

# Upper Bucks Christian School



*"Inspiring the Next Generation"*

## UBCS Music Department Syllabus

This document provides an overview of the philosophy and content of our music program at Upper Bucks Christian School. We include information on current faculty, a calendar of events, and a brief description of each event. If you have any questions about our music program, please contact our Music Director.

### Introduction

The Music Department of UBCS is dedicated to quality instruction and performance from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We seek to serve our students by helping them to reach their highest potential musically. Our desire is to see them use their musical abilities to serve their Creator and others created in His image.

### Faculty

- Pastor Eric Connors, Music Director, Choir Director (ext. 171)
- Miss Lori Kach, Elementary/MS Music Teacher, Piano Teacher
- Mr. Al Zwart, Adjunct Band Director

### Course Offerings

- Elementary/MS Music Classes (General Music and Choral Activities)
- Performing Ensembles: Band (MS/HS combined); MS/HS Choir
- Private/Group Piano, Band Instrument Lessons

### Calendar

*(Required Group Performances are noted in bold type.)*

|     |                     |     |                         |
|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| MSC | Middle School Choir | BND | High School Band        |
| HSC | High School Choir   | EM  | All Elementary Students |

October 20 KCEA Fine Arts Festival Information Chapel

November 17-19 KCEA All-State Choir (HSC)

December 2: KCEA Festival Registrations Due (music and speech materials selected)

**December 8: Elementary Christmas Program (EM)**

**December 12: MS/HS Christmas Program (ALL MS/HS PERFORMING GROUPS)**

Feb 21: Local Audition for SH KCEA Fine Arts Festival (Required for all soloists and small ensembles)

March 10-11: KCEA All-State Band (BND)

**March 24: Senior High KCEA Festival in Academics, Art, Bible, Music, Speech (HSC/BND)**

**April 28: Junior High KCEA Festival in Academics, Art, Bible, Music, Speech (MSC)**

**May 6: Elementary Spring Concert (EM)**

**May 9: Secondary Spring Concert (ALL MS/HS PERFORMING GROUPS)**

May 23: Piano Recital (All students taking private lesson through UBCS teachers)

**June 9: Commencement (HSC)**

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|---------------|
| <b>Events</b> |
|---------------|

***Commencement***

The *High School Choir* will perform at the Commencement Ceremony. Members of these groups are required to attend and perform.

***Elementary & Middle/High School Piano Recital***

Public performance is essential to the development of pianists, and it is a skill that must be exercised. All students taking piano through UBCS are expected to perform on this special evening. The piano teachers will work with the students in selecting an appropriate recital piece.

***KCEA All-State Band***

Instrumentalists from across the state of PA, who qualify, participate in this two-day band event with guest conductors. Rehearsals will culminate in a Saturday concert performance. More details regarding this event will be given as they become available to us.

***KCEA All-State Choir***

Singers from across the state of PA audition to participate in this three-day choral event with a guest conductor. Rehearsals culminate in a Saturday concert performance in the Harrisburg Capitol Rotunda.

## ***KCEA Festival in Academics, Art, Bible, Music, Speech***

### Description

The Keystone Christian Education Association sponsors two annual statewide festivals, one for junior high (7-9)<sup>1</sup> and one for senior high (10-12)<sup>1</sup>. These events are generally held in the Harrisburg area on a Friday. Students receive evaluation and awards for presentations in Academics<sup>2</sup>, Art, Bible, Home Economics, Music, Science and Speech.

An informational Chapel is held annually in October to familiarize students with the competitions offered, so they can begin preparation early in the year. It is crucial for individual competitors to read all information carefully and pay close attention to deadlines and guidelines. A chart outlining all specific events will be provided to students in October or may be obtained earlier from the music director. Individual students are responsible to see the appropriate faculty member overseeing their event to receive more detailed guidelines specific to their area of competition.

### Participation of Performing Ensembles

UBCS performing ensembles will participate in the KCEA Fine Arts Festival as a general rule. However, there are occasional years when participation by a particular ensemble may not be deemed the most beneficial for a variety of reasons. An example would be the MS Music Festival held every other year at UBCS to pursue other musical objectives unique to that event. Decisions of this nature will be made by the conductor of each group in consultation with the music director and administration.

### Deadlines for Registration, Music, Accompaniments and Speech

*All Festival registrations are due in early December.* Any student intending to compete individually or in a small group event must turn in a registration form indicating the events in which he or she will compete. Students may not register for more than four individual events or six group events.<sup>3</sup> A copy of each selection of music, accompaniment, and speech must also be turned in along with the registration form, in order for KCEA to approve of the selections. The appropriate music or speech KCEA Preview Form should be attached to the selection. While the music faculty cannot possibly choose music for every

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<sup>1</sup>We include 6<sup>th</sup> graders in JH groups and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in our SH groups.

<sup>2</sup>The Academic portion of this festival occurs earlier in the year through written testing. Separate information will be made available through the school office.

<sup>3</sup> KCEA registration fees will be charged to individual students advancing past the local auditions.

competitor, we encourage them to communicate with us if there are any questions regarding whether selections are appropriate for competition.

### Accompanists

While we will assist music students in assigning accompanists to soloists and ensembles, it is the responsibility of the *students* to arrange all rehearsals with the accompanist.

### Local Review/Auditions

UBCS will hold local auditions to determine readiness for the festival (See Calendar of Events). Students that are well prepared will be sent to represent UBCS at the festival. Criteria for approval to proceed to the state level in music are as follows:

1. Evidence of diligent preparation and a desire to excel
2. Correct notes and rhythms (holding note values, etc.), acceptable continuity and intonation
3. Memorization of piece (if required by KCEA in that category)

### ***MS Music Festival***

UBCS will host a local music festival for the Middle School, normally every other year, alternating with the JH KCEA Festival. Students will receive evaluation and coaching in band and choir. We will host a guest judge for this event, qualified to work with the choir and band.

### ***School Concerts***

Elementary Christmas Concert, Middle School/High School Christmas Concert, Elementary Spring Concert, Middle School/High School Spring Concert

These exciting and enjoyable concerts are great times for families and friends to see the progress your children are making in music. All elementary students are required to participate in both the Elementary Christmas and Spring Programs. All MS/HS students who participate in any performing ensemble are also required to perform in the MS/HS Christmas and Spring Concerts. The collective success of our programs depends upon the contributions of each individual student.