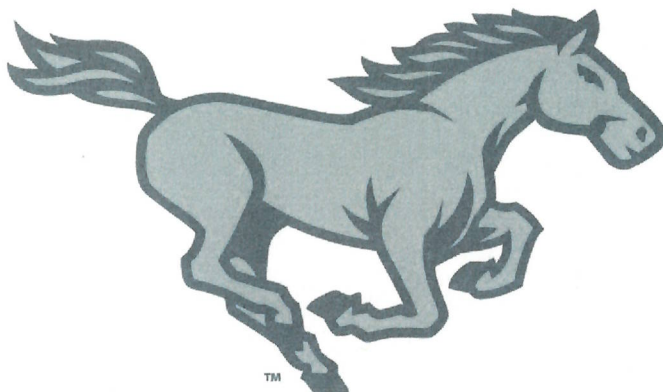


# WESSENDORFF MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS BOOKLET



We are so excited to get to know you and to teach you next year! This booklet contains information on all the Performing and Visual Art elective choices that you can choose for your schedule at Wessendorff. If you have any questions about any of the content areas, please feel free to reach out to the corresponding teacher.

**Principal – Lorena Callis**

[LCallis@lcisd.org](mailto:LCallis@lcisd.org)

**Art – Karen Flores**

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**Band – James Cook**

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**Orchestra – Tess Hartis**

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**Theatre – Taylor Courtney**

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# Wessendorff Middle School - Art

Art Application to be a future Mustang Artist

Wessendorff Middle School

Dear Future Mustang Artist:

If you are interested in being an art student please be prepared to work hard, every day, and learn a variety of skills to become a better artist. We practice value, realistic art, perspective, painting and sculpture. We have a daily sketchbook entry and will be expected to have your own pencils, colored pencils and sharpies. We have a lot of fun in art, but we are serious artists and playing around is not an option. Please answer these questions about yourself, and then attach a work of art that you are proud of.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why is art important to you?

2. What do you hope to learn in art during your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year?

3. What do you think will be your biggest challenge you will need to overcome in art next year?

4. Tell me why you are proud of the artwork that you choose to share.

# Wessendorff Middle School -Band



Dear Future Wessendorff Band Member and Parents:

We are so excited that you are thinking about joining band! Be sure that you choose "Band" as your elective choice and return your course selection sheet as soon as you can! Here are some answers to common questions about joining band.

## **What instruments can I play?**

At Wessendorff our students learn to play: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion instruments.

## **How do the classes work with so many instruments?**

There is only one instrument per class! The other students in your class will all play the same instrument. So if you are going to play the French Horn, ONLY French Horn players will be in your class. If you are playing Flute, only Flute players will be in your class.

## **Who will my teacher be?**

There are six Band Directors that teach for the Blue Track schools (Wessendorff, Lamar Junior High, and Lamar Consolidated High School). Each Band Director specializes in teaching specific instruments so your teacher will depend on the instrument you select. The Band Directors are: James Cook, Beth Lee, Danielle Moreno, Kris Mosely, Chandler Long, and Nick Nikolovski.

## **How do we choose our instruments?**

A Band Director will spend about 15 minutes helping you pick the instrument that will be best for you! We have two goals in selecting your instrument. First, we want to help you find something that sounds fun to play. Second, we want to find an instrument that fits you well. So we will perform a few simple test to see which instruments fit you best. Some of the instruments (percussion/saxophone/tuba) have limited space and fill up fast, so be sure to come early if you want to play one of those.

## **Do we have to buy our own instruments? Are they expensive?**

Some of the instruments are provided by the school (Tuba, Euphonium, French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Percussion) and others (Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone), are usually rented by the students. If you are playing a school-owned instrument you will still be responsible for supplying some of the supplies, like a brass mouthpiece and stick bag/snare sticks/marimba mallets for percussionists. Rental prices usually range from \$20-\$40 per month, but some instruments, like saxophone, can cost as much as \$60 per month.

## **What do I do if my family cannot afford to rent an instrument?**

We will never let a student's personal finances get in the way of them being in band. If you are unable to get the required instrument supplies, please reach out to Mr. Cook @ [james.cook@lcsd.org](mailto:james.cook@lcsd.org) and he will be able to assist. We have resources set aside each year to help students and families and the sooner you reach out the sooner assistance can be put in place.

# Wessendorff Middle School -Band



## **What do we do in band?**

- 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks
  - Music Theory (How to read notes and rhythms)
  - Instrument assembly and maintenance
  - Playing position and embouchure (How to make our first sounds)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks
  - Articulation
  - Reading short songs
  - Instrument Specific Exercises
- 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks
  - Reading Longer songs
  - Winter Concert Performance
  - Introduction to Major and Chromatic Scales
  - Houston Symphony Field Trip
- 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks
  - Scale Pass-off contest
  - Advanced technique exercises
  - Introduction to Contest Solos
- 5<sup>th</sup> six Weeks
  - LCISD Solo/Ensemble Contest
  - Begin Spring Concert and LCISD Young Band Festival Music
  - Continue Scale Pass-off contest
- 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks
  - LCISD Young Band Festival Contest
  - Spring Concert
  - Reward Field Trip
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Placement Auditions

# Wessendorff Middle School - Choir

Hello, Future Mustangs!

Welcome to Wessendorf Course Selection. I'm Ms. Boeding, and I am the Choir Director. Maybe you have met or seen me before at your school or other district events. I want to tell you a little bit about choir, one of your choices for an elective for next year.

I know you are all talented in many areas and have perhaps a tough choice ahead, but I hope you will consider choir so you can use your singing voice to delight your friends, family and our community with performances and fun throughout the year. We have tons of fun singing, learning, and playing inside and outside of the classroom, and I am very excited to meet and work with all of you!

What do we do in Choir?

Here is an outline of what we do in choir!

## **1<sup>st</sup> six weeks**

- Music Theory (How to read notes and rhythms)
- Breathing for singing, finding our singing voice
- Solfege and handsigns, exercises and drills
- Fall Concert (October)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks**

- Finding an Ensemble Sound
- Learning short songs, rounds, partner songs
- More solfege, drills, ear training, short sight reading
- Veterans Day Performance

## **3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks**

- More rounds, folk songs
- Winter Concert Performance
- Music Culture and History
- Longer Sight reading examples

## **4<sup>th</sup> six weeks**

- Contest Solos
- More advanced sight reading
- Festival concert music

## **5<sup>th</sup> six Weeks**

- LCISD Solo/Ensemble Contest
- Continue Spring Concert and LCISD Choir Festival Music

## **6<sup>th</sup> six weeks**

- LCISD Choir Festival Contest
- Spring Concert
- Reward Field Trip
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Placement Auditions

# Wessendorff Middle School

Tess Hartis – WMS



## **Dear Future Wessendorff Orchestra Members and Parents:**

I am excited that you may be interested in choosing Orchestra as your elective next year! Make sure that you choose “orchestra” when selecting your elective! Our class will never run out of space and we would love to have you!

### **What instruments can I play?**

At Wessendorff our students learn to play: Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass. Students will choose one instrument. We do not offer string instruments such as guitar, harp, or ukulele.

### **How do we choose our instruments?**

You can sit down with the orchestra director and try out all of the possible instruments and see which one you would be most interested in learning. A representative from a local music store will be present to help you find the best rental instrument and provide supplies necessary for the class.

### **Do we have to buy our own instruments? Are they expensive?**

Most students rent their own instruments from local music stores. It is not recommended that students purchase their own instrument without consulting with the orchestra teacher first. Rental instruments usually range from \$20 - \$40 per month (this is less than the price of one meal at a nice restaurant!). Students are also responsible for purchasing supplies for their instrument.

### **What do I do if my family cannot afford to rent an instrument?**

We will never let a student’s personal finances get in the way of them being in orchestra. If you are unable to get the required instrument supplies, please reach out to Ms. Hartis @ [tess.hartis@lcsd.org](mailto:tess.hartis@lcsd.org) and she will be able to assist. We have resources set aside each year to help students and families and the sooner you reach out the sooner assistance can be put in place.

# Wessendorff Middle School

832-223-3300



Dear Future Mustang Parents,

It is time for your 5<sup>th</sup> graders to start thinking about their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year at Wessendorff Middle School. In addition to the many exciting academic and extracurricular opportunities WMS has to offer your child, students also choose a fine arts elective for the year. I would love to have your child become a member of "Mustang Theatre".

Theatre arts at Wessendorff is like no other 6<sup>th</sup> grade program in the district! Students will be engaged with daily learning opportunities and activities that will introduce them into the world of live theatre, film, and even a little song and dance at times. Whether your child is a budding actor or a little shy, theatre is a great way for your child to express him/herself in a safe atmosphere that allows students to use their imagination, collaborate in groups, and create works of art on stage. Students complete many projects and performances throughout the year and have the opportunity to attend multiple field trips at local theatres in the area, such as TUTS, The Alley, LCHS, and CAST.

There are many aspects to theatre, besides just acting on stage, and students get the chance to see a little bit of everything. Theatre provides students with essential confidence and self-esteem boosting skills, as well as self-discipline, the ability to organize and prioritize, problem solving skills necessary for real-life world situations, self-reliance, poise, communication skills, social skills, boost in reading and writing comprehension, and the list goes on and on.... If your child likes to create, play, and use their imagination, then theatre is the right fit. Even the most timid student can find a home in "Mustang Theatre."

I look forward to having your child involved in the Wessendorff Theatre Arts program and am available for questions at any time. Feel free to email me at [taylor.courtney@lcisd.org](mailto:taylor.courtney@lcisd.org) or call 832-223-3364.

Sincerely,

Taylor Courtney

"Mustang Theatre" Director

*"Stampede on Stage"*

