

South Windsor Public Schools Music Department

Music at Timothy Edwards Middle School

Dear 5th Grade Families:

All 6th grade students at TE take music as an Encore class. The descriptions for each of the music class options are provided below. Please discuss these options with your child, and then make your selection. Students who wish to begin instrumental instruction should contact the appropriate ensemble teacher listed below before making your selection.

- ☐ **Instrumental Music Ensembles - Band/Orchestra:** Middle school orchestra and band classes meet by grade level in a large group setting during the school day. Students will learn a wide range of music, expand their playing ability, and be part of a great team. Students in 6th grade band/orchestra will expand on musical concepts and foundational skills acquired in 4th and 5th grade. Band/orchestra are performing groups and have multiple performance opportunities throughout the year. Band includes wind and brass instruments, and orchestra includes string instruments such as violin, viola, string bass and cello. If your child participated in band or orchestra in 5th grade, we highly encourage them to continue playing their instrument in middle school.
- ☐ **Chorus Class:** Chorus meets by grade level in a large group setting during the school day and is where the formal instruction on vocal singing begins. Students will be exposed to various genres of music and expand their musical knowledge while being part of a great team. Chorus is a performing group and will have multiple performing opportunities throughout the school year.
- ☐ **General Music/Music Matrix:** Music Matrix, or general music, is similar to the music class students take in elementary school. It is not a formal performing class and it presents more broad, introductory concepts. Music Matrix includes an introduction to guitar, piano, ukulele and world drumming, music theory and history, as well as digital audio composition and editing in the computer lab.
- ☐ **After-School Opportunities:** The middle school also offers auditioned after-school groups for students who wish to participate in more than one musical group. Some of the offerings are Spotlight (show choir), Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Entertainers (the school musical). More information will be provided at the start of school.

If you have any further questions regarding the music selection, please contact the TEMS school counseling office at (860) 648-5033. We look forward to meeting and working with your child in the coming school year!

Best wishes,

The South Windsor Public Schools Music Department

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