

# Vancouver Public Schools

*Imagine what you can learn.*

3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents:

Welcome back to school. We hope that you had a wonderful summer. We are excited to share with you some opportunities to immerse yourself in the arts this school year. We are fortunate to have music, creative movement and visual art offered during the school day at our elementary schools.

For the past several years Vancouver Public schools has offered after school and summer arts programs free to elementary students. As a result, several thousand students have had the opportunity to play an instrument, sing, dance and create visual art.

To ensure that all students who wish to do so can participate, for the 2016-17 school year, every elementary school will offer an after-school arts program in dance, theatre, choir or visual art. Offerings will vary by building. Students will be notified of building programs and opportunities through a flier or letter distributed by their arts teachers in September or October.

In addition, every 5<sup>th</sup> grade student will have the opportunity to extend their school day twice per week to participate in band or orchestra. Students will be transported by school bus to one of 3 middle schools for these classes in the morning before the elementary day begins and will be transported to their elementary at the beginning of the elementary day. Students with financial need will receive assistance with instrument rental. Students who participate in the school breakfast program will be provided their breakfast at the middle school. Informational meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 4th at 6:30 PM at Discovery, Gaiser and McLoughlin Middle Schools. All interested students and parents should attend.

In addition to the building programs, due to a generous grant from the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools, students in grades 3-7 who wish to participate in an after school dance workshop can enroll in a once-a-week dance workshop at Vancouver school of Arts and Academics. Parents must provide transportation for students to and from this workshop. Below are details of the dance program. In this workshop, a variety of dance styles will be explored. Students will progress through a warm-up, skill development, and choreography. Students will work individually and with partners. Students will strengthen their dance technique and choreographic skills in ballet, modern and jazz dance. Classes are on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>.

All opportunities are taught by Vancouver Public Schools certified teachers and are offered free to students currently enrolled in Vancouver Public Schools.

Students interested in band/choir, orchestra or dance should fill out the attached Class request form and completed and signed medical release and permission forms\*. These should be returned by **September 19<sup>th</sup> to Vancouver School of Arts and Academics**, 3101 Main Street, Vancouver, WA 98663.

Parents will be notified regarding their student's enrollment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Please email [Lori.rotherham@vansd.org](mailto:Lori.rotherham@vansd.org) with questions.

\*Please note: The single page medication form only needs to be completed and return if there is a medical condition and/or the student takes medication

Sincerely,

Lori Rotherham