School Profile 2026-2027

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

790 Austin Street, Houston TX 77002
Phone: 713-942-1960 Fax: 713-942-1968
https://www.kinderhspva.org
CEEB# 443376

District and Community

Houston ISD, with more than 168,000 students and encompassing 333 square miles within greater Houston, is the tenth-largest public-school system in the nation and the largest in Texas.

The School

HSPVA evolved in 1971 from a realization that gifted young artists need highly specialized and rigorous training in the arts to be prepared for the intense competition they will meet in colleges, conservatories, and the professional arts world. The creation of HSPVA represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. Also, it was one of only three public schools in the nation to offer programs in both the visual and performing arts, and the first such institution in the southwest. For Houston ISD, the formation of HSPVA represented a dramatic departure from traditional comprehensive programs. In 2019, the school transitioned to our new building in downtown Houston and was renamed Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Kinder HSPVA is fully accredited and offers the same academic curriculum and graduation requirements as all HISD high schools; the major difference in the academic program is that we offer the added ingredient of correlating the arts with academics, rather than treating either as isolated disciplines.

The school schedule is an alternating A/B block schedule with classes meeting for 1.5 hours every other day with the exception of first period which meets every day for 45 minutes. Students spend three hours every day in rigorous focused study in one art discipline with the balance of the day's study in academics. All students must audition for placement at Kinder HSPVA and are accepted to a single art area of focus.

Grading Scale		
Range	**Weighted**	**Level**
A=90-100	**5.0**	**4.0**
B=80-89	**4.0**	**3.0**
C=75-79	**3.0**	**2.0**
D=70-74	**2.0**	**1.0**
F=0-69	**0**	**0**
TRANSCRIPT SYMBOLS **0-PreAP (weighted)** **H-HISD Advanced Honors (weighted)** **P-AP (weighted)** **J – Middle School (not incl. in GPA)**		

GPA and Rank

Kinder HSPVA only reports rank by student request. GPA is weighted on a 5.0 scale and is cumulative including all courses taken in 9th – 12th grade. All HSPVA pre-professional art area program courses are coded as level (4.0) on the transcript & students in each art discipline are required to complete 16 pre-professional art credits over four years. Per TEA policy, all HSPVA students are given the option to use elective course waivers for up to 2.0 credits of their art program courses. Courses using the waivers are given a "P" on the transcript which is not factored into the GPA.

Current Enrollment - 801
Seniors – 177
Highest GPA: 4.566
Lowest GPA: 2.0847
Median GPA: 3.8425

School Administration

Dr. Priscilla Rivas, Principal
Oscar Perez, Associate Principal
Naomi Leos, Asst. Principal
Rickey Polidore, Asst. Principal
Rebecca Johnson, Lead Counselor
Christina Farris, Counselor
Laura Mathus, Registrar
Jonathan Klein, Dir. of Admissions & Community Engagement
Jennifer Lankau Chase, Chief Academic Officer

School Recognition

2026 Texas Education Association Accountability Ratings
Overall Rating A (99/100)

2026 Niche Best Schools
Overall Grade A+
#1 Best High Schools for the Arts in Texas
#3 Best Public High Schools in Houston Area

US News and World Report 2026 – 2027 Rankings
#5 in Houston, TX Metro Area High Schools
#25 in Texas High Schools
#160 in National Rankings

2025 AP Platinum Honor Roll

Young Arts 2026
16 total winners, including 9 Winners with Distinction – the most Winners with Distinction from any single campus in the nation for 2026. Winners represent the most accomplished young visual, literary, and performing artists from across the country.

U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts
32 students recognized since 1981

Arts Schools Network
Exemplary School 2024 - 2029

Class of 2026 Achievements

(184 Graduates)

National Merit Scholars - 6
National Merit Finalists – 9
National Merit Semifinalists - 9
National Merit Commen. Scholars – 8
AP Scholars - 101
AP Scholars with Honor - 42
AP Scholars with Distinction – 129
AP International Diploma - 3

Class of 2026 Scholarships Offered

Over $46 Million

Honors (Pre-AP or HISD Advanced) and Advanced Placement Courses (2026 – 2027)

Kinder HSPVA offers 1 HISD Honors Advanced, 6 Pre-Advanced Placement (PreAP), and 18 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Most enrollment is open to all students; however, Music Theory is only allowed for instrumentalists and vocalists. Our required campus arts programming **only allows five academic courses to be taken annually**. In addition, scheduling conflicts often exist due to fine art area requirements which may prevent a student from taking desired HADV, PreAP, or AP courses. Students taking AP are required to take the exam in May & AP test fees are paid by the campus.

HISD Honors Advanced Courses Offered
Spanish III

PreAP Courses Offered
English I, English 2, Geometry, Algebra 2, Chemistry, Biology

Advanced Placement Courses Offered
Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Music Theory, Physics 1, Precalculus, Psychology, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, Statistics, US Government, US History, World History

Campus Demographics 2025 - 2026

Asian 10.6%
Black/African American 17.9%
Hispanic or Latino 31.2%
White 31%
Two or More Races 9%
Economically Disadvantaged 32%

Class of 2026 Post Graduation Plans

Class Size - 184

Acceptance Rate	182	99%
4 Year College	172	93%
2 Year College	10	5%
Pursuing Higher Education	182	99%
Gap Year	2	1%
Out of State	101	55%
International	6	3%

Kinder HSPVA students are accepted to a wide array of competitive academic and artistic programs across the United States and abroad. We have included a list of the Class of 2026 college matriculations. For data from other cohorts, please contact the Kinder HSPVA Counseling Department for a comprehensive list of these institutions.

Christina.Farris@Houstonisd.org
Rebecca.Johnson@Houstonisd.org

Advanced Placement Summary Score Report

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Total AP Students	566	535	495	390	387
Number of Exams	1379	1349	1116	860	890
Exams with 3+	712	877	854	645	605
% of Total AP Students with 3+	80%	88%	77%	75%	68%

Detailed 2026 Advanced Placement Results

Subject	5	4	3	2	1	ALL
Art History	-	6	3	11	4	24
Biology	15	13	9	1	-	38
Calculus AB	17	12	4	11	3	47
Chemistry	4	21	10	2	-	37
Chinese Lang	5	2	3	-	-	10
English Lang	36	43	43	13	6	141
English Lit	43	45	44	16	8	156
Euro History	13	6	5	1	-	25
French Lang	1	2	-	-	-	3
Human Geo	43	36	8	5	-	92
Macroeco	11	28	38	27	6	110
Music Theory	5	3	-	-	-	8
Physics 1	22	28	18	15	4	87
Precalculus	29	42	17	4	2	94
Psychology	8	21	21	18	5	73
Spanish Lang	12	8	9	7	1	37
Statistics	5	14	20	31	36	106
US Government	29	38	32	8	2	109
US History	33	26	6	-	-	65
World History	18	52	16	21	3	110
Total # Exams	350	446	306	191	80	1372

SAT Summary Mean	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
# of Seniors Taking Test	189	177
Critical Reading/ERW	612	615
Math	581	591
Total Mean	1193	1205

PSAT Average	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
# of 10 -11th Grade Testers	378	402
Critical Reading/ERW	570	566
Math	533	530
Total Average	1103	1096

The faculty of each of our six art departments is made up of highly respected professional artists. Since HSPVA's beginning in 1971, our art departments have won countless awards and trained numerous artists who are contributors today in the arts community. Below is the mission statement and program information for each art area.

Creative Writing

The mission of HSPVA's Creative Writing Department is to give students a strong foundation of writing craft and literary history so that they can develop their unique voices. Additionally, they aim to give students the skills they need to produce and publish their work using technology, performance, or traditional pen and paper, all while nurturing an appreciation for the arts in all its forms. Students work independently and collaboratively, allowing them to develop skills that help them become productive, responsible citizens at HSPVA and beyond. The key areas of study include short story writing, poetry, and dramatic writing. To enhance their work, the students also take courses in acting, digital storytelling, and publishing and editing.

Dance

The HSPVA Dance Department provides a pre-professional dance education for students who wish to pursue a professional career in dance. The program is patterned after well-recognized university and conservatory programs of dance and incorporates a broad spectrum of the traditional dance forms, fostering artistic, intellectual and personal growth, along with versatility and flexibility for a career in a professional dance company. The Dance Department strives to teach the necessary skills a successful dancer must develop: creativity, passion for their art, self-discipline, independence, and the art of advocacy both individually and for the arts in society. A broad dance curriculum emphasizes both the performing and theoretical skills including ballet, modern dance, jazz, musical theatre, tap dance, dance photography, dance survey, dance history, repertory, and composition.

Instrumental

The mission of the HSPVA Music Department is to provide students highly specialized and rigorous musical training, fostering an appreciation for the arts, guiding them on their journey towards graduation and post-graduation studies as future performers and arts advocates. The HSPVA Music Department majors are given the opportunity to perform classical voice, orchestral music, concert band music, jazz, mariachi and popular music in both large and small ensembles. The students are instructed in music theory, composition and improvisation, music history, form and analysis, vocal production, sight-singing and ear training, instrumental technique classes, chamber music, and class piano.

Theatre

The mission of the HSPVA Theatre Department is to give the theatre arts students a diverse foundation of rigorous theatrical training while nurturing the artistic spirit, which will ultimately allow the student to thrive in a competitive professional world. They begin by studying all aspects of theatre including acting, voice and movement for the actor, design, theatre history, musical theatre, dramaturgy, playwriting, directing, and stage management. Eventually, students will choose an area of focus in which to specialize. They will focus on hands-on preparation, production, and performance as well as audition and portfolio development for college auditions.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts curriculum at Kinder HSPVA parallels the challenges of a college level Fine Arts program. It is designed to give each student a firm foundation to build on and a dynamic variety of experiences that will open ideas, inspire talent and prepare them to meet challenges. The Visual Arts program includes courses in foundations of drawing, art awareness, digital literacy, design, art criticism, ceramic sculptures, digital photography, graphic design, mixed media, painting, woodworking, art history, printmaking, fibers/textiles, welding, video and independent studio.

Vocal

The Kinder HSPVA Vocal Department offers pre-professional vocal training in a variety of genres that prepares students for study in conservatory and university settings. Vocal majors benefit from theory and class voice instruction focusing on solo performance in addition to performing in our nationally renowned choral ensembles

College Matriculations Class of 2026: 184 Seniors

American University
Belmont University
Berklee College of Music
Blinn College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bryan Mawr College
California Lutheran College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
CLI Conservatory
Colorado Mountain College
Columbia University in the City of New York
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
DePaul University
East LA College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Glasgow School of Art
Hampton University
Houston City College
Houston Technical Institute
Howard University
Kansas City Art Institute
Laguna College of Art and Design
Leeds Conservatoire
Lone Star College
Louisiana State University
Manhattan School of Music
Morehouse College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music
Oklahoma State University
Pace University
Prairie View A&M University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Sam Houston State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Texas A&M University – College Station
Texas Christian University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The Boston Conservatory
The College of Wooster
The Juilliard School
The New School
Trinity University
United States Naval Academy
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California – Los Angeles
University of Cincinnati
University College London
University of Glasgow
University of Houston
University of Houston Clear Lake
University of Houston Downtown
University of Liverpool
University of Mary Hardin - Baylor
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of the Netherlands
University of Nevada – Las Vegas
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of the Pacific
University of Pennsylvania
University of San Diego
University of Southern California
University of St. Thomas
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
University of Utah
University of Virginia – Main Campus
University of Washington Seattle
University of Wisconsin
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
William & Mary
Yale University

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