

PERFORMING ARTS OPTIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

February 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Current Grade 7 Students,

As we prepare for 2020 - 2021 school year, it is time for you to consider whether or not your child is interested in participating in chorus, band or orchestra. I encourage you to review the information below with your child and then complete and return the attached form by Thursday, February 13, 2020. We will use the information you provide to create next year's schedule. *Please note: performing arts courses are optional, and if the demand for such courses exceeds our school's ability to accommodate all requests, not all students will be able to participate in these programs.*

As you consider choices for your child, review the expectations for participation in our band, orchestra and choral programs:

- Band, orchestra and chorus will meet every day, all year, and are graded classes.
- Students in band and orchestra will receive one sectional per week in addition to their daily ensemble class. Sectionals are:
 - **Required** as a part of the band and orchestra program
 - Scheduled as **pull-outs** from other classes (including math, science, English, social studies and related arts) on a rotating basis
 - Scheduled so that students will not miss the same class more than twice per quarter
- Students interested in participating in chorus, band or orchestra will only be able to participate in *one* performing arts group due to the nature of the schedule and requirements of these courses.
- Students who participate in band, orchestra or chorus **may have to eat lunch with a grade level other than their own due to the ability-based, multi-grade level nature of these classes.** Please discuss this with your child prior to signing up for these courses, as *schedule changes are not always possible after the school year begins.*

As you consider these performing arts courses, be sure to do so in the context of the workload of all of your child's courses for the upcoming school year, including students who may have chosen to add a world language class. Schedule changes are not always possible after the school year begins, and even when they are, such changes can have a significant impact on a middle school student.

All students should return the attached form to your child's **PERIOD 3** teacher no later than Thursday, February 13, 2020, *even if your child is not planning to take a performing arts class.* Even if your child is in a performing arts class this year, the return of this form is necessary in order to continue in that performing arts class for the 2020-2021 school year. Students who turn in forms after the deadline will be placed on a waitlist. Once forms are received, the appropriate teachers will audition students to determine which group your child may be placed. If you have general questions, please contact your child's school counselor at telephone 410-313-7635. For specific questions about the music program, please feel free to contact the music teachers: Ms. Retterer, orchestra director, at Jennifer_Retterer@hcpss.org; Ms. Bilal, band director, at Sumayyah_Bilal@hcpss.org; and/or Mr. Rea, choral director, at Jeremy_Rea@hcpss.org.

Sincerely,



Melissa Shindel
Principal

**Orchestra / Band / Chorus Interest Form
2020 – 2021 School Year**

Child's Name: _____ Current Grade: 7

I request that my student be enrolled in the following performance arts class in 8th grade:

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- I DO NOT wish for my student to participate in band, orchestra or chorus

If you would like your child to be considered for participation in band, orchestra or chorus, you understand that:

- ✓ Band, orchestra and chorus meet every day. All classes are graded.
- ✓ Sectionals are required for band and orchestra students.
- ✓ Sectionals will occur on a rotating basis, as a pull-out from all classes including math, science, English, social studies and related arts. Students will not miss the same class more than twice per quarter.
- ✓ Your child will only be able to participate in one group: chorus, band or orchestra.
- ✓ Your child may have to eat lunch with a grade level other than his/her own due to the ability-based, multi-grade level nature of performing arts classes.
- ✓ Students who turn in forms after February 13, 2020 deadline will be placed on a waitlist.
- ✓ *Performing arts courses are optional, and if the demand for such courses exceeds our school's ability to accommodate all requests, not all students will be able to participate in these programs.*

Child's Name: _____ Current Grade: 7

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the information above, in addition to the information contained in the enclosed letter about band, orchestra and chorus options.

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Questions / Comments:

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM TO YOUR STUDENT'S PERIOD 3 TEACHER BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

LEMS USE:

Date Received: _____ Received by: _____

Students who turn in forms after the deadline will be placed on a waitlist.