



Greetings, Mustang Families,

We are excited to be able to offer performing arts (band, orchestra, and vocal music) experiences for students in the virtual setting. Below are the details of how this will look on student schedules in Infinite Campus and how this will play out in the virtual classroom.

- **6-Week Rotation:** All Merrill students are enrolled in a performing arts class for 6-weeks at a time, alternating music with PE/Health every 6-weeks throughout the semester and year. (In the past, we have offered performing arts courses and PE/Health on an A/B schedule with students attending every other day. To limit the number of courses students are enrolled in at any given time in the virtual world, we altered this A/B rotation to a 6-week rotation. (The same is true for Spanish and Art/Business. Students will be enrolled in Spanish for 6-weeks, then rotate to Art or Business for 6-weeks, and then back again, etc.)
- **Schedules - Music Appreciation:** All students have been rostered into a course titled *Music Appreciation*. DAILY, during that period, students will check in for a 5-10-minute, musical learning engagement with the teacher listed on the student's schedule. An example of this short, musical learning engagement is "What are you listening to Wednesday?", during which time students may share popular music, what is on their playlists, or a beat or pattern that they've noticed across musical genres.
- **Sectionals, Ensembles, Lessons:** Students will also be rostered into small group sectionals/performing ensembles/lesson groups for band, orchestra, or vocal music on a WEEKLY basis according to the student's performing arts request. These small groups will primarily be scheduled during the performing arts period, but could be scheduled at various times throughout the day. Mr. Morgan (band), Mrs. Graham (orchestra) and Mrs. Copic (vocal music) will be reaching out to individual students via email and Infinite Campus to let them know when their small group sectional/ensemble/lesson will be held. You can anticipate hearing from one of those teachers by the end of the first week of school.
- **Grading:** As we already mentioned, student schedules will list the performing arts course as *Music Appreciation*; however, grades will be determined by the specific sectional/ensemble/lesson teacher based on student work done therein.
- **Instrument Rental:** Performing Arts teachers will be reaching out in the coming days regarding your options for instrument rental. Stay tuned for more information.

Merrill Middle School has a long-standing tradition of excellence in the performing arts and we intend to continue to ensure that all students have the opportunity to excel as musicians who bring joy to the community around them. For specific questions please contact john.morgan@dmschools.org (band), stephanie.graham@dmschools.org (orchestra), or courtney.copic@dmschools.org (vocal music).

Yours in filling our community with joyful noise,

Kate

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