March, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Windows Art Program is a gifted and talented class designed to offer a more intensive full year art experience. Students are selected based on their portfolios which identify their abilities, interests, and commitment to the visual arts. The program consists of homework assignments, classroom critiques, and in-depth projects which culminate in an annual art show.

The following process is used to identify and select students for these classes:

1) **Orientation** – During the month of March, an assembly program will be presented at each elementary school by a middle school Windows Art teacher explaining the middle school Windows Art Program and the creation of a portfolio of the student’s art work. Interested students may begin preparing their portfolio following the assembly program.

2) **Creation of a portfolio and student self-nomination form** – Students who are interested in applying to the Middle School Windows Art Program can print out the portfolio guideline materials along with the self-nomination form from the Elementary school websites (linked through “Students” and “Student/School Forms and Documents”).

   The portfolio consists of six works, four prescribed, one free choice and one still life drawing test. **Portfolios and self-nomination forms are due to the elementary art teachers no later than April 7, 2017.** The portfolios and self-nomination forms will be forwarded to the middle schools on that date. It is the student’s responsibility to bring these materials to the elementary art teacher by April 7.

3) **Acceptance** – Acceptance into the program will be based upon the work in the portfolio, drawing test and self-nomination form which needs to be completed by the time of review. A letter will be sent to successful fifth grade candidates at the end of April, at which time they may choose to enroll in the middle school Windows Art course.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Students who choose to enroll in the sixth grade Windows Art course will be unable to participate in the regular exploratory cycle courses in Grade 6, as the Windows Art classes are scheduled in lieu of these courses. Also, the present middle school schedule does not allow enrollment in both Windows Art and Band.

Thank you for your interest in the Windows Art Program.

Sincerely,

Ms. Herman
Ms. Herman
Art Specialist

Mr. Maher
Mr. Maher
Art Specialist
Portfolio Checklist

Selection of students for Windows Art is based in large part on the submission of a portfolio of five artworks. The first four pieces have specific requirements and are described below. No one should be helping you. Make sure to take your time and do your best work. This is the only opportunity for us to see what you can do.

The checklist below describes what should be included in your portfolio. Use the checklist to make sure you have everything you need done. **Place everything in order** in your folder with the self nomination form on top and your free choice artwork on the bottom.

☐ **Self Nomination Form** — Completed by you and signed by your parent/guardian.

☐ **Chair** — Draw a chair that is cushioned or has cushions on 9 x 12 unlined white paper. Make sure you include details, shading, and shadows. **Only use pencil. No color.**

☐ **Full Figure Portrait** — Draw a person, full front view (facing you) from head to toe on 9 x 12 unlined white paper. Make sure you include shading and details in the clothing. **Only use pencil. No color.**

☐ **Facial Portrait** — Look in a mirror. Draw your face on 9 x 12 unlined white paper. Make sure to shade and show detail. **Only use pencil. No color.**

☐ **Name Design/Creative Lettering** — On 9 x 12 paper create a letter design using the letters of your first name. Have the design fill the entire page. Get creative! You may use crayon, colored pencil, magic marker, or a combination of the above. **Color.**

☐ **Free Choice** — Add one more piece of original two-dimensional art work of your choice that represents your own efforts during the past year. It can be of any media. This should be limited in size to 12” x 18”.

☐ Every artwork is labeled with your name, elementary school, and art teacher’s name. All artwork is placed in a manila folder that is also labeled with your name.

**Portfolios are due to**

your art teacher

**By**

**April 7, 2017**
Self Nomination Form

Students will fill out form and include in their portfolio.

Name: ________________________________

School: ________________________________

Home Address: ____________________________

1. What are your special talents in art?

_________________________________________________________________________

2. What do you do in your free time?

_________________________________________________________________________

3. What would you like to be when you become an adult?

_________________________________________________________________________

Place a check next to the comments that describe you:

☐ I ask for art materials as presents. ☐ I have gone to an art museum during the past year.

☐ I like to make things from scratch. ☐ I think my artwork is unique.

☐ In my spare time, I like to draw, build things, do artwork. ☐ I take art classes outside of school.

☐ If there is a show about art or artists on TV, I like to watch it. Where? __________________________

Check the areas that are your favorites:

☐ Painting ☐ Paper Mache ☐ Pastels

☐ Digital Arts ☐ Print Making ☐ Watercolors

☐ Sculpture ☐ Pottery/Clay ☐ Drawing

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________