

Chelmsford Public Schools
Fine and Performing Arts Department
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FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION FOR INCOMING GRADE 5 FAMILIES:
Parker and McCarthy Middle Schools

April 7, 2022

Dear Parents,

It is the time of year when your child will begin to consider which arts block class they may be interested in joining for next fall. To assist them and you with this process, this letter will provide you with information and links to videos regarding our 5th grade Fine and Performing Arts Programs at McCarthy and Parker.

In grade 5, students select either performance music (Band, Chorus, or Orchestra) for a full year, or visual art for half of the year and music concepts and cultures (a general music class building upon skills from grade 4 general music class) for half of the year. These classes are all offered during the school day. Students who take performance music who would also like to explore the grade-level art curriculum are encouraged to join the Art Club, which is an after-school club taught by the school's art teachers.

All students take art classes in grade 7-8, regardless of whether they participate in music ensembles.

It is important to know that students who select to participate in our Band, Chorus or Orchestra Program at any grade level (5-8) commit to staying in the program for the entire school year, as our curriculum focuses on skills and expectations that are developed sequentially throughout the year, and the music directors choose literature and plan for progress through the curriculum based on the number of students in each ensemble.

Students will formally sign up for their arts block choice this spring. Between now and then, the elementary art and music teachers will be discussing middle school programs with all grade 4 students to support them in this process.

If your child selects chorus or art/music concepts and cultures, they will be entered into that class for grade 5. No further steps are required.

If your child selects band or orchestra, they will be entered into that class in grade 5. In these cases, please contact a rental company before August 2022 so that your child will have an instrument for the first day of school next year (see the following pages for more information).

Thank you for your attention; I hope this will help you and your child to make their Fine and Performing Arts selections for 5th grade. I am always available to answer questions you may have, so please feel free to contact me or any of the teachers at any time through their contact information below. We are all looking forward to welcoming this class to middle school!

Sincerely,

Dr. Christy Whittlesey