

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SIXTH GRADE MUSIC EDUCATION REGISTRATION
2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Sixth Grade Students,

This year marks the beginning of a very important process for your child – the course selection and scheduling process. Your child will begin to select courses for study at the middle school. Music is an area which requires a course selection.

The Middle School Music Program is divided into two areas of study: Classroom Music and Performance Areas. The performance areas are subdivided into three concentrations: band, chorus, and string orchestra.

Classroom Music: This area of study is an extension of the elementary classroom music program. Students will study different styles of music, perform music with a variety of instruments (keyboards, drums, etc), and study musical eras. This class meets two times per six-day cycle for the entire school year. Students will receive a grade on their report cards for this course.

Band/Chorus/String Orchestra: These areas of study are an extension of the elementary program. Students interested in registering for any of these groups must be currently participating in their elementary school's band, chorus, or string orchestra programs; and must be able to demonstrate performance skills acceptable for the middle school level. Students registering for any of these courses must be recommended to continue by their current elementary directors. These groups meet two times per six-day cycle for the entire school year. Students will receive a grade on their report cards for these courses. Students are also required to attend a weekly rotating lesson. Concert attendance is required of all members and is part of the student's grade for the course. In addition, some performing groups may require specific concert attire.

Please complete the registration form enclosed with this letter and return it to your child's elementary school classroom music teacher before **Thursday, February 21, 2019**.

Sincerely,

WCASD Elementary and Middle
School Music Teachers

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC EDUCATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We understand that the transition from elementary school to middle school can be complicated. Below, please find some answers to questions commonly asked by parents regarding the transition into middle school music.

WHAT UNIFIED ARTS COURSES WILL MY CHILD TAKE?

Middle School students have the opportunity to take a wide variety of courses in the areas of Computer Science, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health & Physical Education, Music, Technology Education, and Visual Arts. Enclosed, please see the sample 6th Grade Unified Arts schedule, so you can see the different courses your child will have the opportunity to take.

WHY CAN'T MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN ONE ENSEMBLE?

Under our current scheduling system, students only have two class periods to take all of their Unified Arts courses. Because of that, students are limited to one musical selection to allow them the opportunity to experience courses they have not been exposed to in elementary school. However, the district recognizes that we have a lot of students who are very passionate about music, and we are therefore exploring the possibility of revising our current middle school schedule to allow greater flexibility for students, which could allow them the opportunity to enroll in more than one music course. The earliest such a change would be put in place is for the 2020-21 school year.

WHAT OTHER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES CAN MY CHILD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

The WCASD is proud to offer our students a robust and diverse extracurricular experience. Students with a passion for music can also participate in the school musical, either as a performer or in the "pit". Many of our schools also have a variety of enrichment groups, such as jazz band and chorale. Your child will hear about these, and other great opportunities, when they start school in August.

ARE THERE ANY SUMMER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC?

While we do not offer any programs through the WCASD, many of our teachers are instructors in the CHECK programs through Chester County Night School. Enrollment for some programs for *Summer 2019* are already posted on the CCNS website and more will be added throughout the spring. You are encouraged to explore these opportunities and also speak to your current director to learn about other programs that might benefit your child.

CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT MUSIC HONORS PROGRAM IN 6TH GRADE?

Yes, however, the students involved in these programs do generally come from 7th and 8th grade, as they have refined their skills with their middle school directors. Students who have in the past participated in an elementary honors program but are not selected to participate in the honors program in 6th grade should not be discouraged and should audition again in 7th grade.

As you have more questions about our music program, please do not hesitate to reach out to your current directors to provide more guidance.

6th Grade Schedule - *SAMPLE*

The middle school schedule has 8 periods in the school day, plus homeroom. Each student will take Language Arts – English, Language Arts – Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Each student will also have a lunch period. The remaining two periods of the day will consist of the Unified Arts – Computer Science, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health & Physical Education, Music, Technology Education, and Visual Arts. Provided here is a ***SAMPLE*** 6th grade schedule. Not all students will have all of the same courses, based on their own individual educational needs. Students who need additional support in different areas may have a varied course schedule.

**Period 1 & 2 on the sample schedule are not reflective of when each middle school has its UA periods. These will vary by school.*

The Unified Arts courses meet for various time periods throughout the year. Some, such as Physical Education, meet all year. Others, like Health, meet for a semester (2 quarter marking periods). Still others will meet for one marking period, such as Food Science. This schedule is designed to allow 6th grade students to explore different areas of studies, and hopefully ignite a passion in one or more of the areas.

Illustrated below is a ***sample*** 6th grade Unified Arts schedule. Your child’s 5th grade teacher, their counselor, and the 6th grade team, will create a schedule that best meets the needs of your child. Throughout the course selection process, you will be able to review your child’s courses for their 6th grade year.

6th Grade Unified Arts Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Unified Arts Period 1*	PE 6 (All Year)	PE 6 (All Year)	Music Performance OR Classroom (All Year)	Music Performance OR Classroom (All Year)	Manufacturing Engineering (MP1) Computer Science Fundamentals (MP2) Technology/Robotics (MP3) Consumer Studies (MP4)	Manufacturing Engineering (MP1) Computer Science Fundamentals (MP2) Technology/Robotics (MP3) Consumer Studies (MP4)
Unified Arts Period 2*	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)	Health 6 (MP 1 & 2)
	Art 6 (MP 3 & 4)	Art 6 (MP 3 & 4)	Art 6 (MP 3 & 4)	Art 6 (MP 3 & 4)	Food Science (MP3) Computer Science Applications (MP 4)	Food Science (MP3) Computer Science Applications (MP 4)