

Dear Upper School Students and Families,

Summer greetings from Park Arts! We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying summer's slower pace and warmer weather. We are looking forward to supporting your creative work and inquiry when we return to campus this fall!

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we wanted to bring your attention to important information about the Upper School Performing Arts programs.

Per the arts department's mission to encourage authentic artistic development and support the rich inner lives of our students, Park's Upper School Music Program includes opportunities for students to sing and play their instruments in a variety of ways, and we encourage those who are not already part of an ensemble to consider adding a non-auditioned G Block ensemble to their course of study. **Parksingers**, **Park Strings**, and **Wind Ensemble** all meet weekly during G block and offer students a wonderful opportunity to exercise creativity, take a break from academic work, and build community through music.

For those who plan to participate in any of Park's music ensembles, both auditioned and non-auditioned, please see the end of this letter for important information about the second semester music trips we have planned.

Directors of each of the music groups will be reaching out directly to students and families at the start of the school year with ensemble-specific information about the year's concerts and rehearsals, so please be on the lookout for those communications when we return in August.

Additionally, we write with information about our preseason Performing Arts rehearsals. Students participating in the Fall Production "Into the Woods" and members of Parkappella and the Park Jazz Collective (PJC) can find rehearsal information at the end of this letter.

As ever, if you have any arts-related questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the Arts Faculty.

For now, we wish you a wonderful, restful, and safe remainder of the summer. Here is to a creative and engaging 2025-26 academic year!

Best wishes,

Deborah Hull, Director of Arts

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PARK MUSIC ENSEMBLE PRESEASON REHEARSALS:

Park Upper School Arts Fall Production Preseason Rehearsals:

- **Monday, August 25:** Fall Production Preseason – 6-8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 26:** Fall Production Preseason – 6-8 p.m.

Parkappella Preseason Rehearsals:

- **Monday, August 25:** Parkappella Preseason – 4-5:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 26:** Parkappella Preseason – 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Park Jazz Collective Preseason Rehearsal (PJC):

- **Tuesday, August 26:** PJC Preseason – 3-4:15 p.m.

2026 PARK MUSIC ADJUDICATED TRIPS:

“Music in the Parks” Adjudicated Festival at Hersheypark

Participating Groups: Parkappella, Park Jazz Collective, Park Strings, Wind Ensemble

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026 (All Day)

Departure from Park: 7 a.m.

Return to Park: 10 p.m.

Cost: \$130* billed via FACTS

**Please note that students who receive Tuition Assistance will be billed in proportion to their award. If the trip represents financial hardship for your family and you do not receive Tuition Assistance, please reach out to Mennette D. San-Lee, Director of Enrollment Management and Tuition Assistance at msanlee@parkschool.net.*

Jazz Education Network (JEN) New Orleans Trip

Participating Group: Park Jazz Collective

Dates: January 8-10, 2026

Cost: \$750-850* billed via FACTS

**Please note that this cost may be reduced for all students via fundraising efforts towards reducing the per student cost over the course of the fall semester. Students who receive Tuition Assistance will receive a discount on the per student cost of the trip in proportion to their award.*