



February 12, 2026

CGIS Parents of Rising 5th 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 course. As fifth graders, students will be eligible to select one elective encore course. You will have an opportunity to discuss elective choices with your student using the information below and decide together. On Monday February 23rd, your student will receive an email with a link that will allow him/her to electronically choose his/her elective (1st and 2nd choices) for next school year.

Each 5th grade student will have one elective period. Students will have their main elective class on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursdays. Students will have Study Hall every Friday each week. Also, 5th grade students will have a yearlong Physical Education class and a semester-based class with one semester being Library and the alternate semester being Art.

Some students based on academic needs will be administratively placed in any of the following courses: Academic Success, Study Hall, and/or RTI. Therefore, you have a choice to make. To help with your decision, below is a link to give you more information about your choices. Students will have the opportunity to watch these videos in Encore classes this week and ask any questions they may have.


Informational Video about your choices: [5th, 6th, and 7th Grade Elective Options - Monday to Thursday](#)


Elective Courses

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available by staff recommendations only: (decisions made in the spring of 2026) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic Success (spring IEP team decision) ○ Response to Intervention: Reading ○ Response to Intervention: Math ○ Study Hall (Admin Selection)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Music & Choir 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM 	

Please discuss these choices with your rising 5th grader. Your student will submit his/her choice of electives at school, so please be sure to have come to a decision by then. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate Encore teacher listed below.

 (865) 982-6345

 (865) 982-6312

 <https://cgis.maryville-schools.org>

2025 Sevierville Rd. Maryville, TN 37804



Elective Course Descriptions:

●**Band:** 5th Grade band students choose to learn clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. This beginning instruction focuses on correct instrument carriage, note reading, proper tone production, and personal performance skills. Most students rent an instrument for the first year from a local music dealer. Rental information will be sent home when school begins next year. Expect the rental cost to be approximately \$20.00-35.00 a month. A limited number of school instruments are available. Our goal is for every student to have access to an instrument.

Teacher: Erin Whaley, erin.whaley@maryville-schools.org

●**Orchestra:** In orchestra, students learn to play 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. Rental information will be sent home when school begins next year. Expect the rental cost to be approximately \$20.00 - 35.00 a month. A limited number of school instruments are available. Our goal is for every student to have access to an instrument.

Teacher: Melissa Hathorn melissa.hathorn@maryville-schools.org

●**Creative Music & Choir:** Creative Music and Choir students get the best of two electives in one class! Students will learn to play the keyboard (piano) and learn how to become better and more confident singers. All of these skills will prepare them for potential performance opportunities such as our school Veteran's Day assembly, community outreach events throughout the City of Maryville, and Spring Sing in the Smokies. If you want to learn to play the piano, 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 help you find your singing voice. We will have a great time learning and making music together.

Teacher: Naomi Leichman, naomi.leichman@maryville-schools.org

●**STEM:** Do you enjoy creating, building, and figuring out how objects work? Is working with others to solve problems something that interests you? In STEM, we will use the engineering design process to plan, design, and build things to solve problems. Creativity, curiosity, problem solving, persistence, and a willingness to work on new ideas will be needed as we explore how to use science, technology, engineering, and math in design projects.

Teacher: Barbara Taylor, barbara.taylor@maryville-schools.org

Administrative Placement Courses: (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.

●**Response to Intervention (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.

●**Study Hall:** A period set aside during the school day for students to work independently and receive academic help from a teacher or teaching assistant.