Dear Bel Canto Singers and Parents,

The summer days are quickly passing and we are busy getting ready for the start of the Girl Choir season.  We’ll begin the year with a half-day retreat and hope you can attend.

The retreat is scheduled for **Sunday, September 7th at Shattuck Hall, in room 156 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.  Please note this is a change to the initial time we published. We are now starting an hour later**. Shattuck Hall is located on the Lawrence University campus behind the Chapel.  Please park on Washington Street and enter through the left hand glass entrance at the top of the stairs. Look for the signs  saying  GIRL CHOIR RETREAT.

At the retreat you will meet your conductor, Ms. Bruno, receive your music, do some singing, meet everyone in the choir, and get ready for the start of a new and exciting year.

We strongly encourage you to attend the retreat but understand that you may not be able to due to prior commitments.   If you are unable to attend please call Anne Powling, the Youth Ensembles Coordinator, at 832-7038 or e-mail at anne.e.powling@lawrence.edu

 **Please note: I will be on family vacation from August 1-10th and will not be answering calls or e-mails. However, I will be immediately available on my return on the 11th.**

**Things to bring to the retreat:**

* Water Bottle
* Snack to share
* Sharpened Pencil
* Sweatshirt (sometimes the rooms are chilly)
* 1/2 inch black three ring binder to store music and notes. Your daughter will not be issued with music if she does not have a binder.

**Uniform**

Girls new to Bel Canto will need a full length concert dress which they are expected to purchase. I will be fitting dresses at 5:00p.m. **on September 21st** outside of the rehearsal room in Shattuck Hall and will then order dresses prior to their first concert. We are inviting parents who had girls in Bel Canto last year to sell their “gently used” black dresses and these will be available for sale as I fit uniform.

**Reminder**: there is no Bel Canto rehearsal on September 14th.

**Girl Choir Website**

If you misplace information sent to you from Girl Choir, you can always visit our website for the latest handout and additional information.

Our website is: go.lawrence.edu/academy

Alternatively, log on to the Lawrence University homepage [www.lawrence.edu](http://www.lawrence.edu) and navigate to the Academy of Music where you will find a list of all of our programs.

We look forward to seeing you at the retreat.

Kind regards,

Anne Powling

Youth Ensembles Coordinator

Lawrence Academy of Music

920.832.7038.