



## Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies

Mansfield ISD is excited to launch its new fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary School and Alma Martinez Intermediate School. The academies will provide students with a rigorous academic environment while encouraging artistic exploration and integration. Students will have the opportunity to delve deeper into four creative disciplines of performance and visual arts: theatre, art, music and dance.

### CURRICULUM

#### **What is a fine arts academy?**

A fine arts academy places a stronger emphasis on the visual and performing arts than is typically present in a traditional elementary and intermediate school setting.

#### **How will the fine arts academies be different from the traditional elementary and intermediate campuses?**

After extensive research, both the elementary and intermediate school fine arts academies will utilize an arts integration approach to delivering instruction. Both of the fine arts academies will expose students to extensive experiences in four creative disciplines: dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. In addition, the arts integration frameworks will allow for frequent collaboration between the core academic program and each of the fine arts disciplines.

#### **What does “arts integration” mean?**

Initially designed through a Kennedy Center project more than two decades ago, the arts integration model is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form (the use of dance, music, drama and visual arts). The arts integration model allows students to engage in a creative process, connecting an art form and another subject area, which will meet the instructional goals of both academic disciplines.

#### **Will students follow the state educational standards and MISD curriculum?**

Yes. By law, Mansfield ISD must teach the state curriculum. In addition, both fine arts academies will follow the district’s curriculum that is aligned to those standards. The methodologies that have been developed for the arts integration framework will be used to implement the curriculum goals of the state and district.

### ENROLLMENT / APPLICATION

#### **Who can apply for the fine arts academies?**

Current Mansfield ISD students entering either the third or fourth grade in the fall of the 2021-22 school year will be eligible to apply for the Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy.

Students entering the fifth grade in the fall of the 2021-22 school year will be eligible to apply for the Alma Martinez Fine Arts Academy. The sixth-grade component of the intermediate school fine arts academy will be added in the 2022-23 school year.

#### **What are the qualifications for students applying to either of the fine arts academies?**

Students interested in applying for either of the fine arts academies should have an interest in the visual and performing arts. In addition, students will need to demonstrate academic success in their core academic subjects.



**Are there tuition fees for the academy?**

No. There are no tuition costs to attend the fine arts academies. However, depending on your child's fine arts discipline of choice, there may be costs associated to participate (musical instruments, dance outfits, etc.)

**When will applications become available?**

The online application will be posted at the beginning of the spring semester in 2022. Specific dates for both the opening of the application window as well as the deadline for submitting applications will be published in the fall of 2021.

**How will I know if my child has been accepted to one of the fine arts academies?**

Each applicant will receive a decision letter via e-mail. Students and their parents who are electing to accept an invitation to participate in either of the fine arts academies will be required to submit a commitment letter.

**How are students selected to participate in one of the fine arts academies?**

A random lottery will be completed for all students who follow the requirements of the application process. Consideration will be made for equal representation from all areas of the Mansfield ISD.

**How many students will be accepted into the fine arts academies?**

The Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy has space for 44 third-grade students and 44 fourth-grade students. The Alma Martinez Fine Arts Academy has space for 100 fifth-grade students and 100 sixth-grade students.

**Will transportation be provided to the fine arts academies?**

Yes. Students residing within the boundaries of the Mansfield ISD will be provided transportation to their academy location.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Will informational meetings be held about applying to either of the fine arts academies?**

Yes. Parent information meetings will be held in the fall of 2020. Dates and locations will be announced, when available, on the [MISD Power of Choice webpage](#).

**Whom do I contact for more information?**

Please feel free to contact the MISD Fine Arts office at [FineArts@misdmail.org](mailto:FineArts@misdmail.org) if you have any additional questions.