

To all Incoming Grade 5 Students/Parents/Guardians:

After implementing some significant changes in the upper school specialists schedule with regards to the fine arts courses during this school year, we received feedback about those changes and have adjusted the upper school specialists schedules for the '18-'19 school year to what we believe is the best for all students. We would like to share how the upper school schedule works with you.

We have, in the past, created a core academic schedules based on periods of time that students in band and/or chorus are pulled out and they often miss core academic interventions/enrichments like Continental Math League, Newsela, ReadingPlus, and others.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, all chorus sessions and all instrument lessons and band ensemble time will take place during the six day specialist rotation to remove all impact on core academic time. In creating this specialists schedule, we tried to keep as many opportunities open for all students. Specialists schedules follow a six day rotation (A-F) with 60 minutes block each day. The schedules for all upper school students are outlined below. Students will follow this schedule all year.

All band students will enroll in the following every A-F day rotation:

- 1 class of technology
- 1 class of health
- 1 class of PE
- 2 Instrument lesson sessions
- 1 full band ensemble

* No general music or art

All chorus students will enroll in the following every A-F day rotation:

- 1 class of technology
- 1 class of health
- 1 class of PE
- 2 sessions of chorus
- 1 class of art

* No general music

All non-chorus non band students will enroll in the following every A-F day rotation:

- 1 class of technology
- 1 class of health
- 2 classes of PE
- 1 class of general music
- 1 class of art

All students will have at minimum of one class of PE, one health class, one technology class, and all students will have one class of art each cycle with the exception of students who commit to an instrument. Choosing to play an instrument takes commitment and dedication and that choice is the students fine arts course choice for middle school. We are so fortunate and proud to have a strong band program that allows for instrument lessons and band ensemble time during the school day. Most importantly, all students, regardless of what they are enrolled in for specials, will be able to participate in the academic intervention/enrichments times at each grade level.

Cheryl Mancini, the Supervisor of Fine Arts and I will be hosting an informational meeting on Thursday August 16th at the Tenney Grammar School Auditorium beginning at 5:30pm for all parents and students that have questions about this.

Because we need to have accurate lists in order to build student schedules, we will need a commitment from any student who is choosing chorus in grade 5 and any student who is selecting an instrument in grade 5 by August 22nd. We are asking for a commitment as building these schedules impacts every student in the grade level and we want to be able to build these once for all students to have on the first day of school. If students do not commit to band or chorus by August 22nd, they may have an opportunity to enroll in it the following year. Please email your respective Upper School Associate Principal no later than August 22nd.

Robert Marino, Marsh Upper School Associate Principal rtmarino@methuen.k12.ma.us

Maria McLaughlin, CGS Upper School Associate Principal mamclaughlin@methuen.k12.ma.us

Paula Simone, Tenney Upper School Associate Principal pasimone@methuen.k12.ma.us

Lisa Durkee, Timony Upper School Associate Principal ladurkee@methuen.k12.ma.us

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at bikwong@methuen.k12.ma.us or (978) 722-6007.

Sincerely,

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Grants

bikwong@methuen.k12.ma.us

(978) 722-6007