January 10, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Current Sixth and Seventh Grade Students:

Students attending **Wilde Lake Middle School**will be participating in the Middle School Schedule Pilot Program for the 2018/19 school year. Participation in this pilot program will provide students the opportunity to delve more deeply into their interests, to create and perform collaboratively, develop technical skills, and begin to define personal creative direction. In all cases, 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 a course elective**. We encourage you and your child to have a conversation and make selections based on strengths and interests to ensure a successful transition to 7th / 8th grade.

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

**Middle School Fine Arts Year-Long Course Elective Options**

**General Music:** General Musicprovides 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:** 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 6th 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:** Visual Artseducates, 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 Year-Long Course Elective Options**

**Engineering & Technology:** 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:** 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 (*French, Spanish)*:**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 mathematics 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 school counseling office (410 313-6960).

Sincerely,

Anne K. Swartz

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 to take Family and Consumer Science in 7th or 8th grade to receive the financial literacy information embedded within this course.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course 1**  | **English Language Arts** |
| **Course 2**  | **Mathematics** |
| **Course 3** | **Science** |
| **Course 4** | **Social Studies** |
| **Course 5** | **Fine Arts** *(Students select one)* - Band- Chorus- General Music- Orchestra- Visual Arts |
| **Courses 6** | **Physical Education / Health / FACS or Digital Citizenship** |
| **Course 7** | **Course Elective** *(Students select one)*- Engineering & Technology – (Project Lead the Way)- Innovation & Inquiry Reading Modules- World Language (French, Spanish) |

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

• Office of Fine Arts-Music 410.313.6885 / direct emails to Terry\_Eberhardt@hcpss.org

• Office of Career and Technology Education 410.313.6769 / direct emails to Sharon\_Kramer@hcpss.org

• Office of Secondary Language Arts 410.313.6623 / direct emails to Nancy\_Czarnecki@hcpss.org

• Office of World Languages 410.313.7485 / direct emails to Jennifer\_Cornell@hcpss.org

**Registration Form**

***Return to your child's homeroom teacher by January 18, 2018.***

**Student Name:**

**Grade Level:**

**Parent/Guardian Name:**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Fine Art Electives:** *students may choose to begin or continue their participation in one of these programs Select ONE* |
| \_\_\_\_\_ | Band | Instrument: | Years Experience: |
| \_\_\_\_\_ | Chorus |  |  |
| \_\_\_\_\_ | General Music |  |  |
| \_\_\_\_\_ | Orchestra | Instrument: | Years Experience: |
| \_\_\_\_\_ | Visual Arts |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Course Electives:** *students may choose to begin or continue their participation in one of these programs**Select ONE* |
|  **\_\_\_** | **Engineering and Technology (Project Lead the Way)** |
|  **\_\_\_** | **Innovation & Inquiry Reading Module** |
|   **\_\_\_** | **World Language \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ French \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish** |
|  |  |