The 2020 Very Special Arts Festival:

Create! Connect! Inspire!

Artwork by Cami P and Hannah H

Register Online ONLY (click here)
PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE AS NEEDED

To: Administrators, Special Educators, Art Teachers, Music Teachers, Physical Education Teachers,
   Library/Media Teachers, Theater Arts Teachers, Service Learning Coordinators and All Other Interested
   Staff
From: Very Special Arts Festival [VSAF] Committee
Re: VSAF Registration

We are excited about planning for the 2020 Very Special Arts Festival [VSAF]. The theme this year is Create! Connect! Inspire!

Place: Oregon Ridge Park: 13401 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 (No Rain Date)
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Since a celebration such as this depends on the participation and teamwork of many people, we are asking you to do the following:

♥ Mark the date on your calendar [♥♥♥♥with hearts around it!!!! ♥♥♥♥]
♥ Collaborate with others in your school and complete the ONLINE REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Friday, March 31, 2020

♥ REMINDER! To secure BCPS bus transportation to the VSAF, you MUST register online. This includes any student volunteers or school groups coming to help or perform at the festival. You will need the ‘account string’ for the funding source to pay for the bus.

   o To find the ACCOUNT STRING: Check with the administrative assistant (secretary) in your school office who handles the budget.

   o Make sure that you discuss this with your administrator in order to encumber the funds. You CAN NOT use CBI hours. This account string is required to complete the registration.
Important Information

TRANSPORTATION

BCPS has buses available to transport students and staff to the Festival at regular field trip rates. Bus availability is first come, first served. You must register online to secure transportation to and from the festival.

A confirmation from The Office of Transportation will be sent via BCPS e-mail to the contact person listed on the registration form about a week prior to the festival. This confirmation will include any school combinations and whether a BCPS bus or contractor will be used. If a contractor is being used, payment will be expected the day of the festival. The Office of Transportation reserves the option of having two or more schools share a bus if needed. If the buses are shared, the cost will be shared equally between the schools.

IMPORTANT: If you have students currently using a SAFETY VEST on the school bus, you will need to know the color of the vest (blue, black or burgundy) for the registration process.

On the day of the VSAF, please place two large signs in the bus front and right-side window with your school name boldly printed. This will facilitate a smooth and speedy unloading of buses.

HEALTH SERVICES

Please alert your school nurse of the students who will be participants in VSAF. Your school nurse will report to the VSAF nurse.

There will be a nurse on duty all day. It is vital that any specific need for health services be communicated to the nurse in advance (Asthma, bee sting allergy, special medicines, catheters, etc.).

YOU MUST BRING EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARDS WITH YOU TO THE FESTIVAL FOR EVERY STUDENT ATTENDING. Please Do Not Forget These Cards.

PERMISSION/VIDEO RELEASE

We always hope that the media will share in our celebration. Included on the attached “sample” permission form for the festival is the consent to videotaping and photography. All videos and photographs will be used to promote the positive contributions of the Very Special Arts Festival students, families and schools. They will only be used for these purposes.

Please feel free to modify the permission form to include more information for the families of your students. Please be certain to include the consent to video tape/photograph on any revised permission form. Please have parents/guardians sign the permission slips and retain the permission forms as you would for any educational field trip or community based instruction.
If any parent/guardian declines permission for videotaping/photography, YOU will be responsible for ensuring that their child is not photographed or recorded in any way.

**EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL**

VSAF programs and certificates of participation will be sent digitally to participating schools. This will include your rotation group color, schedule, and a map of the festival. You will **only** receive this information if you have ELECTRONICALLY REGISTERED FOR THE FESTIVAL.

Once you have received the information, please create your own NAME TAGS for the festival. All students must wear a name tag that includes his/her name, school name/phone number, teacher name, and color group.

**General Information**

**SENSORY TENT**

Back by popular demand will be the sensory tent. Inside the sensory tent will be a variety of sensory activities for students who may need a sensory break during the festival. Please visit the sensory tent at your convenience. It is a fun place to be!

**LUNCH/FOOD PLANS**

Each person is to bring a bagged lunch. There will be opportunities for people to picnic on the grounds outside and there are some pavilions with tables. Please bring a blanket or ground cover if you wish to picnic. Food vendors will be on site with a variety of delicious treats and beverages. Food prices will range from $3 to $13 per item.

Please be sure that students are aware of this opportunity and that they bring sufficient funds to purchase treats. Please note that the lines may be long for purchasing food.

**STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING**

Any middle or high school student who is involved in volunteering at this festival is eligible for student service learning credit if they:

- Get approval from their School Service Learning Coordinator
- Show proof of planning for the activity
- Complete the activity as planned
- Complete a reflection paper describing the learning activity

Please note that your School Service Learning Coordinator must approve your plan in advance.
We will have certificates for verification for all volunteers involved. Please email Susie Swindell (sgottli6@jh.edu) the names of student volunteers as soon as possible, but no later than April 24, 2020.

CLEAN-UP

**PLEASE RECYCLE!** We will have recycling bins throughout the festival. Please look for them.

It is extremely important to know that all participants of the VSAF will be expected to assist with the clean-up of all areas of the festival. We want to leave Oregon Ridge Park as beautiful and spotless as we find it. Please remind students of the **importance of throwing away trash and recycling in proper receptacles.** Thanks in advance for this important assistance.

BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

All BCPS policies and regulations are in effect throughout the festival. All volunteers and participants must remain in festival assigned areas only (maps will be sent electronically prior to the festival. Maps will also be posted throughout the festival). The Oregon Ridge office telephones will be off limits to students unless accompanied by an adult (for emergency use only).

LOST AND FOUND

BCPS and Oregon Ridge are not responsible for any personal items that are brought to the festival. There is a Lost & Found in the office of Oregon Ridge Lodge. In the event of a lost item, the phone number for Oregon Ridge Lodge is 410-887-1818.
Dear Parents:

On Tuesday May 5, 2020 Baltimore County Public Schools, in partnership with The Johns Hopkins University School of Education IDEALS Institute, will celebrate the Very Special Arts Festival at Oregon Ridge Park from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This annual event includes Make & Take Art Booths, student art displays as well as opportunities for your child to demonstrate their artistic, musical, motor and performance skills and talents. Please indicate below if your child has permission to attend.

The bus will leave school at ___________ and return at ___________.

Yours truly,

****************************************************************************************

PERMISSION SLIP

__________________________________________ has my permission to attend the Very Special Arts Festival on May 5, 2020 at Oregon Ridge Park.

__________________________________________
Parent/guardian signature

______________________________
Date

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO

It is important for you to know that there may be media coverage of the event (newspapers, photographers and/or local TV stations). My child has my permission to be photographed/video taped for publicity for the festival:

☐ Yes ☐ No Parent initials: ______

LUNCH

Each student is to bring a bagged lunch. Food vendors will be on site with a variety of delicious treats and beverages. Food prices will range from $3 to $13 per item.

If you would like your child to purchase treats at the festival, please make sure they bring sufficient funds to make their purchase.

Please return this permission form to your child’s teacher by Friday, April 24, 2020.
Oregon Ridge Park
Directions from Towson

1. Take I-695 toward Towson.
2. Take I-83 North (Exit 24).
3. Continue North to Exit 20-B (Shawan Rd. West).
4. At first light make a left. (Beaver Dam Rd.).
5. Follow Beaver Dam Rd. for aprox. 1/4 mile.
6. You will see the NEW volunteer parking entrance on the right.

**DIRECTIONS & PARKING FOR ANYONE NOT COMING ON BUSES**

It is imperative that ALL cars/vans take the Shawan Road Exit

**DO NOT TAKE THE WARREN ROAD EXIT**

(all busses will be using this exit to enter Oregon Ridge Lodge)

Please PRINT & SHARE this page with anyone coming in cars/vans.
Please follow signs to the parking entrance for volunteers and anyone else in cars/vans.
There will be parking on the grass ONLY.

Buses ONLY will be permitted to use the main entrance to the Lodge parking lot.
All cars MUST park in the designated area on the grass.
The large parking lot on the left is reserved for buses only.

For accessible parking: Please speak with the traffic officer or VSAF volunteer upon arrival.
**IMPORTANT DUE DATES**  
*Mark Your Calendars!!!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Due</th>
<th>Return to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 1 – Tuesday, March 31</td>
<td>Online Registration</td>
<td><strong>ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 24, 2020</td>
<td>Student Permission to Participate (Sample on page 6)</td>
<td>Parents return this to the Classroom Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 24, 2020</td>
<td>Names of Student Volunteers</td>
<td>Susie Swindell <a href="mailto:sgottli6@jh.edu">sgottli6@jh.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>