

Dear CUE Families,

ENCOREs are a great opportunity for students to experience different information. For the 2017- 2018 school year we will changing ENCOREs so that students have more consistent exposure in 4th and 5th grade and longer exposure and more opportunities in 6th grade.

In 4th and 5th grade in the 2016-2017 school year ENCOREs were on a 30 day schedule. This worked great for long units, but it also meant that some students didn't experience ENCOREs like gym until May. It also meant that students would only be exposed to each ENCORE once. We want our students to have consistent experiences for all the great offerings we have. In order to accomplish this goal in 2017- 2018 Charlotte Upper Elementary will offer 15 school day experiences in the fall and winter. This will allow every student in 4th and 5th grade to be exposed to Art, Gym, Music, Technical Writing, Science, and Robotics twice a school year.

Charlotte Upper Elementary is the bridge between elementary and secondary education, and our sixth graders are on the verge of crossing into the 7-12 world. To help the transition to 7th grade 6th grade ENCOREs will rotate on a 45 school day schedule (terms). Unlike 4th and 5th grade who travel with their homeroom class, 6th grade ENCORE classes will be a mixture of all 6th grade students. This comes with a couple advantages. First, it will help the 6th grade solidify as a graduating class that will travel together 6-12. Second, this schedule has allowed Charlotte Upper Elementary to expand our 6th grade ENCORE offerings. Next year 6th graders will get to experience Band, Art, Painting, Introduction to STEM, Robotics, Gym, Health, Technical Writing, and Science.

Finally, both the 4th/5th grade and 6th grade ENCORE schedules provide more flexibility to provide help for students who are struggling in reading or math. In past years we have had to pull students from core instruction to provide intervention. This proved to cause issues as students were missing instruction they needed to be successful. By spreading out ENCOREs in 4th and 5th grade and providing longer experiences in 6th grade teachers will be able to periodically pull from ENCOREs to provide intensive small group help to students. These groups will be under 10 students so that each student who need extra help in math or reading can receive more one-on-one time than ever before offered at the CUE.

We are excited about the increased exposure we are providing next year, the flexibility it will provide to help students, and the increased opportunities for students to be exposed to Art, Music, Gym, Writing, and specialized sciences.

Your Friend

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark McGarry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "McGarry" clearly legible.

Mr. Mark McGarry
Principal