

December 10, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for 2019 - 2020 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 Wednesday, December 19, 2018. 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 and orchestra will meet every day, all year, and are graded classes. Depending on student interest and staffing, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus will either meet every day all year or every other day all year. Chorus is also a graded class.
- 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 homeroom teacher no later than December 19, 2018, *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 2019-2020 school year. 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 410-313-5025. For specific questions about the music program, please feel free to contact the music teachers: Mr. Hunter, band director, at Adam\_Hunter@hcpss.org; Mr. Morris, orchestra director, at Tobias\_Morris@hcpss.org; and/or Mr. Hoffmaster, choral director, at Jordan\_Hoffmaster@hcpss.org.

Sincerely,



Melissa Shindel  
Principal

**Chorus / Band / Orchestra Interest Form  
2019 – 2020 School Year**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: 7

I request that my student be enrolled in the following performance arts class in 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and orchestra will meet every day; chorus will be scheduled once student interest and staffing is determined. 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.**
- ✓ ***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.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return this portion to your child's homeroom teacher no later than December 19, 2018.**

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

If not received by 12/19/18, indicate date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_