



Oak Hill Middle School
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John Harutunian, Ed.D.
Principal

January 27, 2020

Dear Families of Incoming Sixth Graders,

Welcome to Oak Hill Middle School! We are delighted that you live in the Oak Hill district and have a child about to enter sixth grade. The teachers and staff at Oak Hill are planning a number of events to promote a smooth introduction to middle school for you and your child.

Parents of fifth grade students are invited to meet with the Oak Hill Administrative team and the 6th grade counselor, Katy Oliver, on **Wednesday, March 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in the auditorium at Oak Hill Middle School. This meeting will initiate the process of transition into the sixth grade. You will have an opportunity to learn about the sixth grade program and school-wide activities, as well as the orientation process that has been designed to support your children as they move into a new school at the end of this year.

Additionally, we invite you to visit Oak Hill Middle School in session on the mornings of **Tuesday, March 31 or Thursday, April 2** any time between **8:30-9:30 a.m.** Please stop by the cafeteria to meet guidance counselors, assistant principals, and the PTO Presidents, have a cup of coffee, and be matched up with a Peer Leader to take you on a tour of the school.

The Oak Hill PTO Presidents, Guidance Counselor, and I also plan to visit each of the three elementary feeder schools for a morning coffee with parents. If your child attends a different elementary school in the district or a private/independent school, please feel free to attend any of these sessions. The schedule for those visits is:

Monday, April 27, 8:30-9:15 a.m. at Memorial Spaulding

Wednesday, April 29, 8:30-9:15 a.m. at Zervas

Thursday, April 30, 8:30-9:15 a.m. at Bowen

There will be two scheduled opportunities for incoming sixth grade students to visit Oak Hill with their classmates and elementary teachers:

1. Oak Hill musical, "Snoopy" on **Tuesday, March 10, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**
2. Citywide *Step-Up Day* on **Friday, June 5, 11:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.**

A guidance counselor and I will also meet with fifth grade students at each elementary school in the spring to speak with students about Oak Hill and answer questions. Current sixth grade students accompany us and serve as "ambassadors" to share the student perspective. There will also be one session hosted at Oak Hill for students from other elementary schools.

Monday, April 27, 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Memorial Spaulding

Wednesday, April 29, 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Zervas

Thursday, April 30, 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Bowen

Thursday, May 21, 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Oak Hill Middle School

On behalf of the Oak Hill community, I again welcome you to Oak Hill Middle School and look forward to meeting you on **Wednesday, March 11.**

Warm Regards,
John Harutunian
Principal

Oak Hill Middle School

Introduction to Guidance Services for 2020-2021

Dear Incoming Oak Hill Families,

Welcome to Oak Hill Middle School! We look forward to getting to know your children and learning about their interests and learning styles. We hope this letter will be able to answer some common questions about the school counseling department and how we can help your children make the most of their middle school years.

Students at Oak Hill stay with the same school counselor for three years through grades 6-8. We work together with students and parents on a number of levels and spend time getting to know each student. Counselors work with all teams of teachers and meet regularly to discuss team activities, assignments, and important student information. In addition, your child's counselor is a liaison between teachers and home. In addition to our counselors, Dan Arroyo serves as our METCO Counselor. We work in partnership to support all of our students and families.

Here are some of the regular services provided by the school counselor:

- Supports all students in their assigned grade.
- Provides individual and group counseling, as well as mediation between students.
- Assists with social, emotional, academic and scheduling issues.
- Meets regularly with teams of teachers to work in supporting students.
- Facilitates IEP and 504 meetings.
- Assists with transitions from elementary school to Oak Hill and from Oak Hill to high school.
- Makes referrals to and consults with community resources (e.g. tutors, outside community agencies, therapists, etc).

We look forward to getting to know your child and to three years of positive partnerships with you. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Katy Oliver Grade 6 Guidance Counselor 617-559-9214

Guidance Services Staff

Jennifer Ames	Grade 7	Guidance Counselor	617-559-9212
Dan Arroyo	METCO	Counselor	617-559-9210
Ariel Bernstein	Grade 8	Guidance Counselor	617-559-9213
Amanda Brooks	Grades 6-8	Guidance Counselor	617-559-9210

Oak Hill Middle School

www.newton.k12.ma.us/oakhill

Dear Families of Incoming Sixth Grade Families,

We look forward to having you and your child as a member of the Oak Hill Middle School community next year. Below is information about choosing a world language and optional musical ensembles for your child. **Please read this information carefully and then select the courses at our secure online registration link, located on the Oak Hill website. The link will be open from March 11 at 7:30PM through April 13 and 11:00AM.**

All incoming students must register through the link at the bottom of this page by April 13.

World Language

The choice of a world language is an important decision, as your child will be studying this language for the next three years at Oak Hill. Most incoming 6th grade students will take a World Language. We are pleased to offer three world languages to sixth grade students: **Chinese, French, and Spanish**. All languages meet four times during the six day cycle. Please read the document about world languages for more information.

Musical Ensembles

Extension period takes place in the middle of the day every day of the six-day cycle. During this period, a variety of classes and programs are offered, including band, chorus, orchestra, literacy lab, ELL, and special education support services.

Additionally, four electives are open to all sixth graders during the extension period: **String Orchestra, Chorus, and Band**. They each meet two times during the six-day cycle.

If you are interested in taking one or more of these optional ensembles, check the appropriate boxes in the online registration form.

For more information about these elective choices, please see the "**Musical Ensemble Course Descriptions**" document on our website under the "Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information" section.

Warm Wishes,
John Harutunian, Principal

The **DEADLINE** for Online Course Registration is **Monday, April 13, 2020.**

Please register with this link:

<http://bit.ly/36LEYSG>

Oak Hill Middle School - Musical Ensemble Course Descriptions

(The following courses are all in addition to a one-semester general music class for all sixth grade students)

String Orchestra, Grades 6, 7, 8

Director: Mr. Caleb Cutler

cutlerc@newton.k12.ma.us

Assistant Director: Ms. Katja Kleyensteuber

kleyensteuberk@newton.k12.ma.us

The Orchestra is open to all string players in grades 6, 7, and 8. Members of the Orchestra should have been active members of their elementary school ensemble or have comparable playing experience, and they are encouraged to take outside lessons as well as practice regularly on their instrument. The Orchestra plays a wide variety of music, from classical symphonies to fiddle tunes. The Orchestra performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts and city-wide String Instrument Festivals, and the MICCA state-wide festival. Members of the Orchestra are encouraged to audition for the All-City Orchestra. *String Orchestra is open to violin, viola, cello, and string bass students.* Orchestra does not include piano. Please contact Mr. Cutler if you have any questions.

- **Meets on days 2 and 5 during the six-day cycle during "Extension."**
- **String Orchestra meets in the Music Room.**

Chorus, Grade 6

Director: Mr. Caleb Cutler

cutlerc@newton.k12.ma.us

Students learn a varied repertoire of music from diverse cultures and eras, including music by some of the leading contemporary vocal arrangers. The chorus performs at our Winter and Spring Concerts. There are also many other opportunities for members to perform such as tours, assemblies, in ensembles, and with community groups. Students interested in auditioning for the All-City Chorus must be members of the Oak Hill chorus. The only requirement to become a member is a willingness to perform and sing great music! Please contact Mr. Cutler if you have any questions.

- **Meets on days 3 and 6 during the six-day cycle during "Extension."**
- **Grade 6 Chorus meets in Room 108.**

Band, Grade 6

Director: Ms. Katja Kleyensteuber

kleyensteuberk@newton.k12.ma.us

The Band is a continuation of music performance and comprehension of the elements of music as they are encountered and communicated through diverse styles of music. Special emphasis is placed on the collaborative work necessary to produce an ensemble product greater than the sum of its parts. This group is comprised primarily of students who have been active members of their elementary school programs or have comparable playing experience. Motivated beginners are welcome with the approval of the director. The group performs at our Winter and Spring Concerts. Instruments played in the band include: piccolo, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone) horn, tuba, and all percussion. Band does not include piano.

- **Meets on days 1 and 4 during the six-day cycle during "Extension."**
- **Grade 6 Band meets in the Music Room.**

For students who play guitar: While band and orchestra do not have guitar instrumentation, all general music classes will include a guitar unit. Almost every incoming 6th grade students will take general music, so there are opportunities to learn guitar or to hone guitar skills.