

DICKINSON ISD

Fine Arts

Creating Excellence-Inspiring Futures



Dickinson ISD Fine Arts Program Guide

DISD Fine Arts Mission Statement

DISD Fine Arts Department Fosters a safe and inclusive community for all learners to express themselves artistically while developing problem-solving skills, perseverance, compassion, and confidence: becoming creative leaders for life.



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

- Dickinson ISD Strategic Plan



Table of Contents

COVER

01 BELIEF STATEMENT

02 TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 ABOUT THE FINE ARTS DEPT.

04 WHY FINE ARTS

05 BAND

06 CHOIR

07 DANCE

08 THEATRE

09 VISUAL ARTS

10 THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS



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 creative success. Our fine arts department's tag line is, "Creating Excellence, Inspiring Futures." We understand that not every student will major in a fine art. 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 a 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 Jasmin Pullman
Art Heather Petway
Calder Road Elementary
Music Ashley Endler
Art Allexandra Morales
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 Jennifer Krem
Silbernagel Elementary
Music Kelsey Helton
Art Janette Magdaleno

Barber Middle School

Music Darnel Mafnas
Art Linda Arnold
Dunbar Middle School
Music James Goan
Art William Wilkinson
Lobit Middle School
Music Ricardo Trevino
Art Laura Doherty

Dickinson Junior High

Band Rumaldo Saenz, Justin Garcia, Jacob Peralas
Choir Mark Patterson
Dance Alyson Loving
Theatre Jake Wadkins, Gerik Lyssey
Visual Arts Regina Bishop, Audrey Lufkin, Christopher Shinn

Kranz Junior High

Band Kelby Koch, Juan Castillo, Britleigh Nettuno
Choir Imani James
Dance Brittany Evans
Theatre J. Kyle Crawford, Elizabeth Brown
Visual Arts Laura Pregeant, Rachel Sanchez, Kimi White

McAdams Junior High

Band John Hinojosa, Robert Baker, Rebekah Delgado
Choir Abraham Villarreal
Dance Kayla Holder
Theatre Tara Jones
Visual Arts Mariela Ramirez, Natalie Rivas

Dickinson High School

Band Trevor Braselton, Risa Hsu, Alex Hedden, Robert Wang, Todd Sommer
Choir Zachary Foster, Gracie Stutterheim
Dance Brianne Sisson, Brianne Payne
Theatre Laurel Powell, Marisa Hataway, Roxanne Sheffield
Visual Arts Jennifer Sumrall, Ashley Carpenter, Sarah Merrill, Zach Zwicky, Laura Gaul, Brenda Guardiola



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 part of their life
- Build awareness and respect of all peoples through the study of the arts from many cultures
- Improve in all 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 16% 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, 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 a 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.



Course Offerings

- Concert Band
- Marching Band
- Jazz Band
- Instrument Ensemble

- Band Honors
- Color Guard
- Winter Guard



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





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!

Course Offerings

Men's Choir
Ladies' Choir
Chamber Choir

Choir Honors
AP Music Theory
Show Choir

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





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

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 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	Technical Theatre
Advanced Theatre Arts	Advanced Technical Theatre
Theatre Production	Musical Theatre
Mentor Theatre	Theatre Honors

Performances, Competitions, and Events

Fall Production	Community Performances
Fall Production 2	Breakfast with Santa
All-District Musical	Christmas Campus & ESC
Spring Production	Performances
One Act Play	



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 I
HSLR Rodeo Art
Drawing
Painting

Sculpture
AP 3D Design
AP Art History
Fibers



Performances, Competitions, and Events

HLSR Rodeo Art
Christmas Card Contest

Community Art Show
VASE



The Impact of the Arts

From Dickinson ISD Administration

Being a violin player from elementary through high school profoundly shaped my life and appreciation for the arts as an adult. The discipline, creativity, and passion I developed through my involvement in performing and fine arts have stayed with me, influencing many aspects of my personal and professional life. In Dickinson ISD, performing and fine arts are not just extracurricular activities; they are fundamental to our mission of providing a well-rounded education. We believe that exposure to the arts is crucial for developing critical thinking, empathy, and cultural awareness in our students. The arts help our students express themselves, build confidence, and connect with the world around them in meaningful ways. Our district offers a robust PK-12 arts curriculum, complemented by after-school programs and opportunities to showcase talents in local and national community events and competition. We have dedicated educators who inspire and nurture the artistic abilities of our students, ensuring every child has the chance to shine. Gator Nation is committed to keeping the arts a vibrant part of our curriculum, preparing students to become creative, compassionate, and forward-thinking leaders of the future. By investing in the arts, we invest in the holistic development of our students, equipping them to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.

DR. REBECCA BROWN, Superintendent, Dickinson ISD



“As a child of a choir teacher, music has always a special place in my life. From a young age, I found music to be soothing to my soul and a place to allow my thoughts and dreams to flow. In addition to my own experience, research has shown the Arts to enhance student's creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. By learning how to create and appreciate the arts, students can develop their imagination and emotional intelligence. This can lead to a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.”

COURTNEY RAMIREZ, Principal, Dickinson High School

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



“Theater is an important part of our education curriculum. Theatre benefits our students by developing their imagination and creativity, teaching them teamwork and collaboration skills, social skills, public speaking, self confidence and memory skills. Theatre embraced my empathy. Theatre isn't just entertainment. It's an opportunity to tell one's story “

- MARY ANTHAMATTEN, Dickinson ISD School Board Trustee

The Impact of the Arts

From Dickinson ISD Administration



"My involvement in Fine arts as a young student has made a meaningful 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. 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

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 Dickinson Junior High





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