



International Academy East
 1291 Torpey Drive
 Troy, Michigan 48083
 Telephone: 248.823.8300 Fax 248.823.8313

“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,

April 2024

Welcome to the International Academy East 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, we do need to assign each student to a class.

- If your student is enrolled in art, they will automatically be placed in MYP Visual Arts 1.
- If your student is in band, choir, or orchestra, they will be assigned to a specific music ensemble according to the information below.
- If your student did not participate in band/orchestra/choir in Middle School they should enroll in the beginning choir course. Students should not enroll in instrumental ensembles without a background in instrumental music. The exception being students who study and instrument privately before attending the IA

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 the Diploma Program Visual Arts and Diploma Program Music courses 11th and 12th grades.

MYP Visual Arts is a two year program

Year 1

- Students use a variety of art materials to develop basic skills and learn techniques.
- Focus on drawing, color theory, 2D, 3D design, and the role of the artist

Year 2

- 2D Design, Painting, 3D Design, and clay
- Cultural and Historical Aspects of Arts
- Creative expression and technique to challenge all skill levels and prepare for movement to DP.

MYP Music

Band

Concert Band (Beginning Group)
 Symphonic Band (Audition Group)
 Jazz Band (After School)

Choir

Singers (Beginning Group)
 Bel Canto (Middle Group)
 Chorale (Audition Group)
 Glee Club (After School)

Orchestra

Strings (Beginning Group)
 Symphony (Audition Group)
 Full Orchestra (After School)

Current students at the IA have already auditioned for ensembles. All incoming students interested in music must fill out the following form, which *includes an audition*. **This is due by Wednesday May 15, 2024.** The form is found at <https://tinyurl.com/IAEastAuditions>

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!

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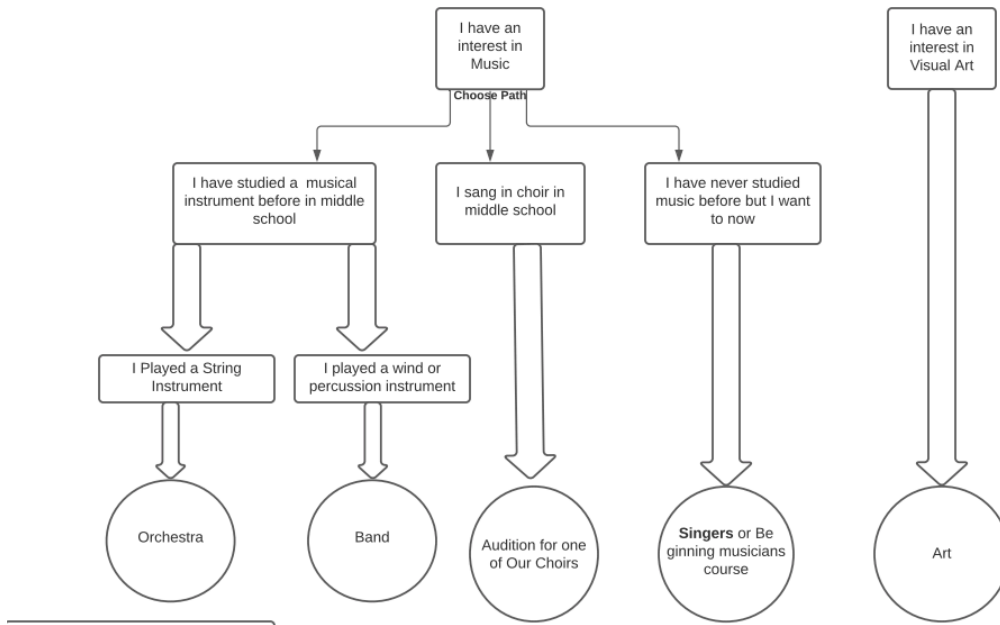




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Students should only choose band or orchestra if they have middle school experience in band or orchestra. If there are any gap years in your instruction (for example, you were in band in 6th grade but not 7th and 8th) you should NOT choose instrumental music without the approval of the Band and/or Orchestra Director. If you do not have a background in instrumental music and wish to pursue music as a Fine Art, please sign up for choir. The only exceptions made for this are students who enroll in private lessons before arriving at the IA. Follow this flow chart for more information:



Music Frequently Asked Questions

I’ve never been in a music ensemble before, but I’m curious about it...

Our program is designed to challenge musicians at all levels. Fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/IAEastAuditions> so Mrs. Mayes and Mr. Shankles can sort the students into the appropriate ensembles. Submit your audition by May 15.

What instruments are played at IA East?

Students in orchestra play violin, viola, cello, and/or string bass. Students in band play flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba, and/or percussion. Guitar, harp, and piano are not considered band/orchestra instruments for our ensembles.

Do I need to supply my own instrument?

We have a limited supply of larger instruments (string bass, tuba etc) that may be available during the school day, but students will need to have their own instrument and all necessary supplies for at-home practice.

Are there any extra required materials or additional monetary fees?

The upkeep of an instrument and supplies will require a financial commitment. Students also will need to either purchase their own concert uniform or borrow one from the school. Throughout the school year, we will offer additional experiences, like Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts, traveling musical shows, and out-of-state performance trips, which all have an additional cost, but are optional.





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My student likes music, but is not thinking about pursuing a music career.

Many of our students take band, choir, and orchestra just for the enjoyment of performing music with their friends. We also have students that go on to pursue music professionally or as a hobby. All students are welcome in our music ensembles.

What options do students have after 10th grade?

Students can choose to remain in their music ensemble track for 11th and 12th grades, as the majority of our music students do. Students can also opt for an additional music course in 11th and 12th grade, DP Music. This course is taken concurrently with a music ensemble, and students learn more about music history, theory, composition, and small ensemble performance. Our DP Music course supports our music ensembles.

How many students are in our music program?

The International Academy East music department has almost 350 students enrolled in 10 musical ensembles of varying sizes. Three ensembles, Jazz Band, Full Orchestra, and the Glee Club, are offered after school and are open to any interested IA East student willing to audition. Many students are in one or more after school ensembles in addition to their ensemble during the school day.

Visual Arts Frequently Asked Questions

I’ve never taken art before, but am curious...

Our program is designed to challenge artists at all levels, no prior experience is necessary to be successful in MYP Visual Arts.

I like art, but I don’t know if I am good at it...

Students in MYP Visual Arts are assessed in a variety of ways, including art historical analysis, reflections and criticism of artwork (their own and that of others) and aesthetics, as well as technical skill after weeks of instruction and practice.

What artistic experiences will my student have in MYP Visual Arts?

Drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, mixed media sculpture, introduction to Photoshop and Digital media, fibers.

Does my student need to acquire extra materials or pay additional fees?

No. Supplies for art are provided by IA and the district. Students only need to bring their own drawing pencils, scissors and art sketchbook. Additional optional materials are available for purchase at the start of the year.

My student likes art, but is not thinking about pursuing an art career.

That’s ok! Many of our students take art just for the enjoyment of creating and learning about other people and cultures. We also have many students that go on to pursue the arts professionally at places like U of M Stamps, the College for Creative Studies, the Cleveland Art Institute and more.

How long is the art course?

Students sign up for two years of MYP Visual Arts. Ninth grade is introductory skills and exploration of ancient art and cultures. Tenth grade focuses on more advanced artistic skills while exploring art of the Americas.

What options do students have after 10th grade?

At the end of February, students will begin making selections for their 6 Diploma Level courses for junior and senior year. One option for their Group 6 requirement is DP Visual Arts. Students apply for this class and must receive teacher approval. They would continue at the Diploma level for two more years. If students do not wish to continue in Visual Arts, they can opt to take Economics, a second science or a second foreign language.

