



Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies

Frequently Asked Questions



Mansfield ISD is proud to offer fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary, Kenneth Davis Elementary, Alma Martinez Intermediate and Cross Timbers Intermediate Schools. The academies will provide artists with a rigorous academic curriculum while fostering creativity via arts integration. Fine arts academy artists will also develop their craft in four fine arts disciplines including: dance, music, theatre and art.

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.

Is there a middle school fine arts academy?

No. The fine arts academies are for grades 3 through 6, and artists will return to their zoned comprehensive middle school campuses upon the completion of their 6th grade year. If families do not wish to attend their zoned comprehensive middle school campus upon completion of the 6th grade year, they may apply for an [MISD transfer](#) to any of our MISD comprehensive middle schools by following the appropriate transfer process. Completing the MISD transfer process does NOT automatically guarantee a seat at your requested campus.

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 instructional model. Our fine arts academies expose artists to immersive experiences in four creative disciplines: dance, music, theatre and art. Additionally, the MISD arts integration framework allows for frequent collaboration between the core academic program and each of the fine arts disciplines.

What does “arts integration” mean?

Initially designed by a Kennedy Center project more than two decades ago, our arts integration model is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form (the use of dance, music, theatre and art). The MISD arts integration model allows students to engage in arts integrated tasks in core curriculum meeting the academic targets of both core and fine arts disciplines.

Will students follow the state educational standards and MISD curriculum?

Yes. By law, Mansfield ISD must teach the state curriculum. In addition, our fine arts academies follow the MISD core curriculum that is aligned to state 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?

Students entering either the 3rd or 4th grade in the fall of the 2024-25 school year will be eligible to apply for the Brenda Norwood and Kenneth Davis Fine Arts Academy. Students entering the 5th or 6th grade in the fall of the 2024-25 school year will be eligible to apply for the Alma Martinez and Cross Timbers Fine Arts Academy. All student applicants must live within the MISD attendance zone.

What are the qualifications for students applying to the fine arts academies?

Students interested in applying to the fine arts academies should have an interest in the visual and performing arts. Additionally, students will need to demonstrate grade level success in their core academic subjects.

Are there tuition fees for the academy?

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 fees associated to participate (musical instruments, tournament fees, etc.)



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When will applications become available?

The online application will be posted in the fall. Specific dates for both the opening of the application window as well as the deadline for submitting applications is located on the [Power of Choice](#) webpage.

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 one of the fine arts academies will be required to submit a commitment letter.

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

A random lottery will be completed for all applicants who meet 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 fine arts academy at Brenda Norwood Elementary enrolls 44 artists in 3rd grade and 44 artists in 4th grade. The fine arts academy at Kenneth Davis will be adding seats to their capacity for the 2025-2026 school year and will enroll 66 artists in 3rd grade and 66 artists in 4th grade. The fine arts academies at Alma Martinez Intermediate and Cross Timbers Intermediate enroll 100 artists in the 5th grade and 100 artists in the 6th grade. Artists enrolled 3rd through 5th grade will automatically be rolled up to the next grade level within the academy feeder pattern.

Will transportation be provided to the fine arts academies?

Yes. Students residing within our academy boundaries of the Mansfield ISD attendance zone, will be provided transportation to their zoned academy location. To know which fine arts academy you are zoned to attend, please [view the boundary map here](#). Areas above the solid boundary line are zoned for the fine arts academies at Kenneth Davis Elementary and Cross Timbers Intermediate. Areas below the solid boundary line are zoned for the fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary and Alma Martinez Intermediate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Will district transportation be provided for my child's sibling, on an MISD approved transfer, to attend the same academy?

No, the parent is responsible for transportation for a student on an MISD approved transfer.

If my current 4th grader is enrolled at the fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary or Kenneth Davis Elementary, will their enrollment continue for 5th grade?

Yes, all current 4th grade artists in good standing will be enrolled in their zoned intermediate fine arts academy once an "Intent to Return Form" is submitted to their elementary principal. Artists enrolled at the Brenda Norwood Elementary fine arts academy will be enrolled for 5th grade at the Alma Martinez Intermediate fine arts academy. Artists enrolled at the Kenneth Davis Elementary fine arts academy will be enrolled for 5th grade at the Cross Timbers Intermediate fine arts academy.

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

Yes. Parent information meetings will begin in the fall of 2024 and continue up to the start of the application window. Dates and locations will be announced 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 or the campus you are applying, if you have any additional questions.