



Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies



Mansfield ISD is excited 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 encouraging artistic exploration and arts integration. Fine arts academy artists will also develop craft in four creative arts disciplines including: dance, music, theatre, and visual 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 the zoned comprehensive middle school campus upon completion of the 6th grade year, they may apply for an [MISD transfer](#) to any of 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 approach. Our fine arts academies expose artists to extensive experiences in four creative disciplines: dance, music, theatre and visual 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 through 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 visual arts). The MISD arts integration model allows students to engage in a creative process, connecting an art form and a core 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, 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.



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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.)

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 academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary and Kenneth Davis Elementary enroll 44 artists in 3rd grade and 44 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 the North and South boundaries of the Mansfield ISD will be provided transportation to their zoned academy location. Current Brenda Norwood and Alma Martinez fine arts academy artists who live in the Northern academy boundary will continue to have transportation to Norwood and/or Martinez. [View the boundary map here.](#) (Areas North of the black line are zoned for the fine arts academies at Kenneth Davis Elementary and Cross Timbers Intermediate. Areas South of the black line are zoned for the fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary and Alma Martinez Intermediate.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If I live north of the transportation boundary line and my child currently attends 3rd or 4th grade at Brenda Norwood Fine Arts academy, will my child be required to attend Fine Arts at Kenneth Davis Elementary or Cross Timbers Intermediate?

No. If your child currently attends the Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy you will have the choice to continue at Alma Martinez Intermediate Fine Arts Academy or Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy. You will also have the option to move to the fine arts academies at Cross Timbers Intermediate or Kenneth Davis Elementary.

Can my child continue to attend Norwood and Martinez Fine Arts Academies if they are already enrolled at Norwood or Martinez Fine Arts Academies?

Only artists currently enrolled in the fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary or Alma Martinez Intermediate will be given the opportunity to stay enrolled in those programs. Artists that apply to attend one of our fine arts academies for the 2024-2025 school year will have to follow the fine arts transportation boundary line and apply to the academy in their zone.



Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies



My child does not currently attend a Fine Arts Choice program, but we are interested in applying for the 2024-2025 school year, what are my options?

If you live north of the transportation boundary your child can apply to the Davis Fine Arts Academy or the Cross Timbers Fine Arts Academy. If you live south of the transportation boundary your child can apply to the Norwood Fine Arts Academy or the Martinez Fine Arts Academy. Please review information for those academies at our [Power of Choice](#) website.

Will district transportation be available for my child if we choose to stay at Norwood/Martinez but we live in the Davis/CTIS area?

Yes, bus services will continue only for the learners currently attending Norwood and Martinez Fine Arts Academies even if they live north of the transportation boundary.

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.

My child attends a district STEM academy. Does this change affect them?

No, this change is only for choice programming at our district Fine Arts academies.

If my current 5th grader is enrolled at the Alma Martinez or Cross Timbers Fine Arts Academy will their enrollment continue for 6th grade?

Yes, all current 5th graders enrolled at Martinez and Cross Timbers Fine Arts Academy will continue the program at Martinez and Cross Timbers for the 2024-2025 school year upon the completion and submission of the "Intent to Return Form".

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

Yes. Parent information meetings will begin in the fall of 2023 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.