

Sumter School District Visual and Performing Arts

Dear Parents:

Students who plan to enroll in any of the Sumter School District middle schools will have the opportunity to register for one or more of the Visual and Performing Arts classes. These classes include: band, chorus, strings (selected schools), and visual art. As students are beginning to make choices about which electives they are interested in, please remember that students should be careful in their course selection. Choices of courses at this time help determine the master schedule for next school year. Parental involvement in the pre-registration process will greatly aid your child in making appropriate choices for middle school. Also, keep in mind that students who may be interested in beginning band, chorus, or strings should do so in the 6th grade. It is difficult for students to begin these classes in the 7th or 8th grade because they will be enrolled in a class with students who have already had one or two years of playing/singing experience. Students who postpone the beginning of band, chorus, or strings usually are not as successful as those who begin on time, in the 6th grade.

6th grade band students will develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments. Students will learn to play a variety of band literature. Students may purchase or rent, an instrument. The middle school band directors will be available at the beginning of the year to assist students and parents in making appropriate instrumental decisions. Music vendors will be available at the beginning of the year to assist with purchasing or rental plans.

6th grade strings students will develop techniques for playing violin, viola, cello, or stringed bass. Students will learn to play a variety of orchestral literature. Students may purchase, rent, or borrow an instrument. The middle school orchestra teachers will be available at the beginning of the year to assist students and parents in making appropriate instrumental decisions. Music vendors will be available at the beginning of the year to assist with purchasing or rental plans.

6th grade chorus students will develop vocal and choral techniques. Students will sing a variety of choral literature. Students will wear a choral uniform (usually dark on the bottom and white on the top) for performances. The choral teachers will send more information concerning the attire at the beginning of the school year.

6th grade visual art students will explore different art forms and develop the knowledge and skill to create individual works of art. This course covers the vocabulary, materials, and processes of the art forms and the design elements and principles supporting a work of art.

6th-8th Theatre- In Theatre, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence, trust, believability, sensory awareness, concentration, and stage presence by stimulating the imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games and activities students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' literacy skills. A history of theatre timeline will be presented to establish historical perspective and relevance. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, and script and journal writing. ***NO AUDITION IS REQUIRED***

If your student is interested in one of the Visual and Performing Arts classes, please complete the attached form and return it to the school counselor at your child's school.

**Visual and Performing Arts Pre-Registration Form
Please Print**

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Current School: _____

Assigned Middle School: _____

My child is interested in taking the following class: **CIRCLE ONE:**

Band

Strings-(available at Alice Drive Middle, Bates, and Chestnut Oaks only)

Chorus

Visual Art

Theatre-(Hillcrest Middle School)

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Email: tenika.chambers@sumterschools.net or

miriam.robinson@sumterschools.net

Fax: 803.499.3364 or 803.499.3353

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