Dear Sixth-Grade Families,

We are excited to welcome you and your students to Oak Middle School next year. Time has flown, and it is hard to believe we are already in the final months of this school year. Planning for the 2026-2027 school year is underway, and as part of this process, we ask families to complete three items by April 10, 2026. Your cooperation will help us place each child in the best learning environment for the upcoming year. More detailed information regarding these items can be found below.

1. Student Placement Information: 2026-2027 Oak Middle School Student Placement Information

2. World Language Selection- No form, please complete on PowerSchool

3. Band, Chorus, Orchestra or Exploration Selection: https://forms.gle/5zVmTG8jRuahUkej9

Student Placement Information

Soon we will begin the process of creating team assignments for students entering grade 7 for the 2026-2027 school year. Student placement is a collaboration among all staff members that involves looking at the academic, social, and emotional needs of each child to ensure a successful year.

An important part of the process is parent input. We welcome any and all information that provides us with insight to better understand your child's needs (i.e. learning styles, friend requests, requests to separate students, etc.). If you would like to provide input about your child that you wish the school to be aware of with regard to class placement, please click . Please communicate with us even if you have submitted a similar form in the past. We do not assume that requests remain the same from year to year.

World Languages

Next year, your child may begin studying a World Language. We offer four World Languages: French, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. When selecting your student's World Language, please keep in mind that this is a two-year commitment to the language choice.

Modern languages (French, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish) focus on interpersonal, presentational, interpretive, and intercultural communication. The French strand will

expose students to the diversity of the Francophone World while teaching units focused on personal identity. In Mandarin Chinese, students will begin to learn the pinyin writing system, which connects English phonology to Mandarin, while learning to talk about personal identity. In Spanish, students will explore the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world through units focusing on personal identity. Latin develops students' interpretive skills and grammatical connections to English while developing an appreciation of Ancient Rome. Our learning targets for seventh grade are Novice-Mid on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Benchmarks.

You're encouraged to watch the linked videos above to become familiar with the different World Language courses. In addition, your child will be viewing the videos during team meetings at Sherwood. Please choose your student's languages in PowerSchool (click for directions) by April 18, 2025. Should we not receive your child's choice for a World Language by then, there is a chance they will be automatically enrolled in one of the available languages. In addition, we realize that the scheduling of services may conflict with the ability to begin a language at Oak Middle School. If your child's IEP includes C grid services and you would rather that they enroll in a world language class, please fill out this form, and a special education representative will reach out to you to discuss your child's schedule. **If your child has IEP "C grid" services and you would like to make no change, there is no need to sign up in Powerschool.**

Please feel free to contact Kenneth Almeida with any questions related to curriculum and content at kalmeida@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us. If you speak Spanish or Portuguese and need assistance, please contact Kenneth Almeida directly via email.

Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and Explorations

We're thrilled to announce updates to Oak's band, chorus, orchestra, and exploration programs, benefitting all students. Please fill out this form indicating your child's participation in Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and/or Explorations for next year. Exploration Block offers structured 30-day mini classes on diverse topics chosen by Oak teachers. Current band, orchestra, and chorus students can now opt for multiple ensembles. Details for next year's choices are outlined below.

Band/Chorus/Orchestra (BCO) and Exploration Block

Students will participate in band, chorus, or orchestra 3 out of 6 days. On days there is no BCO students will participate in an Exploration Block class. Over the course of the school year students will take three different Exploration classes.

Band/Orchestra and Chorus

Students participating in Band/Chorus or Orchestra/Chorus do not participate in an Exploration class.

Band and Orchestra
Playing in both band and orchestra is not an official option as the ensembles are currently planned to be offered at the same time. However, some students in these groups might have an opportunity to participate in both ensembles depending on the repertoire selected.

Exploration Block Only
There is no registration required for Exploration Block Only.
Students will participate in two Exploration Block classes each trimester. Each exploration meets every other day for 15-day mini classes on a variety of topics and subjects selected by Oak teachers. Students will have a total of eleven different Exploration Block classes during the school year.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns as our goal is to work together to make sure each and every child has a wonderful year at Oak Middle School!

Hallie Burak

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