them to a FlipGrid discussion.
  - Teachers will moderate the FlipGrid, making videos "Active" (visible to the other Band students) after watching them and deeming them appropriate.
  - Possibility to combine Bands, Orchestras, and Choir together in this activity.
- "FlipGrid Caroling"

- This will function similarly to the "Asynchronous FlipGrid Recital" described above.
- It will be in place of our annual Instrumental Caroling that takes place through the hallways in December.

**Virtual Bowe Orchestra Proposal**  
**2020-2021 School Year**  
**Prepared by Ms Rachel Johns**

*Goal/Mission:*

- To allow Orchestra students the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular activity similar to what they would have during a “normal year”.
- To provide students with more opportunities to play their instruments and grow as musicians in other ways.

*Detailed overview of how your club will operate 100% virtually while still meeting your goal/mission.*

- **Advanced Orchestra:** students who have started playing their instruments in October 2019 or earlier.
  - **Playing:** Students will be “muted” for the majority of the virtual rehearsal so that the audio lag does not distract them. Teacher will be providing audio (by playing an instrument or a recording) that students will play along with and will conduct the whole group. Later in the year student “leaders” may be asked to demonstrate sections of music or lead the orchestra for a section of a song, but that will be by pre arrangement only (at the desire of the student and approval of the Director).
    - **Warm-up exercises and scales** (all playing in unison).
    - **Exercises from the method book** (all playing in unison).
    - **Orchestra Arrangements** (groups playing different parts while listening to the whole arrangement).
  - **Listening:** This is an important part of being a musician that sometimes gets skipped over in rehearsals, especially as concert time approaches.
    - Listening to/watching videos of other ensembles playing familiar and unfamiliar pieces to identify musical concepts that we know.
    - Listening to/watching videos of other ensembles playing pieces in our repertoire to critique their performance or compare their playing to our own (to improve our own playing and learn how to analyze a performance).
    - Listening to/watching videos of unfamiliar pieces to identify musical elements (volumes, tempos, etc) and determine how they impact the mood and feel of the piece.
  - **Other musical activities:**
    - Introduce students to different tools and resources that can be helpful for growth as a musician.

- Talks/Presentations from guest musicians including but not limited to: Ms. Hasheian (and her ensembles at GIS/GHS if possible), orchestra members from GIS/GHS, other musicians.
- **Beginner Orchestra:** students who are starting to learn their instruments this year. This will run similarly to Advanced Orchestra. The **Playing** component will mostly focus on **warm-up exercises and scales** and **exercises from the book** since they will be *brand new* to their instruments and their ability will be limited. In a normal year, Beginners start lessons earlier in the year and play mostly songs from their method book in the concert with one **Orchestra Arrangement** on the program.

*A schedule of meetings/practices (via Zoom) with hours that do not begin before 3:15.*

- Advanced Orchestra: Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:15pm on Zoom, starting ASAP.
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  - Teacher will share an audio recording of concert pieces while she conducts. Students will play concert music along with the recording for their families.
  - Possibility of recording the "concert meeting" for those who are unable to attend the concert time synchronously.
- "Asynchronous FlipGrid Recital"
  - This will function similarly to the Bowe Talent Show that was held at the end of 2020.
  - Students will prepare solo pieces on their instruments and upload them to a FlipGrid discussion.
  - Teachers will moderate the FlipGrid, making videos "Active" (visible to the other Orchestra students) after watching them and deeming them appropriate.
  - Possibility to combine Bands, Orchestras, and Choir together in this activity.

- "FlipGrid Caroling"
  - This will function similarly to the "Asynchronous FlipGrid Recital" described above.
  - It will be in place of our annual Instrumental Caroling that takes place through the hallways in December.