

January 31, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of year when all students attending 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1 day a week all year

### **Electives**

- Music Instruction – Band, Chorus, or Music Appreciation. \*
- French }  
OR } OR ILS –Integrated Learning Skills (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade only)  
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 must be currently enrolled in band or MUST speak with Ms. Noyes before signing up for band. \*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.

## **Integrated Learning Skills (ILS)**

This course is taught in the classroom as well as in the computer lab (on computers), using technology to enhance students' work in other academic courses. Students analyze learning styles, learn study skill strategies, take an inventory of their strengths and weaknesses, review better ways of managing time and improving study habits, and are involved in a variety of interesting projects. *\*Students who elect ILS in Gr. 7 will **not** be able to begin a World Language in Gr. 8, because the eighth grade program is a continuation of the curriculum that was begun in sixth and seventh grade.*

\*Students may elect one of the following courses French / Spanish OR ILS. It is important to note that each course is a regular, daily academic class, and selection represents a year-long commitment.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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 or ILS, please contact Mr. Boisvert.
- Art, please contact either Mrs. Mercier or Mrs. Crimmin.

WMS main phone is 893-2636.

scunoe@windhamsd.org  
bnoyes@windhamsd.org  
cboisvert@windhamsd.org  
rmercier@windhamsd.org  
kcrimmin@windhamsd.org

*Please return the next page, with your student's choices, to your homeroom teacher by:* **February 14, 2011**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering: 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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

**Thank You.**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Current Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Electives**

Foreign Language or ILS – Choose 1

\_\_\_\_\_ French } **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ ILS  
                  **OR**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish }

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Current Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select one of the following options:**

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Band\*\* with which Instrument \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Music Appreciation

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

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

**Thank You.**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Current Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Electives**

Foreign Language – Choose 1

\_\_\_\_\_ French }  
                  **OR** } **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ ILS  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish }