

**Middle School Registration**  
**Information for Performing Arts Students**  
January 29, 2010

Dear Parents of Incoming Sixth Grade Students:

The scheduling process has started for students that will enter Middle School in August, 2010. An important part of the scheduling process is for parents and students interested in Band, Chorus or Orchestra to fill out the form attached to this letter.

The schedule at Middle Schools in Harford County enables a student to participate in *either* Band, Chorus or Orchestra as a course offering during the regular school day. Students enrolled in these performing arts courses will attend large ensemble rehearsals scheduled to alternate with physical education classes on a daily basis. The large ensemble is a scheduled class, **not** a pull-out from academics. In addition to the ensemble rehearsals, band and orchestra students will receive small group instruction on their instrument once a week. This is a pull-out from classes, but students do not miss the same class each week due to the weekly schedule rotation. Students participate in both the large ensemble rehearsals and the small group sessions.

Students who enroll in Performing Arts are making several commitments. They are agreeing to remain in the course for the **entire school year**. Student grades are based on playing exams on the assigned music, lesson and ensemble preparation, attendance and participation, concert attendance and participation, home practice and written quizzes or tests. **Participation in a limited number of evening performances is required.**

In order to facilitate a quality program, participation in performing arts requires a minimal monetary outlay for parents. Students are expected to supply items such as lesson books, reeds, and drum sticks, to maintain their instrument in playing condition and may need to purchase a shirt to wear during performances.

Band and Orchestra students are expected to have some basic proficiency on their instrument in order to be a part of a performing group. Middle School teachers will rely on recommendations of elementary music teachers to place students in performing groups. If your child did not play an instrument in fourth or fifth grade, he/she will not be scheduled in Band or Orchestra. However, students interested in beginning an instrument should talk with their music teacher for alternatives. Once they reach appropriate levels of competency, they will be admitted into the Performing Arts Program. Vocal and percussion students may be required to audition for placement.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call the Middle School that your child will attend. Please sign and return the attached form by March 19, 2010.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A special informational meeting for students considering participating in one of the Bel Air Middle School music groups will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the BAMS cafeteria. BAMS registration forms may be returned at this meeting.

**Middle School Performing Arts Agreement  
For Incoming Sixth Graders**

(Please Print Clearly)

After discussing the middle school performing arts program, my child would like to be registered in the Middle School Performing Arts Program. We understand that this is a commitment for the entire school year, and that my child must participate in all required activities and performances as described on the reverse. Please sign and return to your elementary music teacher by March 19, 2010.

(Choose One)

\_\_\_\_\_ Band (Instrument) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years played \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ String Orchestra (Instrument) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years played \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will not continue in a music performing group

Beginning in August, 2010 my child will attend (**please choose one**):

\_\_\_\_\_ Bel Air Middle      \_\_\_\_\_ Fallston Middle      \_\_\_\_\_ Patterson Mill Middle  
(If going to another Middle School, please specify which one.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Current elementary school

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email address