

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Information and FAQ's**

### ***What is the enrollment process?***

In May/June, all students currently in grade 4 will enroll in either 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band OR 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus for the following school year. Students and their families have the choice of which program to participate in. All students need to complete the Enrollment Form – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band OR 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus – so they can be scheduled properly for classes. Forms were distributed to students in class but can also be downloaded from [www.BellinghamMusic.org/Join](http://www.BellinghamMusic.org/Join) if you need an additional copy.

### ***When does the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus class meet?***

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus meets as a class, one day per week for approximately 45 minutes. This is a scheduled class that does not interfere with any academic or exploratory classes. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band meet at exactly the same time, which provides a common planning meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom teachers.

### ***Can my student participate in both Band and Chorus?***

At this time, students have to select one or the other, but we are looking to offer an after-school opportunity for band students who wish to continue singing.

### ***Why does my student have to select 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band or 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus?***

Students participate in these courses so they receive a well-rounded education and meet the Massachusetts State Fine Arts and Music Frameworks. These courses also serve as a foundation for future music courses that they may wish to enroll in such as high school Fine Arts electives.

### ***What about concerts or after school hours requirements?***

There are typically 2 or 3 concerts that 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus students participate in. This is an important part of demonstrating what students have learned and we want to share our music with family and community members. The concert dates will be provided to all families far in advance. If your family has a conflict with one of these concerts, we ask that you kindly inform your student's music teacher at least 2 weeks in advance. There are no after school rehearsals or requirements outside of 2 or 3 concerts during the year.

### ***What will my student learn by participating in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus?***

Students who participate in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus will learn how to sing with proper breathing, posture, tone quality and diction. Students will learn to sing in unison and partner songs with a wide variety of traditional chorus music and lighter selections of seasonal or pop music. It is very helpful for youngsters to sing through natural transitions of their voices during pre-adolescence and adolescence. As they become older, their voices will change and participating in choir will help them feel more comfortable with these changes.

### ***Are there any costs involved with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus?***

There are no costs or fees for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus.

### ***Does my student have to wear a uniform or costume for concerts?***

Students are asked to wear white shirts and black pants or skirts for concerts. We are happy to help families who need assistance with white and black clothing, please contact your student's music teacher if you need help. Wearing the same colors presents a professional appearance that students can feel proud of and unifies the group as a team.