

LAKE ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

6680 Cradlerock Way Columbia, Maryland 21045 (410) 313-7601 FAX (410) 313-7610



HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Grade Students:

Welcome to Lake Elkhorn Middle School. This letter will help guide you and your child through the selection process for sixth grade **world language** and **music performance**. After reading this letter, we encourage you and your child to discuss her/his strengths and interests to ensure a successful transition to middle school. **Complete the attached form and return it to your child's fifth grade teacher by January 13, 2017.**

Music Performance: Music Performance options are band, orchestra, or chorus. Students who are enrolled in band or orchestra will participate in music sectionals. This means that in addition to the ensemble class, students will be pulled out for sectionals from their other classes on a rotating schedule.

World Language Program French and Spanish: Students have the option to take World Language during middle school. This enables students to complete at least level one during middle school and pursue World Language study through the Advanced Placement level during high school. For students who have taken world language in elementary school, this provides continuity in instruction.

Registration: To register for world language or music performance, all parents must complete the included form. You may also opt out of either or both on the attached form. If world language and music performance are both selected, students will not be able to take the full complement of related arts (fine art, technology, general music, and family and consumer science) in grade 6. It is important to note that students who are scheduled for a **reading and/or mathematics seminar** may have fewer options regarding participation.

A more detailed description of the middle school program of study is on the reverse.

If you have questions about any of the courses, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Office of Fine Arts-Visual Arts 410.313.6634 / direct emails to Gino_Molfino@hcpss.org
- Office of Fine Arts-Music 410.313.6885 / direct emails to Terry_Eberhardt@hcpss.org
- Office of World Languages 410.313.7485 / direct emails to Leslie_Grahn@hcpss.org

For questions regarding scheduling, please contact our guidance office direct emails to Bettina_Olivermccain@hcpss.org or Counseling Office at 410-313-7635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Vandenberghe".

Martin Vandenberghe
Principal

Middle School Schedule in Detail

- The middle school schedule is seven periods. All students receive daily instruction aligned to Maryland’s College and Career-Ready Standards in English, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Maryland regulations require:
 - All students to take Health Education (a quarter long course, may be scheduled every other day for a semester), Physical Education (typically scheduled every other day for the entire year), and a Fine Arts (Art and/or Music) course every year.
 - Students to take Family and Consumer Science in 8th grade or receive the financial literacy information embedded within another course.
 - Students to complete at least one Innovation and Inquiry Reading Module related to career readiness or receive this information through another course.
- Students who are reading on or below grade level will take at least two quarters of reading in 6th grade, one of which will be a reading skills transitional module, unless the students are enrolled in a reading seminar. There is no reading requirement for 7th or 8th grade.

<p>The middle school schedule consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts • Mathematics • Science • Social Studies • Related Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Arts (Music Performance, General Music, and/or Art)* • Health Education • Physical Education (every other day all year, when possible) 	<p>*The Fine Arts requirement can be fulfilled through the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Music provides students with a deeper understanding of the language of music and how it relates to and impacts our lives and cultures through the study of four main strands: keyboard, guitar, world music drumming, and music technology (1 quarter in the related arts rotation). • Music Performance (<i>Chorus, Band, Orchestra</i>) provides students the opportunity to develop technical skills and personal interpretations and to perform expressively and collaboratively through experiences with varied musical works (Full year elective with pull outs). • Visual Arts educates, informs and involves students and the school community in meaningful child-centered experiences that develop artistic behaviors, critical and creative thinking, and the exploration of personal artistic meaning. Disciplines covered include: drawing from observation, imagination and memory, painting, sculpture, printmaking and crafts. (1 quarter in the related arts rotation).
<p>Students may also choose to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Language to develop globally relevant literacy skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every other day in grade 6 • Daily in grades 7 and 8 • Performing Arts (year-long band, orchestra, or chorus) 	
<p>Some students may also take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Related Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art, General Music, Family and Consumer Science, Technology Education</i> • GT Research or Seminars/Interventions in reading and/or mathematics 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation and Inquiry Reading Modules 	

Registration Form

Return to your child's classroom teacher by January 13, 2017.

Student Name: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

MUSIC PERFORMANCE: *students may decide to continue their participation in their chosen field of interest, which includes sectionals and required after school performances (not available)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Band	Instrument:	Years Experience:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchestra	Instrument:	Years Experience:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chorus		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Opt out		

WORLD LANGUAGE: *students may choose to begin or continue their participation in the World Language program*

<input type="checkbox"/>	French
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Opt out

Selecting both Music Performance and World Language will limit the number of classes in which the students may enroll during the 6th grade year. However, they will be able to access all related arts classes during their middle school career (Art, Family and Consumer Science, General Music, and Technology Education).
