

Dear CGIS Parents of Rising 7th Graders,

It is time to begin our program planning for next year, and we want you and your student to have the information you need to choose your child's elective courses. You will have an opportunity to discuss elective choices with your student using the below information and decide together.

Each 7th grade student will also have two elective periods. Students will have their main elective class on either Monday/ Wednesdays or Tuesday/ Thursdays. Students will also have a Friday elective. Therefore, you have two choices to make. To help with your decision, below are two links to give you more information about your choices.

- Informational Video about your Elective choices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hvuFRPiWXc>
- Informational Video about your Friday Elective choices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRQyPUzzmfl>

Elective Courses (meeting on M/W or T/R)

For the main elective course, students may choose one year-long course. Every student will choose from the following: (Descriptions on following pages.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available by staff recommendations only: (decisions made in the spring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic Success (spring IEP team decision) ○ Application of Reading Program ○ Application of Math Program ○ Flight School 2.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Music & Choir 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM 	

Friday Courses

For the Friday elective, every student will choose one of the following courses: (Descriptions on following pages.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band: Pops (must be enrolled in above band elective) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available by staff recommendations only: (decisions made in the spring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic Success (spring IEP team decision) ○ Response to Intervention- Reading and Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra: Chamber & Music Leadership (must be enrolled above orchestra elective) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: Performing Arts 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art: Foundation of Clay 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM (same as hour-long course listed above; do not choose both) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE: Fitness and Wellness 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library: Hawk Helpers 	

Wheel Classes: Possible Preference

All students also have Wheel Classes each week. 7th graders typically have Physical Education, Art, and Library/Hawk Helpers. Depending upon enrollment, students might get to have a preference between the wheel classes of Art or Library/Hawk Helpers. Students need to be prepared to choose their preference, given the following options.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library/ Hawk Helpers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either Art or Library/Hawk Helpers is fine with me

Elective Course Descriptions

● **Band** (3rd Year): Students who are in their third year of instrumental music may sign up for the 7th grade band class. In this course, we will continue to master skills such as intonation, sight-reading, musical expression, and more. Students will be challenged with new musical skills, as well as more difficult concert/festival literature. This year is used to prepare students for their Jr. High Band experience. In addition to their regular class, once a week students will have an additional band class period after lunch. Teacher: Erin Whaley, erin.whaley@maryville-schools.org

● **Orchestra** (3rd year) The early focus will be to get students prepared for more challenging music literature. This involves knowledge of 2-octave scales, music reading skills, and solo preparation. Building upon the previous years, students will continue to refine their intonation, vibrato, and shifting ability. Performance of challenging literature will raise the student's performance level. An additional pops concert collaboration occurs in March with the Jr. High Orchestra, when students will learn how to play popular music styles and perform side by side with their 8th/9th grade peers. In addition to their regular class, once a week students will have an additional orchestra class period after lunch. Teacher: Josie Cappelletti, josie.cappelletti@maryville-schools.org

● **Creative Music & Choir**: In this exciting, energetic class students will learn how to read music, play the ukulele, and become better and more confident singers. All of these skills will prepare students for performance opportunities such as Veteran's Day concert, City of Maryville Christmas Tree Lighting, Christmas Open House, CGIS Artfest, and our favorite- Spring Sing in the Smokies! If you want to learn to play the ukulele, this is the class for you! If you enjoy singing, this is the class for you! If you want to be a better singer, this is the class for you. If you think you cannot sing, sign up for this class and let me teach you! We will have a great time learning and making music together. In addition to their regular class period, once a week students will have an additional choir class period after lunch. Teacher: Martha Robinson, martha.robinson@maryville-schools.org

● **STEM**: 7th grade STEM is a yearlong class with a focus on Automation and Robotics; students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. Students learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Working in collaborative groups that utilize problem solving, teamwork, and innovation is part of our exploration of robotics. Students will also be introduced to computer programming, as they learn to think systematically when programming the robots they have created. Teacher: Barbara Taylor, barbara.taylor@maryville-schools.org

Available by staff recommendations only: (decisions made in the spring)

● **Academic Success**: Academic Success is a scheduled class aimed at teaching specific academic skill gap weaknesses in reading and math identified by testing. Research based instructional programming is utilized to remediate academic weaknesses. In addition, this class also seeks to teach students prevocational skills such as organization and work completion. Student placement in this class is by IEP team decision only. If you have questions, please ask your child's IEP case manager.

● **Application of Reading Program (ARP)** is a scheduled class that will focus on improving reading skills, introducing and incorporating research-based reading strategies that students can use in their core classes, and digging deeper into a text to acquire a more complex understanding. Students will also have a voice in selecting class novels, themes, and projects for the year. We will also incorporate guest speakers around the themes and projects. Students will be placed in this class by invitation only.

● **Application of Math Program (AMP)** is a scheduled class that will focus on improving math skills and numeracy concepts. This elective course will allow students to receive additional support in order to support success in our regular core math classes. The goal of the class is to make learning math fun and to build skills for future success in numeracy. Students will be placed in this class by invitation only.

● **Flight School 2.0** is a scheduled class that will focus on supporting each student's success in school and in life. The course curriculum and content will be determined by the teacher and based on the individual and group needs of the students that make up the class. Our SOAR curriculum will emphasize life skills and lifelong learning. Students will be supported in areas of organizational strategies, study skills, homework help, independent and/or group study time, mini lessons on strategies for school success, and more. Basically, Flight School 2.0 is designed to help each student identify his or her strengths and struggles in school and continually improve as a student.

Friday Elective Course Descriptions

- **Band: Pops:** Students who wish to participate in the Coulter Grove "Pops" Band should elect to take this class. In this ensemble, students will get to experience a more diverse selection of repertoire. Music selections for this group are usually chosen from a more "popular" music genre such as rock, pop, jazz, movie soundtracks, and more! Additionally, this elective class will be used to prepare students who wish to audition for Junior Band Clinic in the fall semester. If you plan to audition, you should elect to take this class. Teacher: Erin Whaley, erin.whaley@maryville-schools.org
- **Orchestra: Chamber Orchestra and Music Leadership:** Designed for the students who want to master the skills needed for Jr. Clinic, Chamber Orchestra, and solo performance. Introduction of 3-octave scales and a variety of ensemble literature will challenge the students to raise their level of musicianship. We will read a new piece every week to improve your sight-reading abilities to strengthen your performance skills and refine your auditions. Teacher: Josie Cappelletti, josie.cappelletti@maryville-schools.org
- **Music: Performing Arts:** Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy the spotlight? This yearlong course is action-packed with singing, drama, and choreography. Students will learn vocal techniques as well as drama skills. This class will help students become more comfortable getting up in front of each other through the use of pantomime and acting games. Students will learn how to think on their feet and grow creatively through the use of improvisation games & other activities. Basic stage terminology and acting skills will be taught. Students will further develop their skills through performance opportunities. Teacher: Martha Robinson, martha.robinson@maryville-schools.org
- **Art: Foundation of Clay:** 7th grade students can choose a one-hour, yearlong, Friday elective all about clay. In this class, students will first learn the fundamentals of working with clay. We will progress through coil, slab, pinch pot, and other hand built projects. Later in the year, students can earn the privilege to work on the potter's wheel. Clay projects will be fired in the kiln and various glazing and finishing techniques will be explored. There is no prerequisite: prior experience in art or clay is not required, and all are welcome! Students who took clay as an elective in 6th grade will advance their skills. Teacher: Ericka Ryba, ericka.ryba@maryville-schools.org
- **STEM:** (same as hour course description above, cannot choose both) Teacher: Barbara Taylor, barbara.taylor@maryville-schools.org
- **PE: Fitness and Wellness:** This course will emphasize fitness concepts and lifetime wellness. Instruction will include personal goal-setting, individualized workouts, nutrition education, and other physical and mental health topics. Teachers: Kristi Dunkel and Ryan Tallent, kristi.dunkel@maryville-schools.org and ryan.tallent@maryville-schools.org
- **Library: Hawk Helpers:** Love to serve? This class will allow a small number of students the opportunity to provide service to the school as office helpers, library helpers, and other roles throughout the school on Fridays. Teacher: Katie Voyles, katie.voyles@maryville-schools.org

Available by staff recommendations only: (decisions made in the spring)

- **Academic Success:** Academic Success is a scheduled class aimed at teaching specific academic skill gap weaknesses in reading and math identified by testing. Research based instructional programming is utilized to remediate academic weaknesses. In addition, this class also seeks to teach students prevocational skills such as organization and work completion. Student placement in this class is by IEP team decision only. If you have questions, please ask your child's IEP case manager.
- **RTI:** Students receive skill-based instruction in their area of need, either reading or math. Students assigned to this class are made eligible by scoring in the at-risk range on our universal screenings and by a recommendation from the CGIS Response to Intervention team. At time of placement, parents receive notification from the reading or math teacher.

Wheel Classes: Possible Preference Course Descriptions

- **Art:** Do you love to create art? This class will allow students the opportunity to participate in a choice-based art program and hone their artistic skills.
- **Library/ Hawk Helpers:** Love to serve? This class will allow students the opportunity to provide service to the school as office helpers, library helpers, and other roles throughout the school during encore time.