

Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising Seventh and Eighth Grade Students:

Students attending Mount View Middle School will participate in the Middle School Fine Arts Pilot Program for the 2019/20 school year. Participation in a comprehensive, yearlong fine arts pilot program will provide students the opportunity to delve more deeply into their interests. They will be able to create and perform collaboratively, develop technical skills and begin to define their personal creative direction. These experiences will form the foundation for possible advanced placement in high school.

This letter will assist you and your child through the selection of a yearlong **fine arts course and additional coursework**. We encourage you and your child to have a conversation and make selections based on strengths and interests to ensure a successful transition to 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade. Enrollment preference is determined by previous content experience, class size and form submission date. Every effort will be made to honor course requests.

**Complete the attached form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by January 18, 2019.**

### Middle School Fine Arts Pilot Year-Long Curricular Options

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**General Music I & II:** General Music provides students with a deeper understanding of the language of music and how it relates to and impacts our lives and cultures through the study of four main strands: keyboard, guitar, world music drumming, and music technology.

**Music Performance Ensemble I & II:** Ensemble options include **band, orchestra, or chorus**. Coursework focuses on individual instruments and vocal techniques in order to develop musical behaviors, creative thinking, and critical skills, both as individual musicians and in an ensemble setting. As in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students who are enrolled in band or orchestra will participate in music sectionals on a rotating schedule and after school performances as part of the class requirements.

**Visual Arts I & II:** Visual Arts educates, informs and involves students and the school community that develop artistic behaviors, critical and creative thinking, and the exploration of personal artistic meaning. Disciplines covered include: drawing from observation, imagination and memory, painting, sculpture, printmaking, crafts, and mixed and alternative media.

### Additional Middle School Curricular Options

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**Engineering & Technology I & II:** Project Lead the Way's (PLTW) Gateway instruction empowers students to lead their own discovery. As students engage in PLTW's activities in computer science, engineering, and technology, they will see paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

**Inquiry and Innovation Reading Modules I & II:** Inquiry and Innovation Reading Modules engage students in creativity, innovation, and problem solving. The units are designed to provide opportunities for students to develop research skills, enhance oral communication skills, and extend both critical writing and thinking skills across curricular contents.

**World Language Program I & II (*French, Spanish, Chinese*):** Students have the option to take World Language during middle school. This enables students to complete at least level one during middle school and pursue World Language study through the Advanced Placement level during high school.

**Registration:** To register for fine arts, world language, inquiry and innovation, or engineering & technology courses parents must complete the included form. Students who are scheduled for a **reading and/or math seminar** may have fewer options regarding participation. A more detailed description of the middle school program of study is on the reverse.

For questions regarding scheduling, please contact our Student Services at 410.313.5549.

Sincerely,  
Allen Cosentino  
Principal

## Middle School Schedule in Detail

- The middle school schedule consists of seven periods. All students receive daily instruction aligned to Maryland’s College and Career-Ready Standards in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Maryland regulations require:
  - All students to take Health Education (a quarter long course, may be scheduled every other day for a semester), Physical Education (typically scheduled every other day for the entire year), and a Fine Arts course every year.
  - Students take Family and Consumer Science in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to receive the financial literacy information embedded within the course.
- Some students may also take:
  - Additional instruction in *Digital Citizenship*
  - GT Research or Seminars/Interventions in reading and/or mathematics.

<b>Course 1</b>	<b>English Language Arts</b>
<b>Course 2</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>Course 3</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Course 4</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>
<b>Course 5</b>	<b>Physical Education / Health / FACS or Digital Citizenship</b>
<b>Courses 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>Fine Arts (<i>Students select two, at least one must have an asterisk</i>)</b> - Band* - Chorus* - General Music I or II * - Orchestra* - Visual Arts I or II* - Engineering & Technology - Innovation & Inquiry Reading Modules - World Language (Chinese, French, Spanish) I or II

If you have questions about any of the courses, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Office of Fine Arts-Visual Arts 410.313.6634 / direct emails to [Gino\\_Molfino@hcpss.org](mailto:Gino_Molfino@hcpss.org)
- Office of Fine Arts-Music 410.313.6885 / direct emails to [Terry\\_Eberhardt@hcpss.org](mailto:Terry_Eberhardt@hcpss.org)
- Office of Career and Technology Education 410.313.6769 / direct emails to [Sharon\\_Kramer@hcpss.org](mailto:Sharon_Kramer@hcpss.org)
- Office of Secondary Language Arts 410.313.6623 / direct emails to [Nancy\\_Czarnecki@hcpss.org](mailto:Nancy_Czarnecki@hcpss.org)
- Office of World Languages 410.313.7485

## Registration Form

*Return to your child's homeroom teacher by January 18, 2019.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINE ART ELECTIVES:** *Students may choose to begin or continue their participation in any two of these programs. Students must select one with an asterisk as choice #1, then choose a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice from any remaining options. Only one choice may be band, chorus or orchestra. The goal is to ensure all students receive their requests. Availability of sections is based on enrollment.*

_____	Band*	Instrument:	Years Experience:
_____	Chorus*		
_____	Orchestra*	Instrument:	Years Experience:
_____	General Music I*	<b><u>OR</u></b>	_____ General Music II* <i>(continuation of course from previous year)</i>
_____	Visual Arts I*	<b><u>OR</u></b>	_____ Visual Arts II* <i>(continuation of course from previous year)</i>
_____	Engineering & Technology		
_____	Innovation & Inquiry Reading Module		
_____	World Language	Chinese I _____	Chinese II _____
		French I _____	French II _____
		Spanish I _____	Spanish II _____ <i>(continuation of course from previous year)</i>