

SUBJECT: TRANSITION to 8th Grade Music Course Selection

Dear Parents and Guardians of 7th Grade Students,

For 8th grade, your child will be automatically enrolled into the same music course from 7th grade. Therefore, if you plan for your child to stay in the same music course, then please disregard this letter.

If, however, you wish to change your child's music course for grade 8, please follow the Music Course Change Procedure by May 22, 2020. Changes to a student's music course cannot be made after May 22, 2020; this is the cut-off date for entering a change in PowerSchool.

Music Course Change Procedure

1. Log into [PowerSchool](#) (for login assistance, please contact the parent help desk at parenthelpdeskwestportps.org)
2. Under the portal navigation menu, click "Class Registration."
3. Next, click the Pencil icon on the right side of the screen; a pop-up window will appear
4. To select a course or modify an existing selection, place a check mark to the left of the desired course, and then click "Okay."
5. To ensure you completed the steps above accurately, the red exclamation point next to the Pencil icon should change to a green check mark.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to scheduling and staffing requirements, the window for entering this selection into [PowerSchool](#) is available from Friday, May 1, 2020 through Friday, May 22, 2020; changes will not be possible after this date.

Please direct any questions about this process to Jacquelyn Mellin, Assistant Principal at Bedford Middle School via email jmellin@westportps.org

Sincerely,

The BMS Administrative Team

MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Band

Students in the Band enjoy studying a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate pieces and perform at fall and spring concerts. Band instruments may include flute, oboe, trumpet, clarinet, as well as other percussion and wind instruments. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in small group lessons and collaborative settings. Small group lessons occur during regularly scheduled class times; small group lessons occur weekly and on a rotating basis so students do not continually miss the same course. Students are expected to alert their teacher that they will be attending a music lesson and also follow-up with their classroom teachers regarding missed class work after attending each small group lesson.

Orchestra

Students in the Orchestra enjoy studying a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate pieces and perform at fall and spring concerts. Orchestra instruments may include violin, viola, cello, as well as other string instruments. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in small group lessons and collaborative settings. Small group lessons occur during regularly scheduled class times; small group lessons occur weekly and on a rotating basis so students do not continually miss the same course. Students are expected to alert their teacher that they will be

attending a music lesson and also follow-up with their classroom teachers regarding missed class work after attending each small group lesson.

Chorus

Students in Chorus enjoy studying a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate songs and perform at fall and spring concerts. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in a mostly collaborative setting.

Music Technology

Students in Music Technology explore the “how” and “why” music sounds the way it does. This is done through further development of musical knowledge and skills, the study of musical history and styles, and applying these to compositional elements and projects through the use of music software. Music Technology is a mostly project-based learning class.