

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vassal Lane Upper School

Jamel Adkins-Sharif

Head of School

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Parents and Caregivers,

Today began the first day of the second semester at VLUS. As a result, most scholars switched their art and music specials for the remainder of the school year. For example, if they took chorus or general music in semester one, they now have art for semester two. This was not the case for all scholars, however; those in band continue to have band as a special for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, we were not able to continue to offer chorus as a special. Both of these situations are due to class size constraints and the disruption this would cause other classes and groupings. Chorus students will continue to take the choral elective once a week. All students will continue to have their elective class for the rest of the year. We value the great work happening in chorus, and at the same time recognize the importance of consistency and predictability in the school day. We also want to ensure that the visual arts are a valued part of your scholars' experience at VLUS. We are looking at some creative ways to continue the choral meetings beyond the elective, such as lunch and recess meetings, and alternating one period a week between art and chorus for grades 7 and 8. I recognize that there will be some disappointment, and we will not be able to honor all requests. Our scheduling committee is looking at ways to address this issue in next year's schedule. And our rising ninth graders will have even more opportunities in the choral, orchestral, visual and performing arts at CRLS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J Adkins-Sharif".

Jamel Adkins-Sharif
Head of School