

OVMS Department Spotlight: Visual & Performing Arts

The Middle School VPA department at OVMS showcases a tremendous amount of talent throughout the year. Recently, the music program completed their winter concerts while the drama department presented the fall play. Our art department assisted with the fall play and other projects throughout the building while preparing a variety of pieces for upcoming art shows. The second half of the year features a variety of events for the department as we look forward to events such as MS Idol, the ASTA festival, the spring musical, the spring concert series and our spring art shows. OVMS is proud to highlight all of the wonderful artistic talents of our students and staff!

-Casey Corigliano, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts

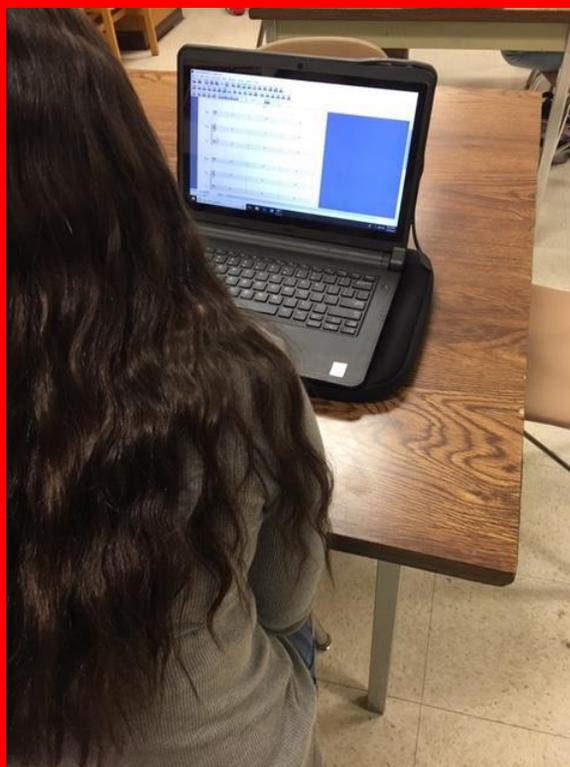
The visual and performing arts are a wonderful addition to the middle school students' educational program. It provides them social opportunities to interact with other students and teachers in a varied of ways that translate to communication skills they will need in their future. These creative outlets provide opportunities for students to shine in ways they might not have been able to in traditional classes. I am so proud of our visual and performing arts team and students here at Orchard Valley and continually look forward to seeing and experiencing their work

-Colleen Cancila, Principal,
Orchard Valley Middle School

Music Appreciation is part of the 6th grade Exploratory Arts program and is taught by Mr. Appello and Mrs. Lupchinsky.

Music Appreciation classes have covered music notation, learning to read the treble clef. We've studied the four families of instruments, including a section where students learned to play the bells (glockenspiel). We are also covering the periods of music history and composers. Students have also composed their own songs in the music writing program, *Finale*.

Music Appreciation



In our 6th, 7th, & 8th Band classes, directed by Mr. Frank Appello, the students are working on learning key signatures and the scales that go with them.

In addition, the 8th grade is working on the songs *How Far I'll Go* from *Moana* and *My Shot* from the musical *Hamilton*. These will be performed on Wednesday January 16th at the WTHS Side By Side Concert. This performance will include all 8th grade band students from all three middle schools and both high school bands. The concert will also include performances from the WTHS Jazz Band and two saxophone quintets. The concert will have a movie music theme.

On January 8th, there were five students who auditioned for the Olympic Conference Honors Band: Sean Reynolds, Aidan Zukovsky, Nathan DeLuca, Nicholas Pellegrino, and Sarah Wolkowicz. All 5 were selected to perform in the Olympic Conference Honors Band performance on January 30th at the IBPAC in Washington Township High School.

Band



Chorus

The 7th and 8th grade chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Alyssa Campanini, excelled in their winter concert performance with some truly difficult and challenging repertoire. The students were given three a cappella pieces, all from different time periods and with different stylistic considerations for each. The students performed their final piece, "Carol of the Bells," without a conductor!

The 6th grade chorus had a wonderful first concert of the year. The students worked on two pieces in different languages. They also performed a difficult two-part arrangement of a piece by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The 8th grade chorus students have just started preparing for the Pops Experience concert that will occur Thursday, February 14, 2019 at the IBPAC at WTHS where they will perform two pop numbers and then performs again in the finale for the evening with all of the high school chorus students.

The 7th grade and 6th grade chorus are diligently working on their sight reading and ear training skills as we prepare to look at our new concert repertoire for the spring!

Additionally, two students were selected to perform with the All South Jersey Chorus: Katie Gee on Soprano I and Talia Mazzuca on Soprano II.



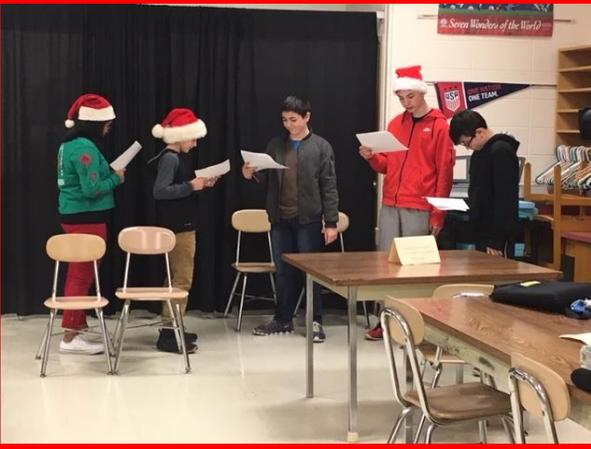
Orchestra



The 6th, 7th and 8th grade orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Marilyn Lupchinsky (*long-term substitute for Mrs. Liz Aldrich*), performed together at the Winter Concert in December. Currently the students are preparing for ASTA which is a "Solo and Ensemble Festival," a program of the American String Teachers' Association (A.S.T.A.). These festivals provide the opportunity for students to perform either as soloists or in a small ensemble, to be evaluated by a guest clinician on their performance, with recommendations for further improvements. Individual growth occurs during the study of such music, both in the student's understanding of different musical styles as well as in the development of specific instrumental skills.

The Washington Township festivals are run in-district, and all orchestra students in grades 6 through 12 participate. The WTPS utilize a Master Class format, so that the students benefit from the commentary given each other, as well as from hearing the other performances. The 2019 festivals will be held on February 26th (grades 8 – 12) at WTHS, and March 1st (grades 6 – 7) at Chestnut Ridge Middle School. Additionally, Emily Westenberger, cellist, was selected for the SJ Orchestra and performed in a concert earlier this month.

Drama



The 7th grade drama classes, taught by Ms. Amy Leso, have been working on the unit of stage movement, voice and characterization in preparation for their monologue presentations in January. They have been focusing on these skills by taking on character roles and acting out various plays in class.

The 8th grade drama classes have been exploring all of the members of the production staff. They have designed costumes, built small scale flats and had the opportunity to design a make-up plot and then recreate those designs on their classmates. All of this work will culminate in a class production of a short scene.

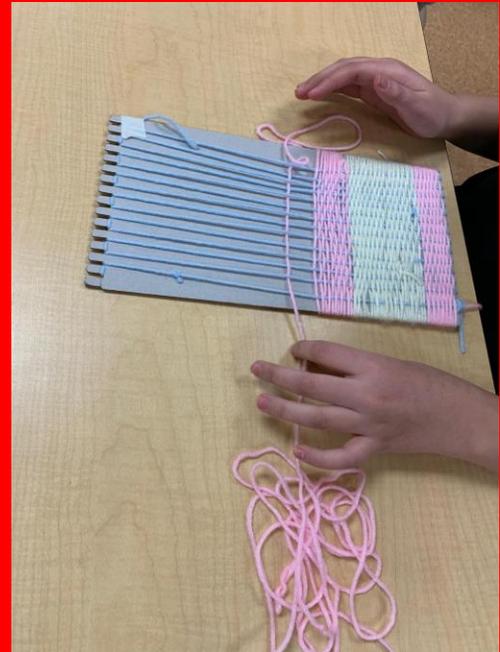


The 6th, 7th and 8th grade art classes, taught by Mrs. Veronica Ahktar and Mrs. Margaret Lavioe-Davis, have been working on a variety of projects in their classes. The 6th graders have been working on an arts and crafts unit where they are learning the art of weaving and relief block print (*printmaking radial design*).

The 7th graders have been working on a watercolor leaves photo.

The 8th grade Talented Art class has been working on gridded portraits and skeleton charcoal drawings.

Art



Art



Clay works in progress:
before the big fire
(preglaze fire clay). Top -
Joey Abrams "fortnite"
inspired clay whistle
in the
foreground, Gianna Melho
rn's "hairy bush
viper" inspired clay mask.



Left, Timothy Vincent, coil
clay pottery and right,
Mercedes Mendoza,
Textured tripod pottery.



Art 8 "Sky's the limit" linear perspective. Works
done in marker, color pencil and tempera paint.
Left, Mackenzie Hertfelder and right, Briele
Wojcik



Art 8 students create
still life compositions:
incorporating placement,
overlapping, rendering for
form and light
source. Materials
are graphite pencil and
watercolor wash.