

Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School

Fifth into Sixth Grade

Student Course Selection Parent Information Sheet

During February, your child will have an opportunity to provide us with important information with regards to his or her course selections for the 2020-2021 school year. Each fifth grader will be asked by his or her fifth grade teacher to fill out a course selection form. On that form, each student will be asked to do two things:

1. Rank our four World Language offerings in order of preference (students will rank all four).
2. Indicate a music choice for next year.

In order for students to make informed decisions, it is extremely important that you and your child discuss these choices prior to your child providing input on the form. The input your child provides will be used to make initial course selections for your child. We hope you will find the following information valuable as you prepare to talk about course options with your child.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School offers four World Languages: French, Latin, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. Students who begin their World Language study in sixth grade receive three years of progressive instruction in a particular language; therefore, a ***World Language choice represents a three-year commitment***. Basic Skills, ESL, and Classified students may begin their World Language study in grades six, seven, or eight, or at the High School depending on individual circumstances. Even though there have been several changes in State requirements over the past few years, the maximum number of years a student is required to study a World Language has never exceeded more than two at the high school level. Therefore, regardless of when a student begins a language, there are ample opportunities to meet the requirements for graduation. Fifth grade students will be asked to rank our four World Language offerings in order of preference. We do make every effort to provide all of our students with their top World Language preference.

MUSIC

Students will have four options for participation in performing music groups next year: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Shared Chorus. If your child does not wish to join a music group, he or she should simply check, "No Performing Music in Sixth Grade" when he or she fills out the form in class. Students can participate in both band and chorus, which is referred to as "Shared Chorus." Students will sign up for band, but will alternate lessons between band and chorus each week. Students will receive more information on how to take advantage of this exciting opportunity, in the spring. Students with no previous instrumental music experience can participate in the instrumental music program. These students are given a small group lesson once a week until they become proficient enough on their instruments to be enrolled in a grade-level band.

Students who choose to be part of a performing music group are pulled out of their Physical Education class on the days their performing group has rehearsal. Students in Band and Orchestra are provided with instrument lessons in addition to group rehearsals. When lessons occur, students are given a schedule and are excused from other classes to attend the lessons. All students are permitted to join Chorus regardless of experience.

Note: Please remember that it may be possible for you to alter a student's initial choices (both in Music and World Language) when you receive the Course Selection Sheet in March.