



January, 2014

Dear Fifth Grade Parent/Guardian,

As a first step in preparing for next school year's sixth grade program, each fifth grade student is asked to select one music elective. The choices available are: Adventures in Music, Chorus, Band, and Orchestra. An explanation of each of the different course offerings is attached to this letter.

Due to scheduling constraints, it is not possible for a student to select more than one option. Please know that these classes are scheduled within our regular day, not before or after school, or during lunch. Please return the completed form to your child's 5th grade homeroom teacher by Friday, January 24th.

Sincerely,

Scott Wynne

Student's Name _____
(Last) (First)

Elementary School _____ 5th Grade Homeroom Teacher _____

Sixth Grade Music Choice: (please check only one)

___ Chorus ___ Orchestra ___ Band ___ Adventures in Music

Parent's Signature _____

You may contact Mrs. Magelowitz (x4269) or Mrs. Tucker (x4472) if you have any questions.

The 6th grade music program offers opportunities for all students to develop vocal, instrumental, and appreciation skills and talents. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all students and foster an overall appreciation for their artistic and creative pursuits.

Adventures in Music

This course introduces students to a broad spectrum of music skills and concepts including:

- * Listening skills
- * Keyboard skills
- * Music notation
- * Creating music
- * Singing skills
- * Judging musical values
- * Music in other cultures
- * Facts about music history, styles, form, and instrumentation.

Several topics are integrated with other subject areas throughout the course. Previous involvement in music is not a prerequisite.

Band

This program encompasses a thorough exploration of age appropriate concert band music including: classical, rock, jazz and pop. In addition to regularly scheduled rehearsals, students are required to practice at home. As a prerequisite for Middle School Band, students should have 1-2 years of prior experience and exhibit proper rehearsal behavior.

Chorus

Musical study in this program incorporates a wide variety of musical styles through use of the voice. Performance skills are emphasized, as well as the continued development of social skills in a large classroom setting. The following criteria have been set for 6th grade Chorus:

- * Positive experience in the elementary choirs
- * Performance in elementary school concerts
- * Understanding of the fundamentals of singing
- * Positive attitude toward music
- * Appropriate behavior in large group instructional settings

Orchestra

Middle School Orchestra involves the development of playing skills, music reading skills and the preparation of concert music. The orchestra is scheduled for all students who play a stringed musical instrument. In addition to regularly scheduled rehearsals, students are required to practice at home. As a prerequisite for Middle School Orchestra, students should have 1-2 years of prior experience and exhibit proper rehearsal behavior.