

Ben W. Murch Elementary School
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The Ben Murch “Festival of Lights”

Monday, December 19th at 10:00AM for Prekindergarten - 2nd Grades

Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00AM for 3rd - 5th Grades

As Murch’s music teacher, I would like to cordially invite everyone to attend our annual “Festival of Lights” event on December 19th for Prekindergarten - 2nd Grades and December 20th for 3rd – 5th Grades. The event will highlight traditions and customs from around the world. Each year it will be my goal to reaffirm, through music, that we are part of a larger community, one with people of many faiths and beliefs. Although different, the celebrations featured in “Festival of Lights” have many things in common. Many of the celebrations are filled with light, which symbolizes birth and rebirth. Light takes away darkness and represents hope. Our performance will also include a procession by our Pre-K classes: people moving forward together, toward a future of peace, freedom, and unity.

Each grade level will perform a song or two, with costumes pieces, props, and sets that represent each song and culture. The goal of this performance is for every child to perform on stage in front of a live audience. While I conduct on stage, concert pianist Toni Roche of Alexandria, Virginia will accompany Murch students.

My final request is that all students dress according to the style and theme of his or her class. Please take time to read about the concert attire (on page 2), so you can plan early and accordingly. Hopefully, the information that I have provided gives you an understanding of what I aim to accomplish as we celebrate our “Festival of Lights.” Please call the school office and leave a message with the office staff at (202) 282-0130 or email me if you have any questions. Finally, don’t forget to save the dates: **December 19th and December 20th, 2022, at 10:00 AM.** We hope every family will join us for Murch’s “Festival of Lights” performance!

Musically,

Dr. Eugene Branch, Jr.

eugene.branch@k12.dc.gov

Festival of Lights Attire

Please read carefully

All Pre-Kindergarten Classes

Girls

Solid white dresses or white top and white skirt

Solid white tights

Solid black or white comfortable dress or causal shoes

If you have problems finding white dresses, please let your classroom teachers know, so we can go to plan B.

Boys

Solid white dress shirt, or white turtleneck

Dark blue or black slacks

Solid black or brown causal or dress shoes

All Kindergarten Classes

Festive holiday attire/dress attire and shoes

All First Grade Boys and Girls

Solid red turtleneck, shirt, or sweater

Blue Jeans

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes

Solid black socks

All Girls in 2nd, 3rd and 5th Grade Classes

Solid white long sleeve shirt, turtleneck, or blouse

Solid black slacks or skirt

Solid black tights (if skirt is worn)

Solid black socks

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes

All Boys in 2nd, 3rd and 5th Grade Classes

Solid white long sleeve shirt

Solid black slacks

Solid black socks

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes

All 4th Grade Classes

Solid “**BLACK**” long sleeve shirt or turtleneck

Solid black slacks or skirts

Solid black socks

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes