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Dr. Christina Van Woert
Superintendent of Schools

Tanya Dowson
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

June 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to document that all students at Bragg School in Chester, New Jersey have access to Arts Education. Please see below.

Bragg Participation in the Arts

The Chester School District ensures that every student has access to participation in the visual and performing arts. At Bragg Intermediate School, students are attending music and art classes each week, as well as being able to participate in choir and instrumental music ensembles. The students attend an art class every day of the week for 60 days for 40 minutes each day, which reciprocates to once every week. Throughout the year, students participate in music class once every 4 days for 40 minutes.

At Bragg Intermediate School, students receive music training from both Mr. Robert Gruver and Mr. Albert Cerulo. Both Mr. Gruver and Mr. Cerulo are certified music teachers. Mr. Gruver instructs students in vocal music and guides them as they explore music theory and music history. Mr. Cerulo instructs students in instrumental music. Students in grade 3 are offered to attend an explorer program where they are exposed to the different types of instruments that they can choose to play in symphonic band during grades 4-5.

Visual art class is taught by Mrs. Lori Vilagos. Mrs. Vilagos is a certified visual arts instructor. In this class, students work to create unique project using the foundational tools and instruction. Students learn about art history and will also work to create their own interpretation of famous artwork. Using different media and materials allows students to explore further into the realm of visual arts and provides them with a foundation on which they can build as they grow older and take more art classes.

Respectfully,

Christina Van Woert, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to document that every student at Black River Middle School has access to Arts Education. Please see below.

Black River Middle School Participation in the Arts

The Chester School district is proud to offer all students at Black River Middle School the opportunity to participate in both visual and performing arts. Students at Black River are offered Art and Music classes throughout the year.

Black River Middle School's 2016-2017 NJ School Performance Report states that 100% of students are enrolled in music, 100% of students are enrolled in visual arts, and 100% are enrolled in any visual and performing arts. The percentages are high when compared to the state percentages for New Jersey; 75% enrolled in a music class and 80% enrolled in a visual arts class. The data from the NJ Arts Education Partnership for 2014-2015, which is the most recently available school year, for Black River Middle School are as followed: 99.1% of students are enrolled in an Art class, 98.9% of students are enrolled in a music class, and 99.6% of students are enrolled in some artistic class.

Students at Black River are taught visual art classes by Mrs. Sarah Smith, a certified visual arts teacher. Students in Mrs. Smith's class will focus on developing skills which include drawing, mixed media, printmaking, painting, sculpture and digital art. They will also have the opportunity to experience and refine skills using a variety of art media in a modified choice based on art setting with a concentration in the artistic process. Each student will complete between 5 and 6 art projects, depending on grade level, and will create in their provided sketch book each day.

Music at Black River Middle School is divided into two categories; instrumental music and vocal music. Instrumental Music is taught by Dr. Kenneth Piascik, a certified instrumental music instructor. For this class, students participate in either 6th grade band, 7th and 8th grade band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and/or the Honors Ensemble. Through these ensembles, students are able to learn about playing an instrument, read music, and perform along with the rest of their group. Mrs. Kathy Vespignani, a certified music teacher, engages students in both chorus and performing arts class. In performing arts class, students learn about the different styles of music, as well as music theory and music history. Chorus, directed by Mrs. Vespignani, engages students in learning about vocal music, reading sheet music, and performing twice throughout the school year.

Through performances at the end of the year in both Choir and Instrumental Music, and based on the projects students complete in Performing Arts class, students show that they are competent in the area of music which they studied that year.

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to document that every student at Dickerson School in Chester, New Jersey has access to Arts Education. Please see below.

Dickerson Participation in the Arts

The Chester School District prides itself on ensuring that every child has access to participate in both visual and performing arts. In Dickerson Elementary School, students participate in both music and visual arts classes throughout their school year. Each week, students see each related arts class for 55 minutes. Art and Music are two of the related arts that all students explore in Dickerson Elementary School.

Students participate in Music Class with Mrs. Kathy Snow, a certified music teacher. Each year, students expand on their knowledge of musical elements such as rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, form and style, as well as movement.

Ms. Dana Apicella, a certified visual arts teacher, instructs students in the visual art field. Each year in art, students learn art history, art elements, art vocabulary, and engage using different art materials and media to create masterpieces.

Respectfully,

Christina Van Woert, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools