

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Grade Students:

Greetings and please allow me to be the first to officially welcome you to Mayfield Woods! We know what an exciting time this can be for students and parents, and we look forward to working together to help you and your child transition to middle school. Before you read the rest of this letter, be sure to mark your calendar for January 15, 2019* at 5:45 p.m. for our "Rising 6th Grade Parent Orientation" (see the attached flyer for more information).

As you begin to think about middle school, we encourage you and your child to discuss her/his strengths and interests. Very soon you will have to start making some choices that will aid our school in making staffing and scheduling decisions regarding your child's 6th grade classes, and we will review these choices at orientation on January 15. At this time, however, I ask that you read the following information carefully, as it is time for you to discuss and decide whether or not your child will participate in music performance courses next year. Please be sure to complete the attached form and return it to your child's 5th grade teacher no later than January 18, 2019.

Music Performance Groups: Mayfield Woods students may choose to participate in one of three music performance groups: band, orchestra **or** chorus. Depending on staffing, scheduling and interest, there *may be an option in 6th grade for students who are in band or orchestra to also participate in chorus*. Please consider whether or not you would like your child to participate in:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| - Band | - Chorus | - Orchestra & chorus |
| - Orchestra | - Band & chorus | - No music performance courses |

Like elementary school, regular **music sectionals** (in band and orchestra only) and **afterschool performances** will be a part of your child's commitment to the music performance program and are course requirements. Sectionals are small group rehearsals that provide opportunities for the music teacher to assess students' progress and teach specific content/techniques. Sectionals are typically scheduled for 50 minutes once per week as **pull-outs** from other classes (including math, science, English, social studies and related arts) on a rotating basis so that students will not miss the same class more than twice per quarter. Sectionals are a required part of the program and may only be missed in order to take an HCPSS mandated assessment.

Registration: As we begin to plan and schedule your children for courses next year, we ask that **all parents/guardians complete the attached music performance enrollment form**. If your child is not interested in participating, you may also "opt out" of these courses on the attached form. As you consider these music performance courses, be sure to do so in the context of the workload of all of your child's courses for the upcoming school year. 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. *Please note: 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.

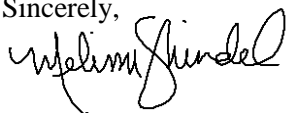
If you have questions about any of the courses, please do not hesitate to contact:

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

For questions regarding scheduling, please contact our student services office at 410-313-5025 or Mrs. Garroway, School Counselor, at therese_garroway@hcpss.org.

Sincerely,



Melissa Shindel
Principal

*The snow date for orientation will be January 23, 2019 at 5:45 p.m.

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 Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Maryland regulations require:
 - All students to take Health Education (a quarter long course, which is 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.
 - All students to take Family and Consumer Science in either 7th or 8th grade to complete the financial literacy requirement.
 - All 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 one quarter of reading in 6th grade, 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 time 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 sectionals in band and orchestra). • 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 time in the related arts rotation).
<p>Students may also choose to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Language (French or Spanish) to develop globally relevant literacy skills (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 (FACS), Technology Education</i> • Gifted and Talented (GT) Research (6th grade only), GT seminars (all students are eligible), or intervention courses in reading and/or mathematics • Innovation and Inquiry Reading Modules 	

Mayfield Woods Middle School
Music Performance Enrollment Form
for
Rising 6th Grade Students

Return to your child's 5th grade classroom teacher by January 18, 2019.

Student's LAST Name: _____ Student's FIRST 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.*

FIRST CHOICE: (CHECK ONLY ONE)

_____	Band	Instrument:	Years Experience:
_____	Orchestra	Instrument:	Years Experience:
_____	Chorus		
_____	Opt out: My child will <u>not participate</u> in band, orchestra or chorus in 6 th grade		

IF SCHEDULING PERMITS 6TH GRADERS TO TAKE 2 PERFORMING ARTS COURSES, INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE BELOW: (CHECK ONLY ONE)

_____	Band & Chorus <i>(if scheduling permits 2 performing arts courses)</i>	Band Instrument:	Band - Years Experience:
_____	Orchestra & Chorus <i>(if scheduling permits 2 performing arts courses)</i>	Orchestra Instrument:	Orchestra - Years Experience:
_____	My child prefers to only be in one performing arts course (see above under "first choice")		
_____	Opt out: My child will <u>not participate</u> in band, orchestra or chorus in 6 th grade		

Students who are scheduled for a **reading and/or mathematics seminar may have fewer options regarding participation in music performance groups.*

Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Will your child attend Mayfield Woods Middle School next year?
If so, save the date!

2 Orientations – 1 Night!

Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 5:45 p.m.

Snow Date: Wednesday, January, 23, 2019, 5:45 p.m.



GT Orientation: 5:45 p.m. - 6:25 p.m.

Will your child be enrolled in a GT class next year? Are you interested in learning about the numerous instructional seminars open to all MWMS students? Would you like to know more about the GT placement process? If you answered "yes!" to any of these questions, then join us for our GT orientation.

6th Grade Orientation: 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Will your child be a 6th grader at Mayfield Woods Middle School next year? If so, we can't wait to meet you! Please join us for an information session about the 6th grade program of studies at Mayfield Woods Middle School.

School Tours: 7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Would you like to tour our school? Now's your chance.
Group tours will be led by our fantastic students!