

FINE ARTS



ART

I hope everyone is safe and healthy at home. Thank goodness for art! This next weekend would have been the Queeny Park Art Show. It is so disappointing not to be able to show the fantastic art work completed this year. At some point, I hope it will be possible to return all the artwork.

Take Care and Happy Summer.

BAND

If there were ever a doubt that Fine Arts and Music are a necessary part of life, the current quarantine has erased a big portion of that doubt. In the past 40+ days, music has been transformed from a background item to a means to fulfill the human needs of creativity, participation and inclusion. That's what Band does best! We have worked out ways to keep students' musical skills and curriculum motoring along, but the drive to create beautiful music in a group remains, waiting for the opportunity. Through our band assignments the remainder of this year, we encourage our band students to create music while separated. Find interesting and new music. Find new ways to share your music. And when we get together for the first band rehearsal after this quarantine, our wait will be over, and what a beautiful day that will be!

Eighth Graders, we wish you the very best in high school. The disappointment of cancelling so many band events at the end of this year will magnify the joy that you will have when you can return to making music and spending time together with your community!

Incoming sixth grade band students, get ready for the awesome activity that's about to start! In the coming months, you will get information about instruments, music, and equipment for next year's band. It's going to be great!

On a personal note, students and parents, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your musicianship, support, fun, sense of community and excellence throughout the years. I cannot wait to hear your next performance. I wish you all the very best. Peace. -- Mr. Holzen

CHOIR

eLearning is a new adventure for choir students, and you all are doing such a wonderful job! We hope that the experience has taught all students new things, and given us all a new appreciation for the time we did have together this year.

We are so sad that our end-of-year events did not happen - Six Flags, Branson, and the Spring Concert are the highlights of an exciting school year. Hopefully, next year, we will be able to continue these events!

Eighth grade students, please stay tuned to your emails for instructions on how to return your choir dress.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and have a happy summer!!

ORCHESTRA

eLearning is moving forward and I am very proud of the responses that students have given to our listening and playing assignments. We have so many great students in our program and it shows in the work that you do. Thank you for continuing to interact with each other online.

Don't forget about Honors Orchestra auditions due May 13th. If you have not yet signed up for the Google Classroom for auditions please email Mr. McKinney cmckinney@parkwayschools.net

THEATRE & VIDEO PRODUCTION NEWS

Whew! I have taught a long time, but never would I have imagined having to learn how to teach eLearning! While it is far from my favorite way to teach and spend time with students, I'm so proud of the way the theater/video production kids have stepped up and creatively completed assignments. My goal has been to keep them involved with the curriculum and find some way to enjoy distance learning.

In order to keep my own spirits up, I've been making lists of the things I'm grateful for during my time at home. I appreciate my family, the chirps of my parakeets, sitting outside working in the sunshine, reading books, Zoom calls with extended family, and lots of great cooking! With school, I truly appreciate seeing my student's faces in Google Meets from time to time, grading their creative and insightful work, and the support their parents are giving them (and me!) If you haven't already, I encourage everyone to take time to see the wonderful things around you during this stressful time.

Take care!

~ Mrs. McCracken