



*Center For Arts & International Studies  
At Perkins Elementary*

## **FOCUS GROUP INFORMATION FOURTH GRADE**

Parents and Guardians  
2016-17 School Year

**Every fourth grade student will be assigned a Focus Group.**

Focus Groups provide an opportunity for students to choose a class that will encourage their interest or talent. Fourth Grade Focus meets every Tuesday from 1:35 - 2:35. Focus is fun but it's also hard work. It is expected that Focus students perform to the best of their abilities at all times. A grade will be given for Focus beginning with the second marking period. This grade counts, as all others do, in determining Honor Roll or Principal's List.

After you have read this packet with your student, please have them list their first 3 choices in order of preference. Please help them read and select with certainty, as no changes will be made after students are assigned their Focus class. Every attempt is made to place students in their first choice; however, there are times when that is just not possible.

All Focus Group signature sheets must be returned to your classroom teacher no later than **9:00 am Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>**. Focus Groups begin on Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup>. A Focus Group will be assigned based on space available, not by preference to any student who does not return a form by **9:00 am August 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Please read the following information carefully in order to make a selection that will work well for your child.

Some Focus Groups require after school rehearsals and will be noted in the description section with an \*. If this additional time commitment and/or transportation could pose a problem, please do not sign up for one of those Focus Groups.

## ***ART FOCUS – Discover Art / The Works!***

### ***Mrs. Crosby***

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Discover Art / The Works focus class will be full of art adventures. First, we will continue the installation of our *mosaic tile* project on our school campus.

Inside the art studio, will learn with 2-dimensional art skills which include observation drawing in our sketchbooks, advanced projects with painting, printmaking, fiber and digital artworks (using the iPad lab). We will work with the 3-dimensional sculpture and do pottery on the wheel.

This year focus students will learn all about art and art history in a unique way. Each student will have a role in *The Concerto Cafe`, Where Art Comes To Life*, a special art performance that features “living paintings”. This memorable Perkins show will take place the evening of January 26 and 27, 2017 and participation is mandatory.

All focus students will display their portfolio of collected art works in the Spring Art Focus Show; a school-wide exhibit at Perkins April 10-13, 2017. We hope to take an art related field trip.

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## ***ART FOCUS – 3-D Art and More!***

### ***Mrs. Lovario***

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This art focus class is for students who love to use their hands and imaginations to create. We will be using processes that are more challenging than in regular art classes. So you will need to be an artist who has a lot of patience and determination for creating art. Much of the art we create will be 3-D. Which means three dimensional art like sculptures. Art focus class is about using materials and tools you may not get to use very often – things like wire, metal, fabric, hot glue guns, special clays and glazes, beads, wood and many others.

We will create a sculpture that moves! Mrs. Lovario is very interested in your ideas...What do you want to create?

This year art focus will be participating in the completion of a large mosaic column at Perkins! It will become a special piece of permanent outdoor art on Perkins campus.

Art focus will also be playing a special part in the Concerto Café show. It will be a stage performance on the evenings of January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and participation is mandatory (don't worry it is a lot of fun!).

This is not an after-school focus class. So we will meet every week during regular school hours. We will take a field trip to one of our local art galleries. You can also look forward to having your own art focus show on April 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> to celebrate all the work we create.

## ***BAND FOCUS***

***Mr. Heller***

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In Band Focus, our goal is to improve our playing, skills, and our musicianship overall.

“Band Focus is AWESOME!!” – Former Band member. “We have SO MUCH FUN!!!!”  
– Former Band member.

Focus is our premier group that gets to do performances outside of school more than the regular band groups. You can be in BOTH regular band and Band Focus. This year we are looking at auditioning to perform the National Anthem at one of the Tampa Bay Rays games! ***If you are interested in doing steel drums this year, preference will be given to students in band focus.***

Our school concerts will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> (in school) and the Spring Concert on May 4<sup>th</sup>. To be in the band focus, you have to have played your instrument for at least one year in normal band class the year prior. We want to make sure we have A LOT of time to play fun music and do all the fun stuff we have planned, so it helps when you already know your instrument and the music. Looking forward to another great year!!

## ***MUSIC TECHNOLOGY***

***Mr. Visnage (Mr. V)***

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Music Technology is an exciting new focus for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will learn new and exciting ways to make music through technology. The music tech lab has 10 iPads, 3 iMacs with digital keyboards, 4 DJ workstations (8 turntables) and a recording studio. Students will learn software like Garage Band, Loopy HD, Launchpad, Serento DJ, and Noise! We will spend every class using iPads and computers on the ins and outs of making, recording, creating and performing music electronically. You will also use the iPads to recreate music in a live setting called iPad Band. Interested students will perform live at Perkins functions throughout the school year. Last year’s iPad band performed “I Gotta Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas. Finally, we will be taking a field trip to a working professional recording studio and see what it might be like to have a career in the recording arts.

***If you are interested in steel drums this year, preference will be given if you are in Music Technology Focus.***

## ***GUITAR FOCUS***

***Mr. Potts***

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This focus with Mr. Potts requires a desire to learn the guitar and practice on pieces to be played at the strings concert in April. Students will learn tuning, playing melodies, chords and various types of music. Guitars can be checked out with no cost and there are no after school rehearsals.

***If you are interested in steel drums this year, preference will be given if you are in Music Technology Focus.***

## ***GARDEN FOCUS***

***Mrs. Weller***

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Garden Focus Group will expose students to all aspects of Horticulture: the science, technology and business involved in growing food. In this focus group we will plan and plant a vegetable garden on the school grounds. We will learn all about techniques for organic gardening.

We will maintain the gardens and harvest them. We will learn how to cook them into delicious dishes. We will also take photos of our beautiful gardens, including insects and birds we find there. We will even have an opportunity to incubate eggs and observe the growth and development of baby chicks.

## ***DANCE FOCUS***

***Mrs. Hobbs and Miss Brittany***

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The Dance Focus is aimed toward students who have a passion for dance. Students will learn and perform a variety of dances. Your child will enhance his/her dance technique as well as develop confidence, showmanship, and stage presence. Students are expected to be focused throughout each class and be dedicated to practicing at home weekly.

After school rehearsals are necessary to prepare for performances and must be attended weekly. Dance Focus will rehearse after school every Tuesday until 3:00 pm beginning **September 6<sup>th</sup>**. Your child must be picked up promptly in the car circle.

Our Dance Performance is ***Dance Finale 2017*** on **May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. Dress rehearsals are May 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:35 - 4:00, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:35 - 4:00, and May 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:35 - 4:30. In-school performances will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> for the students at our school to attend. **Dancers must attend all scheduled rehearsals and BOTH evening performances.** You will be notified of additional performances as requests come in.

**Dance Attire:** Dancers are participating in an art form that requires disciplined preparation. Girls will need a black tank-top leotard (no skirt attached), pink tights, pink ballet shoes, black tap shoes (Oxford style preferred), jazz shoes, and must have their hair pulled back for class.

Boys will need a white t-shirt, black athletic shorts, black jazz shoes, and black tap shoes.

## ***DRAMA FOCUS***

***Mr. Topper & Ms. Aronson***

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In fourth grade Drama Focus, students will be working on a variety of performance skills. Improvisation, scene work, singing, and audition technique will be a large part of the class curriculum. Projection, enunciation, body language, memorization, and character work will also be a focus. Students will be rehearsing songs, dances and scene work for our performances. All students will be a part of our musical theatre production in May.

**\*Note to parents:** There will be **MANY** after school rehearsals that the actors **are required to attend**. This is a commitment. Parents must provide their own transportation for after school rehearsals and **must be able to pick up their child on time**. Rehearsals will begin in January and continue through May 8<sup>th</sup> for the end of the year production. Timing after school is usually from 3:00 – 4:30 or 5:00 PM. Not every actor will be involved in every rehearsal. Rehearsal schedules will be provided weekly.

**IMPORTANT: Show dates are May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>h</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>, with an in-school performance on the 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*\*Actors MUST be able to attend ALL performances as well as the dress rehearsals on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## ***VIDEO FOCUS***

***Mrs. Eeten***

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The fourth grade Video Focus group will be working in all fields of video production. The students will be involved in writing, directing, acting, filming, editing and producing their own film shorts to be entered into the Pinellas Educational Media Awards.

Several members of the Video Focus group will also be involved in the production of our live morning TV show, PERK KIDS TV. Good reading and writing skills are a plus for becoming a member of the fourth grade Video Focus. Video Showcase Movie Premiere Night, **May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00** in the theater!

# FOCUS CHOICE SHEET

## Fourth Grade

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Focus Choices

(In order of preference)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Focus Group Focus Teacher

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Focus Group Focus Teacher

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Focus Group Focus Teacher

**Please return to your classroom teacher by  
August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Fourth grade Focus Groups begin on August 30<sup>th</sup>**