Music 5
In the fifth grade music class students review basic musical notation and vocabulary, explore the elements of musical composition, and experience a variety of cultures and styles through singing and listening samples. Emphasis is placed on understanding how written music functions through the study of more complex musical notation. The study of periods and styles in music is reinforced through listening games and activities. Orff instruments, keyboards and handbells are used to accompany musical activities. Each class routinely begins with a music vocabulary word and a famous composer’s work as a listening sample, and students are also given the opportunity to perform for their peers. Macmillan’s *Music and You* textbook series and accompanying CDs are used to reinforce specific units.

Music 6
In the sixth grade music class students review basic musical notation and vocabulary, explore the elements of musical composition, and experience a variety of cultures and styles through singing and listening samples. Each class routinely begins with a music vocabulary word and a famous composers’ work as a listening sample. Orff instruments, keyboards and handbells are used to accompany musical activities. Emphasis is placed on the study of various composers and their works; each student writes a researched report on an assigned composer and his/her works. Most of the research is completed in the library during class time. Students are often given the opportunity to perform for their peers. Macmillan’s *Music and You* textbook series and accompanying CDs are used to reinforce specific units.

Music 7
Seventh grade general music offers a varying curriculum designed to provide students a taste of musicology. To encounter a full range of musical topics, students experience a variety of activities from academic study to composition, and hands on music making. Topics for seventh grade music have included, but are not limited to, jazz history, rock and roll history, and a variety of world music offerings including musics of Australia, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and Indonesia.

Music 8
Eighth grade general music offers a varying curriculum designed to provide students a taste of musicology. To encounter a full range of musical topics, students may experience a variety of activities from academic study to composition as well as hands-on music making. Topics for eighth grade music have included, but are not limited to, rock and roll history, opera history, and 20th century modernism.

Note: All Middle School music classes are one trimester courses.
Performing Groups

**Band 5/6**
The Fifth and Sixth Grade Band is a part of the middle school performing group requirement where students elect to take band, chorus, or strings. The major concepts presented in band are technical skill development, tone quality and control, and music reading. Also emphasized are those qualities needed to be a strong contributing member of a musical organization including blend, balance, listening, and group dynamics. The group performs in two formal evening concerts, one in December and one in May. The group may also perform for several assembly concerts during the year.

**Band 7/8**
The Seventh and Eighth Grade Band is an elective course. The ensemble concentrates its efforts on more demanding music with increased emphasis on intonation, precision, technique, and group membership qualities. This group produces good quality performances for two formal concerts and several assembly concerts a year. This group has also participated in the Music in the Parks festival in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In addition to participation in Band, members of this ensemble are eligible to perform with a Middle School jazz ensemble.

**Chorus 5/6**
The Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus is based on the understanding that all young people have innate musical potential, and that choral singing is a skill learned through instruction, sustained effort and practice. Chorus students find their singing voice, learn and practice fundamentals of singing, learn basic concepts of musical notation and music reading, acquire the disciplines of choral ensemble and teamwork, and experience the beauty and variety of excellent choral literature from many times and places. The Chorus participates in formal concerts each December and May, and sings for a number of shorter programs and occasions during the school year.

**Chorus 7/8**
Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus is an elective ensemble based on the same principles as the Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus but at a more advanced level. Chorus members practice fundamental skills and habits of choral teamwork, and work for growing fluency and confidence in part-singing. Change and growth in the voice through the onset of adolescence is monitored in both boys and girls. The Chorus participates in formal concerts each December and May, and sings for a number of shorter programs and occasions during the school year. Each spring the Chorus takes part in an adjudicated festival competition and afternoon at a theme park.

**Strings 5/6**
The Fifth and Sixth Grade String ensemble focuses on advancing technical skills while emphasizing sight reading and group playing. Students learn theory, history, style, and practice strategies as we prepare for performances in December and May. Experienced players of violin, viola, cello, and bass are welcomed to the group. Students are encouraged to take private lessons.

**Strings 7/8**
This group continues the fifth and sixth grade experience, adding technical, theoretical, and musical challenges appropriate to the string student. Emphasis includes repertoire and performance, critical listening, and musical leadership. Although not required, students at this level are encouraged to take private lessons.

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