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COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM
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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

May 13, 2016

To help you in deciding which electives to take next year, you will find a description below for each of these courses. Please use Parent Portal to sign up for these electives by Friday, May 27th. You will be asked to choose 2 and to choose 2 alternatives. Please understand that students may not necessarily get their first two choices as there are class limit sizes; band and chorus do not have class limit size. If you do not sign up by May 27th, we will have students sign up for electives in school. If you need assistance with Parent Portal, please contact Brenda Desmarais at bdesmarais@hwporter.org or 860.228.9493 ext.105.

2016/2017 Elective Choices

___ Band Grades 5 – 8: Band is a great opportunity for students to enhance both their musical skills and experiences. They have the chance to better their personal instrumental skills, in addition to their ensemble skills. Twice a year students have the privilege of sharing their talent with the community through concerts featuring the jazz band, 5th and 6th grade band, and the 7th and 8th grade band. After each concert students reflect on their playing to determine what they did well and where they can improve. Attendance to concerts is mandatory. There will be no makeup assignments, grades will be adversely affected if students are not in attendance.

___ Chorus Grade 5 – 8: Chorus is a great opportunity for students to integrate core curriculum and general music in a music theater format allowing students to not only explore their voices but their interest in acting as well. Twice a year students have the privilege of sharing their talent with the community through concerts featuring the 5th and 6th grade chorus and the 7th and 8th grade chorus. After each concert students reflect on their playing to determine what they did well and where they can improve. Attendance to concerts is mandatory. There will be no makeup assignments, grades will be adversely effected if students are not in attendance.

___ Grade 5 Art Extension: 5th grade art extension will focus on skills and subjects introduced in the art wheel class. Students will be expected to participate in the planning, creation, and reflection process involved regarding his or her artwork and the art of others, including peers and well known art exemplars. There will be a technology component to this course.

___ Grade 6 Art Extension: 6th grade art extension will focus on skills and subjects introduced in the art wheel class. Students will be expected to participate in the planning, creation, and reflection process involved regarding his or her artwork and the art of others, including peers and well known art exemplars. The Comic Book Project will be included as part of the curriculum. There will be a technology component to this course.

___ Grade 7 Art Extension: 7th grade art extension will focus on skills and subjects introduced in the art wheel class. Students will be expected to participate in the planning, creation, and reflection process involved regarding his or her artwork and the art of others, including peers and well known art exemplars. There will be a technology component to this course.

___Grade 8 Art Extension: Also called “Advanced Art,” in this advanced middle school art course, students will participate in multiple art projects related to his/her personal and social beliefs while making connections with the world at large. One focus of the course is to allow students’ unique artistic style to emerge through working in a variety of art media. Projects include the interdisciplinary altered book project, which combines writing an original short story written in Language Arts with the creation of a unique, innovative recycled book. There will be a technology component to this course, such as photo editing and graphic design.

___Life Skills: (there is a 5/6 and a 7/8 class): Life Skills will consist of learning in four areas: 1) Skills for daily living: Students will identify personal traits/talents, learn social skills and time management. 2) Foods: Students will learn table etiquette, safety and efficiency in the kitchen, basic measuring, cooking techniques and how to use cooking tools correctly. Students will follow recipe directions and cook some familiar foods. 3) Fabrics & sewing: Students will learn and practice the basics of hand sewing (threading a needle, sewing buttons, basic stitches), and how to safely operate a sewing machine. Students will complete a project with the sewing machine. Basic ironing techniques and instruction on laundry care will be taught as well. 4) Child Development: Both 5th & 6th and 7th and 8th students will study the development of a child from birth to age 5 and appropriate ways to interact with the young child. Additionally, 7th & 8th graders will be introduced to the education of the preschooler and kindergartener.

___Technology 5/6: Is technology more than Google and Microsoft Word? Yes, it can be so much more than that. In this class, we'll explore the ways we can use technology as a creative tool. We'll examine the influence of technology on various artistic areas, such as graphic art and digital photography, and try our hand with some of the applications and techniques used in these mediums.

___Technology 7/8: Students will have demonstrated a clear understanding of the core expectations of the Technology program and have one or more individual interest areas relating to hardware and software technology. Students will be largely self-directed under the guidance of their teacher to be given a challenge and then researching the available alternatives, learning how to use the tool and bringing a completed initiative to a successful completion. Programming, 3-D printing as well as graphic design are potential areas of focus. Computer aided design, drafting and/or manufacturing are also areas where real world exploration are potential areas for students to focus on. This class will also require at home time and a computer to continue and complete classroom activities. A mandatory focus of this class will be to create a virtual TV studio for the morning announcements.

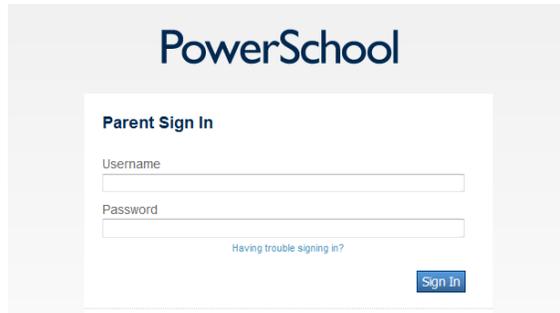
___Yoga 5-8: (there is a 5/6 and a 7/8 class): One of the greatest signs that yoga is working is simply laughter – when yogis are free from worry, they freely smile, laugh, and enjoy life. Students will practice various poses (asanas) in an accepting environment where they listen, are gentle, accepting, and aware of themselves and others. They will get to know themselves, finding what needs to be strengthened or enhanced and what needs to be released. Yoga is a philosophy that will be practiced on the mat in class and will eventually follow students into their everyday lives. Students will need to wear comfortable clothes that are easy to move in, and if they have their own mat and water bottle they should bring those supplies, otherwise one will be provided for them.

___Study Hall: (there is a 5/6 and a 7/8 class): During Study Hall students are expected to come prepared to work, study or read in a quiet setting. Study hall teacher is available to answer questions but the emphasis is on independent or partner work (as appropriate and approved by study hall teacher). Students who disrupt this setting will be moved to a different elective, not necessarily of their choice as availability will need to be considered.

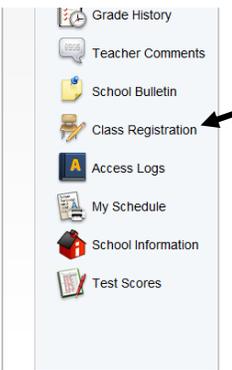
-FOLLOWING ARE DIRECTIONS FOR THE ONLINE SELECTION PROCESS-

This is what it will look like on Parent Portal:

1. Go to Horace W. Porter School's website at <http://www.porterschool.org/>
 - a. Click on Parent Resources
 - i. Click on <https://hwporter.powerschool.com/public>
 1. Here you will need your username and password



2. Once you have logged in:
 - a. On the left click on Class Registration



- b. You must now choose your courses by clicking on the edit button (it's a picture of a pencil)



c. This screen pops up:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Course Name	Number	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART EXT.	5810	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	BAND	5010	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHORUS	5800	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PE	5017	0		

<< first < prev 1 next > last >>

! You may select 3 courses. You have selected 0 courses.

Cancel Okay

- d. Choose 2 courses
- e. Then select **Okay**
- f. Then choose 2 alternatives
- g. Then click **Submit**

You have completed the selection process.

Thank you,

Alyssa Gwinnell, Principal