

In Middle School general music students learn about composers, time periods in music history and music from other cultures. They do this through research, playing instruments, composing, and singing. The main homework in 5<sup>th</sup> grade is recorder karate where students are encouraged to practice for their karate belts outside of the school day. The main homework in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is composer of the week information where the students need to find out several interesting facts about the composer we study each week. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade general music students may have homework in the form of bringing in recordings representing different music listened to by them and their parents/guardians. Mrs. McShane teaches 5, 6, 8 general music and can be reached at [mcshanes@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:mcshanes@chatham.k12.ny.us) .

In Middle School chorus students continue to build on the skills they have started in elementary school. They will work on breathing, dynamics, tone quality, consistency in pitch, and more! All grades of chorus are eligible to participate in All County. During this time the students come together for 2 afternoons rehearsing with students from the other 5 county schools and will ultimately perform a concert with these students. Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to also take group voice lessons and participate in the NYSSMA solo and small ensemble festival.