



*Imagine. Express. Create.*

## Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies

### Frequently Asked Questions



Mansfield ISD is proud to offer Fine Arts Academies at Brenda Norwood and Kenneth Davis Elementaries and Alma Martinez and Cross Timbers Intermediate Schools. The Fine Arts Academies foster creativity and innovative thinking skills in rigorous, arts-integrated academic and fine arts courses. Academy artists will also explore and develop a well-rounded foundation 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. Using an arts-integration model, artists are also challenged in their core curriculum courses to create artistic products to communicate their understanding of concepts and skills.

### Is there a middle school fine arts academy?

No. The MISD 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. If families do not wish to attend their zoned comprehensive middle school campus upon completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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?

Our MISD Fine Arts Academies utilize a researched-based arts integration instructional model. Our artists receive extended arts-based training and experiences while also receiving access to DFW performance companies and industry experts. Additionally, the MISD arts integration framework allows for frequent collaboration between the core academic program and each of the fine arts disciplines. Academy classes are collaborative spaces designed to develop creativity, innovation and exploration by connecting arts skills to core content. Artists often communicate their understanding via an artform via research and pedagogy backed by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

### 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 artists to engage in rigorous, arts-integrated projects meeting 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. Additionally, 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.

## Application Process

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

Students entering 3rd or 4th grade in the fall of the 2026-2027 school year will be eligible to apply for the Brenda Norwood and Kenneth Davis Elementary Fine Arts Academies. Students entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall of the 2026-2027 school year will be eligible to apply for the Alma Martinez and Cross Timbers Intermediate Fine Arts Academies. Out of district applicants who meet acceptance criteria will be zoned to Fine Arts Academies based on space availability.

### 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 MISD Fine Arts Academies. However, depending on your child's fine arts discipline of choice, there may be fees associated to participate (instrument rentals, tournament fees, etc.)



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#### **When will applications become available?**

Online applications open Monday, December 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Applications close Friday, January 23, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Please visit the [Power of Choice](#) webpage for the application link and additional information.

#### **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.

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

The Fine Arts Academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary and Kenneth Davis Elementary enroll 44 artists in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 44 artists in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The Fine Arts Academies at Alma Martinez Intermediate and Cross Timbers Intermediate enroll 100 artists in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 100 artists in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Artists enrolled 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 [elementary boundary map](#) or [intermediate boundary map](#). 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. Out of district students will not be eligible for bus transportation.

## *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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the Alma Martinez Intermediate Fine Arts Academy. Artists enrolled at the Kenneth Davis Elementary Fine Arts Academy will be enrolled for 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2025 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?**

If you have additional questions, please contact the MISD Fine Arts office at [FineArts@misdmail.org](mailto:FineArts@misdmail.org) or the campus where you are applying.