

PERFORMING ARTS AT BWL

The performing arts department at BWL offers a rigorous, K-12 exploration of music and theater. We have a school-wide curriculum that is available to students in all divisions. Additionally, there are numerous extracurricular opportunities in Middle and Upper School to further refine our students' interest and proficiency in performing arts.

LOWER SCHOOL

MUSIC CURRICULUM & PERFORMANCES

Grades K-2 have two general music classes every week.

In **Grade 3**, chorus is introduced into the curriculum, and students have one general music class and one chorus class every week.

In **Grade 4-5**, students begin the study of an instrument (choosing between violin, viola, and cello). They now have one general music class, one chorus class, and one instrumental class each week.

All students perform at the **Holiday Concert** in December and the **Spring Concert** in May, and Kindergarten performs at their annual **Visitors Day**.

The Performing Arts Department works with every Lower School grade to prepare a "grade song" which is performed at our annual **Arch Day**.

THEATER CURRICULUM & PERFORMANCES

All grades K-5 rehearse and perform one show per year, which are often adaptations of children's books or popular Broadway shows. Shows are rehearsed for about 8-10 weeks during the school day. During the rehearsal process, students are introduced to basic theater vocabulary and technique including spatial awareness, vocal projection, and peer-to-peer interaction.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSIC CURRICULUM & PERFORMANCES

Students in **Grades 6-8** choose between three music courses: Chorus, Electronic Music, Instrumental.

All students in Chorus and Instrumental perform at the **Holiday Concert** in December and the **Spring Concert** in May.

THEATER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Play: All Middle School students are encouraged to audition for a fall non-musical play, which is rehearsed after school and performed in November. Rehearsals build on the techniques introduced in Lower School, and focus on creating a character, basic scene study, and stage presence. Everyone who auditions is offered a role to participate. Past shows include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Radium Girls*, and *The Complete History of America (Abridged)*.

Spring Musical: All Middle School students are eligible to audition for the spring musical, which is produced in conjunction with the Upper School.

Cabaret: Anyone can participate in the middle school Musical Cabaret in April, an evening of scenes and songs centered around a common theme.

UPPER SCHOOL

MUSIC CURRICULUM

In **10th Grade**, students take one semester of Music History, focusing on a common vocabulary with which to discuss and analyze music.

There are several electives available to all Upper School students, including:

- Upper School Chorus, a twice-weekly choral singing class
- Upper School Instrumental, a once-weekly class for students who wish to continue their study of violin, viola, or cello
- A Cappella: BWL has two a cappella groups, the **Beaux Ties** and the **MsChords**, which meet twice weekly. These groups are by audition only.
- Pop Co-Op, the BWL band, open to students who play any instrument, meeting once weekly

All Upper School students in an elective music class perform at the **Holiday Concert** in December and the **Spring Concert** in May.



THEATER CURRICULUM

There are several electives available to all Upper School students, including:

- Theater Master Class, an introduction to acting and performance technique
- Audition Technique, which focuses on preparing students for college auditions
- Devised Theater, a lab-style theater-making course
- Dance Technique & Composition, an exploration of movement and physical performance



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Play: All Upper School Students can audition for a fall non-musical play, which is rehearsed after school and performed in the BWL auditorium in November. Rehearsals explore more advanced theater techniques including script analysis, scene study, and character development. Past shows include *The Sparrow*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, and *You Can't Take it With You*.

Spring Musical: All Upper School Students can audition for a spring musical, which is rehearsed after school and performed in a 200-seat professional Off-Broadway theater. The rehearsal process is rigorous, and combines vocal performance, musical theater dance, and scene work. Past shows include *Hairspray*, *Anything Goes*, and *Legally Blonde*.

Student Showcase: Under the supervision of the theater faculty, this showcase is comprised of all student led work and is the capstone of the Upper School theater curriculum. Students write, cast, direct, and develop their own original work. All students in theater electives present their final coursework during this exciting event.

