



2018-2019

Prospective Student Application

Included Forms:

Covington Fine Arts Academy Overview
Application Timeline and Important Dates
Audition Information by Strand
CMSFAA Campus Application
Teacher Recommendation Forms



Covington Fine Arts Academy Overview

Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy provides an arts-rich program in South Austin where students experience a diverse range of advanced fine arts elective options embedded in a rigorous and creative academic program. Recognized as a Social Emotional Learning Demonstration School, Covington students are leaders who give back to the local and international community. Gaining increased self-confidence, self-awareness, problem-solving skills, and creative expression through the arts, Covington students advance their college, career, and life readiness.

The Covington Fine Arts Academy is comprised of award winning students and faculty in music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and digital arts. Creative learning is an integral part of the educational process that stimulates our students' intellect and peaks their curiosity, creativity and imaginations. With over 125 years combined teaching experience, our Covington Fine Arts staff is pleased to work with students from all across the Austin area intent on pursuing an education focused on fine arts.

At Covington Middle School, all students have access to all fine arts programs. However, only students accepted into the FAA are assured a seat in a class of their strand and are given priority scheduling to ensure student's FAA requirements are being met. Current Covington 6th, 7th and 8th graders may be invited to join the FAA based on their commitment and performance as observed by the strand teacher.

Fine Arts Academy Strands:

Band

Choir

Classical Guitar

Dance

Digital Arts

Orchestra

Theatre Arts

Visual Arts



Application Timeline and Important Dates

2017 - 2018 school year

October 1, 2017 – CMSFAA Handbook and Prospective Student Application available online through Covington’s website (www.covingtoncolts.org)

October 1, 2017– AISD Middle School Program Intent Form available online at <https://www.austinisd.org/magnet-application> (must complete Covington FAA Application also)

December 2, 2017 – Austin ISD Middle School Choice Fair. At Ann Richards School

December 8, 2017 – CMS Fine Arts Showcase 9:00 – 11:00am (5th grade visit to Covington)

December 9, 2017 – CMSFAA Application Workshop 10:00am – 12:00pm (Q&A and guidance on application / audition process) in the Fine Arts Building at CMS

February 9, 2018 – **Deadline for submitting applications** for 2018 – 2019 school year (complete applications include: essay, teacher recommendations, report cards, and standardized test results)

*Campus tours will take place on November 3rd and 17th, every Friday during the months of January and February, and later by appointment. Please contact our Parent Support Specialist, Gloria Franco (gloria.franco@austinisd.org) with any questions regarding the tour.

By **February 16, 2018** – CMSFAA will **email** qualified applicants their advancement letter indicating advancement to Audition Phase. All students who have submitted a complete application will receive an audition. Students will need to contact the Covington Fine Arts Academy to select an audition time.

February 24, 2018 – FAA Auditions / Interviews at Covington (9am – 3pm) in the Fine Arts Building

February 26-28, 2018 – Decision letters mailed to accepted applicants; scheduling for shadowing days begins

March 5 or March 20, 2018 – Optional Shadowing Days; applicant may select one

March 23, 2018 – Deadline for Students to submit letter of intent to CMSFAA

Come see the Covington Fine Arts Academy in action!

December 5, 2017 – Winter Band Concert @ Burger Center

December 7, 2017 – Winter Choir Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 13, 2017 – Winter Orchestra/Guitar Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 15 & 16, 2017 – Winter Dance Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre



Audition Information

All students who submit a complete application by **February 10, 2018** will receive an invitation to audition for their chosen Fine Arts strand. Students selected to audition for the FAA, ***will be notified by email the week of February 16, 2018***. Auditions will be conducted on **Saturday, February 24, 2018** from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Covington Fine Arts building. Students unable to audition on February 24th may contact Ruth Lim to schedule their auditions, dependent on FA strand teacher availability.

Specific audition and portfolio requirements are listed by strand below.

Dance Auditions

Students wishing to enter the dance academy at the entry/beginner's level are required to attend Part 1 & Part 2 of the audition. Beginning / Intro Dance academy students will also incorporate why they want to be a member of the CMSFAA Dance Academy into their application essay referenced on pages 7 and 8 of this document. Video submissions are also welcome.

Intermediate / Advanced Dance dancers are required to attend all three parts of the audition process. For solo, dancers may choose the genre of dance and music (school appropriate) in which they feel most confident to perform.

- **Part 1:** Director teaches choreography (call backs may be required)
- **Part 2:** Interview
- **Part 3:** Solos (45-60 seconds in length)

*** Students should come wearing ALL BLACK dance attire with hair pulled back out of the face.*

Digital Arts Portfolio

Students are encouraged, but not required or expected, to submit current digital media work that allows us to better assess the student's digital arts experience. This can include work you have produced or a project on which you worked.

Examples of work may include: a film, photographs, an animation project, a digital collage, videogame projects, etc. Please limit submissions to five works. Place submissions on a flash drive and bring to the interview.



Music Auditions

Band: If the prospective student is a 5th grader, he/she will try out band instruments during their interview or during the instrument tryout day (dates to be announced). Student will meet with director to go over pitch and rhythm recognition. (No prior experience required).

Students who already play a band instrument must bring their instrument. All instruments prepare: Concert F, Concert B, Concert Eb and Chromatic scales. Woodwind and Brass Players will perform their solo from Solo and Ensemble or part of their current band music; Percussionists should prepare a Mallet and Snare Drum solo from a method book (please provide copies during your audition).

This audition is separate from Wind Ensemble, Gold Band and Maroon Band auditions, which occur at the end of the school year.

Classical Guitar: 5th grade students will be interviewed and receive a brief introductory lesson on guitar.

Students who already play guitar are asked to bring 2 copies of a solo or etude that showcases the student's talent and musicianship. Your solo contest piece or music you have prepared with your private instructor are excellent choices of audition material. Scales and sight-reading will be part of the audition (possible scales D, G, C).

Orchestra: 5th grade students will be interviewed and have the opportunity to try out various orchestra instruments.

Students who already play an orchestra instrument must bring their instrument and 2 copies of a solo or etude that showcases the student's talent and musicianship. Your solo contest piece or music you have prepared with your private instructor are excellent choices of audition material. It is not necessary to memorize the solo. Scales and sight-reading will be part of the audition (possible scales D, G, C, F, Bb).

Vocal: Incoming 7th and 8th grade students auditioning for the Vocal Strand/Major will be asked to sing the first verse of "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)". Further, students will be asked to sight-read an 8-measure excerpt of music in C major (step-wise motion – no skips). Students will demonstrate their vocal ability (range, tone, pitch) through vocalization exercises. Incoming 6th graders will do vocalization exercises and an interview with the director(s). If the student has previous sight-reading experience, they may choose to attempt the 8-measure sight-reading excerpt.



Theatre Arts Auditions

Auditions will consist of a 1 minute memorized monologue performed by the student, various acting exercises and a brief interview with the student. This workshop will allow the teacher to gauge a student's level of comfort with performing, ability to take direction, as well as a level of creativity and ability to think on their feet. Each audition should last no more than 7 minutes.

Visual Arts Portfolio Requirements

Please bring a minimum of 4 – 6 examples of your art that may include any of the following:

- Self-portrait (draw yourself from a mirror or photograph)
- Drawings from observation. Possible subjects include: objects in your home arranged into a still life, draw the corner of your room, a portrait of your pet, etc.
- A landscape (your backyard, your house, etc.)

At the interview, your portfolio samples will be viewed and discussed.

CMSFAA Application (page 1 of 4)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please complete the AISD Middle School Program Intent Form found in the parent cloud or online (www.austinisd.org/academics/magnet-application) and then submit the following items in the order listed. **DO NOT STAPLE – please paperclip instead.**

Mail or deliver to: **Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy**
 Attn: Ruth Lim
 3700 Convict Hill Rd.
 Austin, TX 78749

- _____ CMSFAA Application (4 pages)
- _____ Handwritten essay (250 word minimum) – we accept essays from other magnet applications
- _____ Last year’s report card (already included in the online Program Intent Form for current AISD students)
- _____ Most recent report card (already included in the online Program Intent Form for current AISD students)
- _____ Most recent STAAR test scores or equivalent assessment for Reading and Mathematics if STAAR is not available (already included in the online Program Intent Form for current AISD students)
- _____ Math, English and Fine Arts Teacher recommendation forms to be submitted by teacher (we will accept teacher recommendations used for magnet applications)

*** DO NOT SUBMIT PORTFOLIOS WITH APPLICATION – Bring portfolios to your audition. ***

Both signatures are required. By signing this document, you agree to meet all requirements for your strand as laid out in the CMSFAA Handbook should you be accepted into the FAA.

Applicant’s Signature **Date**

Parent/Guardian Signature **Date**

CMSFAA Application (page 3 of 4)

Previous Fine Arts Experience (only complete sections for your 1st and 2nd choice strands):

(Check all that apply)

_____ Band _____ Orchestra _____ Instrument Ensemble (Classical Guitar/Piano)

1. List instruments you have played and for how long.
2. List other experiences in this area (examples - Austin Youth Orchestra, private lessons, UT String Project, Austin Chamber Music Center) and for how long.
3. Recognitions/Awards (what and when)

Vocal Music (Choir)

1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples - summer choir camp, Conspirare Childrens Choir, Austin Lyric Opera, Austin Girls Choir, private lessons, experience at elementary school) and for how long.
2. Recognitions/Awards (what and when) -

Theatre Arts

1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples – community theatre program, summer acting camp, private lessons, experience at elementary school) and for how long.
2. Recognitions/Awards (what and when)

CMSFAA Application (page 4 of 4)

Dance

- 1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples - summer dance camp, Ballet Austin, private lessons) and for how long.**
- 2. Recognitions/Awards (what and when) -**

Visual Arts

- 1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples – summer art camp, private lessons, experience at elementary school, competitions, exhibits) and for how long.**
- 2. Recognitions/Awards (what and when) -**

Digital Arts

- 1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples – summer art camp, private lessons, experience at elementary school, competitions, exhibits) and for how long.**
- 2. Recognitions/Awards (what and when)**

List any academic recognition or awards (what and when)



(ATTN: Teachers – we will accept other magnet forms in place of this form.)

English Teacher Recommendation

Please return **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail:
Covington Fine Arts Academy, Attn: Ruth Lim, 3700 Convict Hill Rd., Austin, TX 78749

Applicant's Legal Name _____ Student I.D. _____

Sending School _____ Current Grade Level _____

Teacher (Print) _____ Teacher Signature _____

BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS	Superior (4)	Very good (3)	Average (2)	Below Average (1)	Total
1. Cooperative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Respectful	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Works well with others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Considerate of peers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Good tempered	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's social skills with others this age.

In your presence, has this student ever exhibited outbursts, belligerent behavior, foul language, inappropriate behavior, bullying, etc.? YES NO

WORK ETHIC	Superior (4)	Very good (3)	Average (2)	Below Average (1)	Total
1. Ability to stay on task	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Completes tasks on time	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Pays attention to detail	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Spends extra time on work	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Ability to work independently	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's work ethic to others this age.

ACADEMICS	Superior (4)	Very good (3)	Average (2)	Below Average (1)	Total
1. Reading & writing skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Study skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Works beyond minimum	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Analytical skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Participation in class discussion	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Seeks help when needed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Describe this student's interest & achievement in academics.

CREATIVE THINKING – How has this student demonstrated higher level thinking skills?



(ATTN: Teachers – we will accept other magnet forms in place of this form.)

Math Teacher Recommendation

**Please return AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail:
Covington Fine Arts Academy, Attn: Ruth Lim, 3700 Convict Hill Rd., Austin, TX 78749**

Applicant's Legal Name _____ Student I.D. _____

Sending School _____ Current Grade Level _____

Teacher (Print) _____ Teacher Signature _____

BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Cooperative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Respectful	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Works well with others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Considerate of peers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Good tempered	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's social skills with others this age.

In your presence, has this student ever exhibited outbursts, belligerent behavior, foul language, inappropriate behavior, bullying, etc.? **YES** **NO**

WORK ETHIC	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Ability to stay on task	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Completes tasks on time	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Pays attention to detail	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Spends extra time on work	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Ability to work independently	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's work ethic to others this age.

ACADEMICS	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Reading & comprehension as it relates to math problems	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Math study skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Works beyond minimum	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Analytical skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Participation in class discussion	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Seeks help when needed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Motivated to succeed in math	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Describe this student's interest & achievement in academics.

Do you anticipate this student passing the Math STAAR? **YES** **NO**



(ATTN: Teachers – we will accept other magnet forms in place of this form.)

Fine Arts Teacher Recommendation

**Please return AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail:
Covington Fine Arts Academy, Attn: Ruth Lim, 3700 Convict Hill Rd., Austin, TX 78749**

Applicant's Legal Name _____ Student I.D. _____

Sending School _____ Current Grade Level _____

Teacher (Print) _____ Teacher Signature _____

BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Cooperative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Respectful	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Works well with others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Considerate of peers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Good tempered	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's social skills with others this age.

In your presence, has this student ever exhibited outbursts, belligerent behavior, foul language, inappropriate behavior, bullying, etc.? **YES** **NO**

WORK ETHIC	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Ability to stay on task	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Completes tasks on time	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Pays attention to detail	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Spends extra time on work	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Ability to work independently	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's work ethic to others this age.

ACADEMICS	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Works beyond minimum	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Analytical skills	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Participation in class	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Seeks help when needed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Motivated to succeed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Describe this student's interest & achievement in academics.

SKILL LEVEL	<u>Superior (4)</u>	<u>Very good (3)</u>	<u>Average (2)</u>	<u>Below Average (1)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Individual determination	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Overall ability and observed performance skill	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Teamwork / participation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Compare this student's skill level to others this age.