

# MRIS 5th Grade Elective Course Descriptions and Registration for 2024-2025



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In fifth grade, your student will attend an Encore Elective class of their choice every other day for 60 minutes. Elective classes rotate with Wheel classes (Art, Library, and PE) which all fifth graders take. As we begin planning for the next school-year, it is time to work with your student to choose his or her Elective. Fifth grade Encore Elective choices are Band, Orchestra, STEM, and Creative Music. Please read through the course descriptions with your child, and together choose an elective for next year.

## MRIS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions (60 Minutes, Every Other Day)

### **Band**

Students will learn to play band instruments – woodwinds, brasswinds, and percussion. Fifth grade students will choose one of five instrument options--flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Percussion consists of drums AND melody percussion such as mallet keyboard instruments. Percussion is on an “as available” option on some years in the 5th grade. All instrument choices will be determined by student interest and teacher recommendation in the first few weeks of school. The fifth-grade year will concentrate on "getting to know the instrument," and individual performance skills. Grade 1 music is typically played at this age. Selecting this Encore Elective requires instrument rental at a cost of approximately \$25.00-38.00 a month. Rental information will be sent home at the beginning of each school year. All fifth-grade band students attend a 30-minute practice class every other day in addition to their 60-minute band course to provide everyday music instruction for our beginning musicians. It is HIGHLY recommended for many reasons (speak to director) that you DO NOT purchase an instrument; renting is strongly preferred. Also, information will be sent home at a later date for those who wish to jumpstart their band experience with a summer band camp (this is not required for school year band participation; it is a fun summer activity for a “head start!”).

### **Orchestra**

In orchestra, students will learn to play a violin, viola, cello or string bass. This beginning instruction focuses on correct hand positions, note reading, proper tone production, and personal performance skills. Most students rent an instrument for the first year from a local music dealer for approximately \$20.00 - 35.00 a month. Rental information will be sent home at the beginning of next year. All fifth grade orchestra students attend a 30-minute practice class every other day in addition to their 60-minute orchestra course to provide everyday music instruction for our beginning musicians.

### **STEM**

This course is called Computer Science Innovators and Makers. In this course, students learn to code by building carnival games using Lego Spike Essential Kits. As the students’ coding skills grow, they learn to code micro:bits to complete a variety of challenges. Finally, students put all their skills together to create interactive toys and art projects. This is an interactive class that both boys and girls enjoy!

### **Chorus/Drama**

The MRIS Chorus/Drama program has a long-standing tradition of excellence! Next year, we will look forward to putting on a play (just acting, no singing), AND a musical (with singing). Some students will have the opportunity to work as a “techie” and help with behind the scenes play production such as lights, sound, stage managing, etc. Our production titles for next year are TBA- but in the past we have enjoyed presenting productions such as “Aladdin, Jr.”, “Annie, Jr.”, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, and more! We hope you can join us and make memories that will last a lifetime!

# MRIS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To register your child's Elective Selection, please e-mail this page  
or the information on this page to DeRhonda Travis at

[derhonda.travis@maryville-schools.org](mailto:derhonda.travis@maryville-schools.org)

## Choose Your Encore Elective

In the event your 1st Choice may be full, please select both a 1st and 2nd Choice.

Check 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	ENCORE ELECTIVE CLASSES 60 Minutes, <i>every other day</i>	Check 2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
	Band	
	Orchestra	
	Chorus/Drama	
	STEM	

### **Academic Success (Sped) and/or Intervention**

*Students who qualify for Academic Success and/or Intervention classes will be placed in one or both electives, depending on the level of intervention the student qualifies for.*

### **Changing Electives**

*Elective choices may be changed during the first two weeks of the school year. After this time, we ask that students honor their elective choice.*

