

Days, Times and Rooms	Monday—Thursday 7:15-7:45am Room 702
Teacher Contact	James Walters Office Room 600 office 909-793-1000 ext. 146 cell 909-725-7041 (text is the best way to reach me) email jwalters@redlandsacademy.org
Websites	<p>raabells.weebly.com Click on the Bellissimo link for our performance schedule and other information. Please check for updates throughout the year.</p> <p>www.redlandsacademy.org Click on the Music link.</p> <p>Renweb www.renweb.com Login to see your grades in this and other classes.</p>
Communication	I will email parents and students throughout the year about upcoming events. I will also text students with information.
Prerequisites	Bellissimo is open to students in grades 9-12 by audition. Prospective ringers should have a minimum of three years experience ringing handbells. We can accommodate 22 ringers.
Goals and Expectations	<p>Bellissimo is a performing ensemble and rings often throughout the school year in school concerts, church services, festivals, community outreach events and Music Tour. Bellissimo performs on a weekend tour some years and schedules a summer tour every third or fourth year.</p> <p>All students are expected to help set up and break down our equipment after performances. We need parents to help transport equipment and students for some performances away from RAA.</p>
Skills	<p>Level 1 - No bell changes, only quarter, half and whole notes, only 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4 meter, only bell articulations that do not require the bell to leave the hand, slow to moderate tempo.</p> <p>Level 2 - Everything from level one plus, cut time, 3/2 and simple mixed meter, eighth notes and dotted quarter followed by an eighth, pick up notes, PL, Mart-lift, malleting, a limited number of bell changes - with adequate preparation time, two different dynamic levels at the same time, slow to moderate tempo.</p> <p>Level 3 - Everything from levels one and two plus: 6/8, 3/4 (with one pulse per measure), 3/8, 9/8, 12/8 and 6/4, sixteenth notes, triplets, syncopation (not extreme), moderate number of bell changes, a combination of techniques - but not more than two per measure, more variety in dynamics and accents, slow to fast tempo with some changes within piece.</p> <p>Level 4 - Everything from levels one, two and three plus: mixed meters, faster tempi, triplets over two beats, more complex syncopation, brush damp, extensive number of bell changes per ringer, more shifts of dynamic levels, more changes of tempo.</p>

	<p>Level 5 - Everything plus: irregular meters, dotted rhythms in compound meters at fast tempos, duples against triples, more complex syncopation, handbell passes, rapid shifts between dynamic levels, more changes in tempo.</p> <p>Level 6 - Anything goes!</p>
Performances	Performances are listed in the Music Calendar, on the RAA website, and on the Bellissimo web site. I will contact you by email with more details of events or about performance opportunities that may arise throughout the year.
Music Tour	All members of Bellissimo are expected to participate in Music Tour. The dates are April 24-27, 2018, to San Diego.
Festivals	<p>Please make note of our two festivals this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concordia University Irvine, Sabbath, February 23 (Los Alamitos SDA Church in the morning, potluck lunch; setup and rehearse at CUI, 4:00pm concert) • La Sierra University, Friday, March 8 (all day rehearsal; 7pm concert)
Participation	A handbell ensemble depends on the ringing of each member. Attendance at all performances and help setting up and taking down is expected and is a part of each student's grade. Please contact James Walters as soon as possible in the event of a scheduling conflict.
Parents	<p>We need parents to help move, set up and take down equipment. We also need at least one parent who can spend most of the day with us during Handbell Festival at La Sierra University. We invite all parents to join us at Concordia University.</p>
Concert Attire	Black and white concert clothes unless otherwise indicated. Gentlemen will wear black shirts & purple ties at some events.
Attendance	Punctual rehearsal attendance is expected of all members of Bellissimo. Plan to walk in the handbell room by 7:10 so we can begin ringing at 7:15.
Grading	<p>Grades are based on two criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of your grade is based on participation in rehearsals. Students are expected to be on time to rehearsals and to demonstrate respect and effort. • 50% of your grade is based on participation in performances. This includes being properly dressed, being on time, and helping to setup and take down equipment. All members of Bellissimo are equally important for an excellent performance. <p>Everyone can earn an A. Be on time, be prepared to work hard, and be prepared to ring excellent performances.</p>