



Mansfield ISD Fine Arts Academies

Mansfield ISD is excited to offer fine arts academies at Brenda Norwood Elementary and Alma Martinez Intermediate School and open new fine arts academies at Kenneth Davis Elementary and Cross Timbers Intermediate School beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year. The academies will provide students with a rigorous academic environment while encouraging artistic exploration and integration. Students will have the opportunity to develop deeper into four creative disciplines of performance and visual arts: theatre, art, music and dance.

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.

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. Both of the fine arts academies will expose students to extensive experiences in four creative disciplines: dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. In addition, the arts integration frameworks will allow 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, the arts integration model is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form (the use of dance, music, drama and visual arts). The arts integration model allows students to engage in a creative process, connecting an art form and another 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, both fine arts academies will follow the district’s curriculum that is aligned to those 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?

Current Mansfield ISD students entering either the third or fourth grade in the fall of the 2022-23 school year will be eligible to apply for the Brenda Norwood and Kenneth Davis Fine Arts Academy.

Students entering the fifth or sixth grade in the fall of the 2022-23 school year will be eligible to apply for the Alma Martinez Fine Arts Academy.

Students entering the fifth grade in the fall of the 2022-23 school year will be eligible to apply for the Cross Timbers Intermediate School. (The sixth-grade component of the Cross Timbers Intermediate school fine arts academy will be added in the 2023-24 school year.)



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. In addition, students will need to demonstrate academic success in their core academic subjects.

Are there tuition fees for the academy?

No. 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 costs associated to participate (musical instruments, dance outfits, etc.)

When will applications become available?

The online application will be posted at the beginning of the spring semester in 2022. Specific dates for both the opening of the application window as well as the deadline for submitting applications will be published in the fall of 2021. Visit the [Power of Choice](#) webpage for this timeline.

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 either 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 students who follow 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 Brenda Norwood and Kenneth Davis fine arts academies have space for 44 third-grade students and 44 fourth-grade students. The Alma Martinez and Cross Timbers fine arts academies have space for 100 fifth-grade seats. For sixth grade, Martinez Intermediate has space for 100 students. Cross Timbers will have 100 sixth-grade seats available in the 2023-2024 academic year.

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 academy location. Current Brenda Norwood and Alma Martinez fine arts academy students who live in the north academy boundaries will continue to have transportation to Norwood and/or Martinez. [View the boundary map here.](#) (Areas above the thick black line are the north academy zones. Areas below the thick black line are the south academy zones.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How is the Fine Arts Choice program changing for the 2022-2023 school year?

The Fine Arts Choice program is expanding. Mansfield ISD is opening two more programs; one at Kenneth Davis Elementary and one at Cross Timbers Intermediate. Our goal is to offer more choices across our district while alleviating lengthy bus rides for learners. For the 2022-2023 school year our Fine Arts Choice offerings will be:

- Brenda Norwood Elementary - 3rd and 4th grade
- Kenneth Davis Elementary - 3rd and 4th grade
- Cross Timbers Intermediate - 5th grade only (6th grade will be added in 2023-2024)
- Martinez Intermediate - 5th and 6th grade



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

No, if your child currently attends the Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy you will have the choice to continue at Brenda Norwood Fine Arts Academy or move to Davis Elementary Fine Arts Academy.

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 learners currently enrolled in the Fine Arts Academies located at Brenda Norwood Elementary or Alma Martinez Intermediate will be given the opportunity to stay enrolled in those programs. Learners that apply to attend one of our Fine Arts Academies for the 2022-2023 school year will have to follow the fine arts transportation boundary line and apply to the academy in their zone.

My child does not currently attend a Fine Arts Choice program but we are interested in applying for the 2022-2023 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.

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 Fine Arts Academy will their enrollment continue for 6th grade?

Yes, during the 2022-2023 school year the Cross Timbers Fine Arts Academy will only offer a 5th grade program. All current 5th graders enrolled at Martinez Fine Arts Academy will continue the program at Martinez for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Yes. Parent information meetings will begin in the fall of 2021 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 if you have any additional questions.