

Student Last Name: _____

Student First Name: _____

Current Elementary School: _____

Please read the descriptions of each of the program options available during the 6th grade year; then respond to each survey question.

1. **WORLD LANGUAGE:** World Language is REQUIRED for all students. Please indicate the course that you would like to take for your 6th grade year:

_____ French

_____ Spanish

2. **MUSIC ENSEMBLES:** Ensembles are OPTIONAL courses. *However, courses are graded, and enrollment requires a commitment by the student to complete all course requirements.* After a trial period of four weeks at the beginning of the school year, students must remain in the music program(s) through the first concert performance (Marking Periods 1 and 2) before they are allowed to drop the music course. All add/drop requests must be made no later than **October 14, 2016**.

Each course is conducted on alternating days, allowing a student to take more than one ensemble. A student may participate in band/orchestra only if she/he is currently enrolled in an instrumental or strings program in the elementary school. *A student may also elect to participate in more than one ensemble program, but should consider the impact that doing so may have on fulfilling the normal academic course load.*

_____ I DO NOT WISH TO BE ENROLLED IN ANY OF THE MUSIC ENSEMBLES.

_____ CHORUS

No previous experience required.

_____ ORCHESTRA

String instrument played in elementary school: _____

_____ BAND

Instrument played in elementary school: _____
(Piano, guitar, recorders, and Orff instruments are not band instruments. If you are interested in playing piano or guitar in one of the select music groups, please speak to the director once school starts for tryout information.)

Parent Signature - REQUIRED

Your signature indicates your understanding of the expectations of the above academic programs, and your acknowledgement of your child's interests in these programs.

*Return this sheet to your child's 5th grade teacher by
Wednesday, April 13, 2016.*

MOUNT PLEASANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elective Course Selection Guidelines for World Language and Music

Spanish or French

Language proficiency is developmental in nature; one year builds on the previous. In our program, emphasis is placed on the sequence of language learning. The sixth grade language experience begins much the same way that fifth grade ended, focusing on oral communication skills. More grammatical linguistic skills are introduced slowly while still focusing on the use of language, rather than on the structure of language.

Now that your child is coming to Mount Pleasant Middle School, he/she will have additional world language options. The sixth grade is the entry point for the French language. Your child **may continue taking Spanish or begin the study of French.**

Please make your world language selection on the **Course Enrollment Form**. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carmen Michael, K-12 World Language Supervisor, at (973) 535-8000 ext. 8056.

Music Program

We offer the following elective Music Ensembles: Chorus, Orchestra and Band. These programs are scheduled daily during ninth period. Students may participate in one or more ensembles if qualified.

Music Ensembles: Ensembles are OPTIONAL courses. However, courses are graded, and enrollment requires a commitment by the student to complete all course requirements. After a trial period at the beginning of the school year, students must remain in the music ensemble(s) through the first concert performance (Marking Periods 1 and 2) before they are allowed to drop the ensemble. All add/drop requests must be made no later than **October 14, 2016**. Another window will be available to add or drop a music ensemble during the first two weeks following the winter concert series.

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BAND:

- The band program at MPMS is made up of four ensembles: two Concert Bands, Jazz Band, and Holiday Band.
- The Concert bands meet on a rotating basis during fifth period, and attendance is mandatory. Musicians also attend mandatory weekly lessons on a rotating “pull-out” basis from their other classes.
- The Concert bands perform two evening concerts during the year. Students receive a grade in band based on their performance at lessons, during band, and in four individual playing assessments during the year.
- Holiday Band members are chosen on the basis of the first playing test in October. The band performs holiday music before winter break in December. Jazz Band members are chosen by audition. Jazz Band rehearses two mornings per week starting in December, and they perform at the Spring Concert. These groups are extracurricular and meet outside of normal school hours.

CHORUS:

- The chorus program at MPMS is made up of three ensembles: two Concert Choirs and Select Chorus.
- The Chorus is a performing group that meets on a rotating basis during fifth period, and attendance is mandatory.
- Students are required to perform in two evening concerts during the year. Students receive a grade in Chorus based on performance.
- Membership in Chorus provides the opportunity to audition for the show choir – Select Chorus. Select Chorus performs in the concerts. This group is extracurricular and meets outside of the normal school hours.

ORCHESTRA:

- Students enjoy their first large ensemble experience playing one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, or string bass. A variety of music is studied from the Baroque, Classical, and contemporary genres.
- Orchestra meets on a rotating basis during fifth period, and attendance is mandatory.
- The Orchestra performs two evening concerts during the year.
- Students must have at least one year of lessons in order to participate in Orchestra. All members receive **one lesson per week occurring on a rotating basis**, similar to the elementary strings program.
- Students in Orchestra have the opportunity to audition for String Ensemble. This group is extracurricular and meets outside of normal school hours.