

**West Chester Area School District  
Department of Music Education**

**Sixth Grade Music Education Selection  
2020-2021 School Year**

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Sixth Grade Students,

The process of transitioning your fifth-grade student to middle school is an important process in his or her education. Part of this process includes the selection of a sixth-grade music course.

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

**Classroom Music**

Students will study different styles of music, musical eras, and perform music with a variety of instruments (keyboards, drums, etc.)

**Performance Areas**

**Band/String Orchestra:** Requirement: Current participation in elementary band or string orchestra programs.

**Chorus:** No requirement.

Concert attendance is required 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 **Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristen Barnello  
WCASD Supervisor of Social Studies and Fine Arts

# **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.

### **CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN ONE ENSEMBLE?**

Students are limited to one musical course selection due to the number of Unified Arts courses in the curriculum, providing material not taught in elementary school. Those courses are Computer Science, Family & Consumer Science, Health, Physical Education, and Technology Education

### **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. 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 (CCNS).

### **CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT MUSIC HONORS PROGRAM IN 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE?**

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

**West Chester Area School District**  
**Department of Music Education**  
**SIXTH GRADE MUSIC EDUCATION REGISTRATION**  
**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ School Currently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School you will attend: (check one) ☐ Fugett ☐ Peirce ☐ Stetson

**Please check ONE of the following options:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Music ***OR***
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Performance Organization
  - a. ☐ Band Present Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☐ Orchestra Present Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. ☐ Chorus

**Approved Choral/Instrumental Teacher Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Information

1. Study Private Piano      yes \_\_\_\_\_      no \_\_\_\_\_      number of years \_\_\_\_\_
2. I have participated in the following:
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Band Program      | <input type="checkbox"/> District Honors Band      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Orchestra Program | <input type="checkbox"/> District Honors Orchestra |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Chorus Program    | <input type="checkbox"/> District Honors Chorus    |

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this signed form to your child's elementary classroom music teacher before Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Thank you!**