JUNE 2020/YEAR-END CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Cultural Arts Committee began the 2019-20 school year by holding a workshop as part of the MCCPTA Fall Training event. As Chair of Cultural Arts, I provided information for participants on how to organize a Cultural Arts committee; resources and procedures for how to hire professional performing artists for assemblies, workshops, and artist-in-residency programs; where to apply for grants; free programs that are available; and advocating for increasing a school’s Cultural Arts Budget. Information about the annual fall MCPS Cultural Arts Showcases was provided by Seda Gelenian, who is producer and coordinator of the Showcases, and also chair of the Superintendent’s Committee for Performances in MCPS.

The 2019 Cultural Arts Showcases were held in early October for two full days and one evening. Performers who had auditioned and been approved by the Superintendent’s Committee in September were presented at the Showcases, as well as many performers approved in past years. We distributed the 2019 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue, as well as brochures from the performers, and important information for all Cultural Arts chairs. Any schools that did not send someone to the Showcases had the catalogue mailed to them.

The **2019-20 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue** and many of the Showcase performances that have been videotaped can be viewed on the following website:

[**http://www.biglearning.org**](http://www.biglearning.org) Click on “Cultural Arts Showcases” and you will see them both listed. The password for viewing the videos is “**culturalarts**”.

Dates for the 2020 performer auditions (September 9 & 10), and Showcases (October 5, 6, & 7), have been requested by the Superintendent’s Committee, however final approval has not yet been received due to uncertainties about the coming school year. I will notify everyone if and when these events and dates are finalized.

As Chair of Cultural Arts, I have always done an annual Cultural Arts Budget Survey. Over the years, I have found that taking the survey in the spring worked out best, because many schools are uncertain what they are going to be spending until then, since that is often dependent on school fundraisers held at different times. With the school closures in March of this year, I was unable to complete the survey. However, 2019 Cultural Arts Budget Survey is still available, and I will do an update during the 2020-21 school year.

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