

DICKINSON ISD

Fine Arts

Creating Excellence - Inspiring Futures



Dickinson ISD Fine Arts Program Guide

We believe that
a wide range of experiences,
in school and beyond,
develops a well-rounded
individual.

- Dickinson ISD Strategic Plan



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About the Fine Arts Department

The fine arts have been used for centuries to record the history of cultures and pass that history to future generations. This history was passed through traveling musicians, actors, and artists as they creatively expressed their talents along their travels. These artists recorded history in their songs, plays, and art throughout history. However, today, many people think of the fine arts as a bonus or something nice, but not an essential part of our history and culture, much less an essential field of study. Dickinson, too, has a strong history of fine art education. From our award-winning bands, choirs, dance teams, theatre troops, and visual art programs, there is a place for every student to create success. Our fine arts department's tag line is, "Creating Excellence, Inspiring Futures." We understand that not every student will major in music. However, we hope that they will appreciate the arts while gaining the knowledge of teamwork, dedication, creativity, improved emotional expression, and learning to work with and appreciate the diversity of humanity. From every pirouette to every paintbrush stroke, from every instrument note to every prose in song or on stage, we work as a team to promote excellence in our community through the Arts!

Thank you for your support of Dickinson Fine Arts! We hope that your child will join us as we make a difference by "Creating Excellence while Inspiring Their Futures!"



**J. Paul Trahan, Director
Dickinson ISD Fine Arts**

District Fine Arts Staff

Elementary Music & Art

Bay Colony Elementary
Music Lauren Poland
Art Erin Overmyer
Calder Road Elementary
Music Charles Scheller
Art Melinda Shanklin
Hughes Road Elementary
Music Melanie Wiggin
Art Becky Thomas
K.E. Little Elementary
Music Tyler McCord
Art Hillary Baker
Lobit Elementary
Music Landon Peterson
Art Ashley Garcia
San Leon Elementary
Music Angela Guidry
Art Mariela Ramirez
Silbernagel Elementary
Music Kelsey Scheuerman
Art Janette Magdaleno

Barber Middle School

Band Rumaldo Saenz
Choir Nicole Castille
Theatre Elizabeth Bear Brown
Visual Arts Kimi White

Dunbar Middle School

Band Rebekah Delgado
Choir James Goan
Theatre Katy Conti
Visual Arts William Wilkinson

Lobit Middle School

Band Jessicah Saldana,
William Carroll
Choir Jamie Munoz
Theatre Julie Garcia
Visual Arts Laura Doherty

McAdams Junior High

Band John Hinojosa,
Robert Baker
Choir Carrie Davis
Dance Kayla Holder
Theatre Tara Jones
Visual Arts Jennifer Kremm,
Devyn Pena

Kranz Junior High

Band Kelby Koch, Juan Castillo
Choir Imani James
Dance Brittany Evans
Theatre J. Kyle Crawford
Visual Arts Amy Grant, Laura Gaul

Dickinson High School

Band Trevor Braselton, Risa Hsu,
Aaron Stickley, Robert Wang,
Todd Sommer
Choir Zachary Foster
Dance Brianne Sisson
Theatre Laurel Powell, Marisa
Hataway, Melissa Coleman Brown
Visual Arts Jennifer Sumrall,
Ashley Carpenter, Melannie James,
Sarah Merrill, Laura Scully, Lydia
Thompson, Zach Zwicky

Why Fine Arts?

Fine Arts students have fun while they learn. They also:

- Experience creative joy with their friends
- Express their emotions in an inviting and encouraging space
- Develop creative independence so that fine arts will always be a part of their life
- Build awareness and respect of all peoples through the study of the arts from many cultures
- Improve in other academic subjects
- Make lifelong friendships through collaboration
- Learn how to work with others and champion their successes
- Develop the skills and perseverance needed for success in every future endeavor

All Texas students deserve a well-rounded education that includes the arts. Fine arts courses provide students a safe place to express themselves, take risks, and collaborate with others. Students in arts courses develop those essential characteristics for a successful future:

- Confidence
- Effective communication
- Analytical reasoning
- Problem-solving
- Creativity
- Accountability
- Perseverance
- Ingenuity
- Flexibility & adaptability

Studies show...

Students with four years of fine arts score 10-12% higher on SAT than others.

Texas schools with more students in music classes have:

- **BETTER** academic ratings
- **FEWER** discipline problems
- **HIGHER** attendance rates

Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education,
Texas Music Educators Association,
The College Board

Band

Why Choose Band?

The Gator Band Program has a long and storied history of success across the State and the Nation.

In band, students learn about and experience the joy of preparing and performing music through a wide variety of rehearsal and performance opportunities such as marching band, concert band, and color guard. As a result, students develop a mindset of pursuing excellence in both solo and ensemble endeavors in a safe, healthy, and positive environment.



Performances, Competitions, and Events

UIL Marching Show
District/Community Events
Solo & Ensemble (Region,
District, Area, State)
UIL Spring Show

Christmas Campus & ESC Performances
Gator Band Showcase

Course Offerings

Concert Band
Marching Band
Jazz Band
Instrument Ensemble

AP Music Theory
Color Guard
Band Honors



As a Fine Arts student, a strong foundation was laid for the importance of punctuality, dependability, personal time management and responsibility, teamwork, perseverance, and hard work.

Carla Voelkel, DISD Superintendent of Schools

Choir

Why Choose Choir?

Dickinson ISD's Choral Classrooms are dedicated to giving every Gator the opportunity to not only form a world-class skill and appreciation of music, but students will also learn the skills necessary for leadership roles in a dynamic world.

From 6th to 12th grade, all Dickinson Choir students are placed in choruses that meet them where they are yet still challenge them to become world class musicians. Through community and public performances, vocal competitions, choral festivals, and State level competitions and venues, our Singing Gators are prepared to be the face of choral music in Texas for the next several decades. Every student has a place in the choir, whether they are a first year or have been singing since birth.

In addition to developing vocal and sight-singing skills, DISD Choir directors take pride in their ability to develop and influence leaders in our community. Students taking choir find themselves in an active and engaging environment, while also learning how to use their leadership abilities. Choral students in Texas consistently find themselves accepted to colleges and are awarded loans for schooling at a dramatically higher rate than their peers who are not, largely due to learning the necessary professional skills taught in the choral classroom, such as: organization, personal responsibility, punctuality, individual and group accountability, presentation and public speaking, and long-term goal-setting.

DISD Choir is excited to help your students reach not only their personal goals, but to become world-class and life-long musicians!

Performances, Competitions, and Events

Broadway on the Bayou
Pop Show
Region Choir Auditions
DHS/DISD Musical
Christmas and Spring Concerts

UIL Concert and Sight Reading
Concordia Christmas Caroling Tour
Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival
Solo and Ensemble Competition

Course Offerings

Men's Choir
Ladies' Choir
Chamber Choir
Choir Honors

Dance

Why Choose Dance?

Dickinson ISD's diverse and active dance program offers dancers the opportunity to perform in sports venues, informal settings and in competitive dance environments. Our dance teams perform traditional choreographed military routines at football games in the fall and explore more diverse genres in the spring with our competition and spring show performances. Our dance classes provide students with the basic dance skills through ballet, jazz, modern, improvisation and hip hop. The various course levels allow for the student to develop his/her skills at an appropriate pace which develops self-confidence and an appreciation for dance as an art form.



Course Offerings

General Dance
Dance Mentor
Dance Team
Dance Honors



Fine arts programs allow students to express themselves and explore their creative side. I encourage their involvement in fine art programs because *I will never forget the impact it had in my life.*

Temeka Brown
Principal, Dunbar Middle School

Performances, Competitions, and Events

Football Season Games
Basketball Season Games
Contest / Competition
Spring Show

Fall Showcase
Community Parades
Community Performances



Theatre

Why Choose Theatre?

At Dickinson ISD, we believe that theatre teaches skills that last a lifetime. Play production involves more than just memorizing lines and performing on stage. Theatre creates a welcoming environment for all students to feel safe and free to express their art in an accepting environment.

While working on stage and backstage, students grow in self-confidence, self-awareness, initiative, responsibility, sacrifice, dedication, leadership, creative thinking, problem solving, goal setting, time management, group dynamics, and group decision making. The theatre faculty works to prepare students for all fields of study through the skills of the theatre.

We also learn applications of practical skill -- carpentry, use of power tools, design applications, painting techniques, interior decoration, interview skills, public speaking, public relations, costuming, makeup, accounting, visual effects, and sound and video techniques.



Course Offerings

- General Theatre Arts
- Advanced Theatre Arts
- Theater Production
- Mentor Theatre
- Technical Theatre
- Advanced Technical Theatre
- Musical Theatre

Performances, Competitions, and Events

- Fall Production
- Fall Production 2
- Winter Musical
- Spring Production
- One Act Play

- Community Performances
- Breakfast with Santa
- Christmas Campus & ESC Performances



The Fine Arts department gives everyone a chance to **find their voice** and gives them direction in their lives.

Brooke Newell
Principal, K.E. Little Elementary

Visual Arts

Why Choose Visual Arts?

The visual art program in DISD encourages the artistic, creative, and expressive qualities of all students by providing students the opportunity to create meaningful connections. Students are empowered and enriched by instilling a sense of culture, pride, higher-level thinking, and lifelong learning. They learn to see and communicate in the universal language of Art, interconnecting all content areas and cultures, which fosters their inspiration and appreciation in an ever-changing world.



Course Offerings

General Art 1
HLSR Rodeo Art
Drawing
Painting
Sculpture
AP 3-D Design
AP Art History

Performances, Competitions, and Events

Rodeo Art
Christmas Card Contest
VASE
Community Performances
Breakfast with Santa
Christmas Campus & ESC Performances

For me, music fills the holes in my heart often taking me back to the memory of a special place, to the memory of a special time in my life, or to the warm embrace of a special person. **Art lets me visit the quiet, secret places in my soul;** drama invites me to become someone I am not or go somewhere I can only dream of going, and dance, in all its forms, frees me from the constraints of criticism and self-doubt.

Dr. Billye Smith, M. Ed., Principal, Dickinson High School



The Impact of the Arts

From Dickinson ISD Administrators



"As an elementary student, music class was always my favorite, and from 6th grade throughout high school, I thrived in band. Many hours were spent in the band hall before, during, and after school and in the summer months. From the experiences and opportunities I was provided as a Fine Arts student, a strong foundation was laid for the importance of punctuality, dependability, personal time management and responsibility, teamwork, perseverance, and hard work. I remain grateful today for the music teachers who taught me valuable lessons and helped shape my life.

In Dickinson ISD, we believe that a wide range of experiences in school and beyond develops a well-rounded student. Fine Arts education is an integral part of development and learning, and we are committed to providing high-quality music, dance, theatre, and visual arts opportunities for our students."

- CARLA VOELKEL, Superintendent of Schools

"The FINE ARTS lift the spirit regardless of the place one might find himself. For me, music fills the holes in my heart often taking me back to the memory of a special place, to the memory of a special time in my life, or to the warm embrace of a special person. Art lets me visit the quiet, secret places in my soul; drama invites me to become someone I am not or go somewhere I can only dream of going, and dance, in all its forms, frees me from the constraints of criticism and self-doubt. I want these experiences for my students. When our students experience the ARTS in our schools, we build learning communities where empathy, understanding, and appreciation for each other permeate the culture. The ARTS have defined and captured the human experience since the beginning of time. It is our responsibility to "give" the ARTS to our students by providing quality programs and experiences in our schools".

- DR. BILLYE SMITH, Ed. D., Principal of Dickinson High School



"The Fine Arts saved my life when I was 14 years old. Ms. Cosby, my Freshman English teacher, asked if I would be interested in participating in a contest called UIL Poetry. She said she was looking for someone who had a stage voice and was not afraid of taking risks. I told her I was not interested. A few days later she shared with me I would get to miss a full day of school and receive a free lunch. I told her I would think about it. I agreed to compete because what kid doesn't love getting to leave school with permission. I soon found myself competing at the District level where I placed 1st and then at Region where I placed 2nd. I would soon find my passion and light into the Fine Arts world. Little did Ms. Cosby know at the time, I hated school and was considering dropping out. School was not for me. Fine arts gave me back my purpose in life and a new love for school. I now have a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in theatre because Ms. Cosby took a chance and believed in me."

- LISA HERERRA, Director of Bilingual/ESL/At-Risk



"The DISD Fine Arts program at K.E. Little is amazing! Not only are we developing the reading, writing, and math skills in the academic classroom. We are developing artists, musicians, and maybe the next Picasso or Mozart!! The Fine Arts department gives everyone a chance to find their voice and gives them direction in their lives. Without our wonderful teachers and the experiences they afford our students, many children won't find their life long passions until they leave our halls. Fine Arts has impacted my life in that my daughter is a skilled dancer in ballet, jazz, and tap. If it were not for Fine Arts, she wouldn't have the confidence she has and the poise dance has taught her!"

- BROOKE NEWELL, Principal of K.E. Little Elementary



The Impact of the Arts

From Dickinson ISD Administrators



"My involvement in Fine arts as a young student has made an exponential impact on my personal and professional life. My time in band brought me out of my shell, presented me with leadership opportunities, and helped me create life-long friendships. As an adult with a professional art & design job, I'm lucky to be able to express myself creatively everyday in my career. As a life-long student in music education, I've learned how to work my hardest and be a valuable contributing member of a team. I've learned about time management and overcoming challenges. Today, I continue my fine arts education with music lessons for piano, guitar, and ukulele. Playing music as an adult helps me unwind, focus my mind, and enrich my free time. Fine arts will always be a part of my life."

- JENNA SIMSEN, Director of Marketing & Digital Media



"I was lucky to be a part of an outstanding Fine Arts program when I was in school. The experiences I had, lessons learned, and the memories stick with me to this day. It helped me develop time management skills; it pushed me out of my comfort zone, and helped me gain confidence. I highly encourage parents to get their children involved in a Fine Arts program of their interest."

- JOHN SNELSON, Director of Athletics, Head Football Coach



"It's impossible for me to imagine my life without the arts. My favorite classes in school were music along with over a decade of piano lessons. On even the worst of days, I knew my spirits would lift in the time I spent in the band hall or orchestra room. The friendships forged in rehearsals and on the marching field are some of the strongest I have to this very day. Music is now the barometer for my soul. I have playlists I return to again and again that reflect whatever mood I'm in at that moment. It is my own personal therapy! My world would be a sadder, darker place if I'd not had the opportunity to have music be a part of it every day since I began kindergarten. I couldn't be more thankful for the music teachers and schools that made that possible for both me and for my own children who blossomed in the band, choir, and theater programs at their schools. We are an ARTS FAMILY for sure!"

- DR. LEONE CLARK, Director of Advanced Academics

"In my lifetime, the arts have impacted my personal and professional arenas in many ways. In band I forged life-long friendships, learned time management and dedication, and activated skills within me I would carry on forever. Today, my time as a leader in education has allowed me to introduce young students to the wonderful benefits that fine arts can add to their lives. Fine arts programs allow students to express themselves and explore their creative side. My years spent in band were among some of the most memorable times in my life. Playing music taught me that the success of my team depends on my dedication to my own success. I learned that a team relied on me, and I could rely on them if we put our mindsets together on a common goal. As a mother, it brings me joy to see my own daughter as a member of band with aspirations of joining the high school dance team. I encourage their involvement in fine art programs because I will never forget the impact it had in my life."

- TEMEKA BROWN, Principal of Dunbar Middle School





DICKINSON

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