

January 31, 2012

Dear 5th Grade Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of year when all students entering Windham Middle School must choose their elective Unified Arts and World Language courses for next year.

Required Unified Arts Classes

- Physical Education – 2 quarters
- Art
 - 1 quarter every day for Band and Chorus students.
 - All year (2 days a week) for Music Appreciation students.
- Health – 1 quarter
- Study Skills – 6th Grade – 1 day a week all year

Electives

- Music Instruction – Band, Chorus, or Music Appreciation. *
- French
 OR
• Spanish

*Please note that Jazz band, Honors band, and Select chorus are not music options. They are all auditioned groups that rehearse either before or after the regular school day.

Class Descriptions for Electives:

Band & Chorus

These are performing groups that focus on musicianship and the technical aspects of singing and playing. Concerts and festivals are required performances in both Band and Chorus.

*Students who sign up for band must be currently enrolled in band at Center School or receive permission from Ms. Noyes.

*Students who sign up for chorus do not need to be in the chorus at Center School at this time, however they should be interested in learning about varied styles vocal music and singing in general.

Music Appreciation

This is a class that discusses different musical styles and the impact it has on society. An understanding of theory is reviewed so that projects and assignments can be completed in class.

*All students will be required to take some form of music instruction. Those who do not participate in band or chorus will take music appreciation. Please note that due to scheduling restrictions, a student will take just one of the following: band, chorus, or music appreciation. Those who choose to take music appreciation will meet every day for one quarter only. Those who choose band or chorus will meet 3 times per week for the full year.

French & Spanish

These are required academic courses which meet daily for an entire year. These World Language courses seek to build skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as to develop an understanding of culture of the countries studied. Grade 6 students are required to take French or Spanish. They will also have the option of continuing these studies in Grade 7 and in Grade 8. Students **cannot begin a world language in Grade 7 or 8.* Many students who successfully complete the three-year program may be eligible for placement in a high school French II or Spanish II program in their first year of high school.

******* In order to complete schedules at the Windham Middle School for next year, it is most important to have your Music, Foreign Language and ILS choices, so that all other UA classes can be scheduled accordingly. Please mark your choices on the next page with a check mark and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by the date indicated.**

If you have any questions concerning:

- Music, please contact Mrs. Cuneo or Ms. Noyes.
- Foreign Language, please contact Mr. Boisvert.
- Art, please contact either Mrs. Mercier or Mrs. Crimmin.

WMS main phone is 893-2636.

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Please return the next page, with your student's choices, to your homeroom teacher by: **February 24, 2011**

Student Name: _____ Entering: 6th Grade

Current Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent/guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please select one of the following options:

1. _____ Band** with which Instrument _____
2. _____ Chorus
3. _____ Music Appreciation

***Those choosing band must be currently enrolled in band or receive permission from Ms. Noyes.*

- Band instruments include: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion, bells.
- Students playing violin may sign up for band, but should contact Ms. Noyes for more information before signing up.

Please fill in student information again. It will go to different departments.

Thank You.

Student Name: _____ Entering Grade: 6th Grade

Current Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent/guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Electives

Foreign Language – Choose 1

- _____ French
 OR
_____ Spanish