ARTiFACTS

Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

This letter will describe the ARTiFACTS Program at Welsh Valley Middle School. Please review and pay special attention to important dates, times for meetings, and procedures for applying. We look forward to meeting many of you at one of our information sessions. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,
Kevin Ginsberg and Jessica Orenstein
ARTiFACTS Teachers



What is ARTiFACTS?

ARTiFACTS is a thematic program that places and emphasis on the fine arts, theater, music and technology in our curriculum. Using the standard 6th grade curriculum, the ARTiFACTS program infuses the arts into both the instruction, and assignments. Students will participate in multiple long term group projects to harness their skills in research and working collaboratively.

The Selection Process: Important Timeline
The ARTiFACTS program will be presented and explained in a video that will be sent to you on **March 8th!** For a student to be considered for the program a parent **must** attend a parent info session: At this time questions will be answered about the program and you will receive a link to our application. This is the only way to get an application. However, if you have a child that has previously participated in the ARTiFACTS program, you may reach out to Mr.Ginsberg or Mrs. Orenstein for your link. **Applications are required in order for your child to be considered for the program!**

Thursday March 11th 6:30 PM	**Click a day to sign up!**	**Friday March 12th 9:45 AM**

Both meetings will be help through Zoom. Applications will be accepted through a google form. The deadline is **Friday, March 19th by the end of the school day.** We cannot accept applications after this date.



Commonly Asked Questions and Answers

What type of student would be most successful in the ARTiFACTS program?

Students who are most successful in ARTiFACTS tend to fall into the following categories; team players, self starters, planners, students who enjoy presenting their ideas and students who are self motivated. Also students who are creative thinkers and problems solvers flourish in our environment. Finally, due to the nature of project based learned student who enjoy being part of a creative process enjoy the work. We encourage parents of children needing additional supports during their school day to contact Mr.Joe Devine or one of the Artifacts teachers and learn how it may impact their ARTiFACTS experience. Students will be challenged to think creatively and asked to work both independently and collaboratively. Students who work well collaboratively in a positive and encouraging manner will find success in ARTiFACTS.

Is ARTiFACTS more or less work than the traditional sixth grade program?

The overall amount of work will be comparable to the traditional 6th grade program. However, the ARTiFACTS program does work at a faster pace in order to fit our project based learning. Students will still have tests, essays, and regular homework with a greater emphasis on long-term and hands-on projects. The main subject areas covered will be history, science and language arts. Students will leave the ARTiFACTS classroom for Math, Foreign Language, Physical Education, Computers, Health, FACS, Art, Tech Ed, Music, Learning Support, and Challenge.

How will the students be evaluated?

Students in ARTiFACTS will be graded similarly to all other sixth graders. Teachers will utilize tests, quizzes, and project rubics.



How will students be selected?

Any child who is currently enrolled in the Lower Merion School District and is interested in the program will be asked to fill out an application.

A lottery will be held and students from each of the elementary schools will be chosen at random. All participants in the lottery will be notified by mail.

Will my child be able to see his or her friends outside of ARTiFACTS?

Yes. Students will see and interact with their friends just as much as if they were placed on different teams for their sixth-grade year. Our students will mix with friends in the morning, between classes, during specials, and after school. Also, all sixth graders eat lunch together.

Will being a part of ARTiFACTS affect a students' participation in other activities?
No. Students will be able to participate in Band, Orchestra, Challenge, Intramurals, and all other school activities.

Does this program require extra expenses for the students and their families?
No unusual materials or equipment will need to be purchased. Students will have the same expenses as any other sixth grade student.

What is the role of parents/guardians in the ARTiFACTS Program?

We encourage parental help and support throughout the year. While we realize, schedules are extremely busy, we will make every effort to schedule and communicate dates of upcoming events in advance to help encourage your participation. Even if you are unable to attend, we welcome your involvement and interest in your child's activities at home. Artifacts students participate in many presentation! We always encourage our students to practice at home with their families.

What will happen if a student has second thoughts about joining ARTiFACTS after being selected?

While it's not uncommon for students to have second thoughts about trying something new, a decision to join ARTiFACTS is final once the student has been admitted to the program***. Once a child is accepted in April, they are committed to the program for the full year.*** There is an expectation that all families will consider this before volunteering to participate. ***We highly recommend that if your child is not interested in the program, you should not force him or her to apply.***

How do we anticipate readjustment to seventh grade?
Our program parallels the content of our "traditional" sixth grade program (Earth science, ancient history, language arts). Students should have no more difficulty than their peers might have in adjusting to seventh grade. Students in our program will convey self-confidence, the ability to organize and complete projects, and have an enthusiasm for learning.



What types of special activities are involved in the program?
Our ARTiFACTS year will be highlighted by a variety of activities such as presentations, mock trials, fine arts projects, plays, and video performances. Students have the opportunity to show their learning in a unique and hand on way!



ARTiFACTS consists of a two-person team that will take a unique and creative approach to teaching the traditional 6th grade curriculum. It is a thematic program with activities designed to appeal to all types of learning styles. Students will enter seventh grade with the same knowledge and material covered in the traditional curriculum. They will be regularly challenged and many opportunities will be given to pursue areas of interest in greater depth.

Parents of interested fifth graders **must** attend one of our informational meetings so there is no confusion about what the program entails.

"…like an archeologist discovers and learns from the past through ancient objects, ARTiFACTS students use the arts."

We look forward to meeting you next week! Please Click the link below in order to register for a parent session!

March 11th at 6:30 pm: Sign- up here

March 12th at 9:45 am : Sign- up here

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