



International Academy East
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“One of America’s Top Ranking Schools”
-Newsweek
Ranked Among Top High Schools in the United States
-U.S News and World Report

Dear Parents and Guardians,

March 2020

Welcome to the International Academy Fine Arts Department! We are looking forward to working with you and your student over the next four years, and cannot wait for the opportunity to meet you. Before we come back to school in August, however, we need to assign each student to a class. If your student is enrolled in art, he or she will automatically be placed in Art 1. If your student is in band, choir, or orchestra, he or she will be assigned to a specific music ensemble according to the information below. Please keep in mind as you choose your fine arts track that it is recommended you maintain that track for your IA career. This is especially important for those that pursue IB Art and IB Music in years 11 and 12.

Next year, students will have a choice of ensembles. The band consists of two ensembles: *Symphonic Band*, which is for the more advanced band student, and *Concert Band*, which is for the student still working on developing their skills. The choir has been split into three groups: *Chorale*, for our most advanced vocal students, *Bel Canto*, a group geared toward students who have sung before and sing well, and *Singers*, which is geared toward the student who is not as familiar with reading choral music. The orchestra is also split, *Symphony Orchestra*, for the more advanced student, and *Strings Orchestra*, geared toward students developing their basic skills. Our more advanced ensembles are mostly made up of 11th and 12th graders, while the three less advanced ensembles are for 9th and 10th graders.

We will have auditions for after-school Jazz Band and Full Orchestra in the fall, and these ensembles are open to all students who play an instrument, even if the student does not play in an ensemble during the school day.

We have heard auditions from all current students already, and have placed them in appropriate ensembles. *The incoming 9th graders will automatically be placed in the lower ensemble, unless they meet with one of us to audition.* If your student would like the opportunity to audition for the higher ensembles in band, choir, or orchestra, please visit the music room at the East campus of the International Academy on Monday, June 8, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (This is the evening of the New Family Welcome Night).

We will ask the students to perform a few measures of something they know from private lessons, school ensembles, etc. We may ask the students to perform a short sight-reading excerpt. The audition will take approximately five to ten minutes. There is no need to make an appointment; we will hear students as they arrive.

In the interest of keeping track of our music needs, just in case we need to make any purchases or changes over the summer, we are asking every music student to fill out this Google Form: <http://tinyurl.com/judb8q2>

Please feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions or concerns. Again, we are excited to be working with you and your students next year! If you are interested in attending our end-of-the-year concerts, please feel free to come on Wednesday, June 3rd at Athens HS for Choir and Orchestra and Thursday, June 4th at Athens HS for Band. Any art students interested in our art program are welcome to attend our IA East Art Show on Monday, April 20th from 5:00-8:00pm at IA East.

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