



Prospective Student Application School Year 2020-2021

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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
Digital Arts

Choir
Orchestra

Classical Guitar
Theatre Arts

Dance
Visual Arts

Application Timeline and Important Dates

Please see covingtoncolts.org for tour dates. No need to RSVP, check into West Office for tour.

October 1, 2019 – CMSFAA Handbook and Prospective Student Application available online through Covington's website (www.covingtoncolts.org)

October 7, 2019 – AISD Intent to Apply to a Magnet/Application Program Form available online at my.austinisd.org (must complete Covington FAA Application also)

November 20, 2019 – Covington MSFAA Program Information Night - 6 - 7 p.m.

December 6, 2019 – CMS Fine Arts Showcase 9:00 – 11:00 am (5th grade visit to Covington)

December 7, 2019 – Austin ISD Middle School Choice Fair at Webb Middle School (9:00 am – noon)

December 14, 2019 – CMSFAA Application Workshop 10:00am – 12:00pm (Q&A and guidance on application/audition process) in the Fine Arts Building at CMS

January 23, 2020 – Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy Choice Sheet Night 5 - 7 p.m.

February 3, 2020 – Deadline for submitting applications for 2020 – 2021 school year (complete applications include: essay, teacher recommendations, report cards, and standardized test results)

By **February 17, 2020** – CMSFAA will notify 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 22, 2020 – FAA Auditions/Interviews at Covington (9am – 3pm) in the Fine Arts Building

February 24 - 28, 2020 – Notification will go to applicants who have been offered acceptance and to those not offered acceptance; scheduling for shadowing days begins

March 2 or 9, 2020 – Optional Shadowing Days; accepted applicants may select one

March 30, 2020 – Deadline for Students to submit letter of intent to CMSFAA

Come see the Covington Fine Arts Academy in action!

December 2, 2019- Covington Dance Company at Dance Spectacular, Austin ISD PAC

December 6, 2019- Covington Theatre Presents The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 7, 2019- Covington Dance Company Performance at Middle School Fair, Webb MS 11:20am

December 7, 2019- Covington Dance and Jazz Band @ Macy's 1:30-3:00pm

December 10, 2019- Winter Classical Guitar Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 11, 2019- Winter Orchestra Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 11, 2019- Winter Band Concert @ Burger Center

December 12, 2019- Winter 7th and 8th grade Choir Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

December 17, 2019- Winter 6th grade Choir Concert @ CMSFAA Theatre

Audition/Portfolio Information

All students who submit a complete application by **February 3, 2020** will receive an invitation to audition for their chosen Fine Arts strand.

Students selected to audition for the FAA, **will be notified the week of February 17, 2020.**

Auditions will be conducted on **Saturday, February 22, 2020** from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Covington Fine Arts building.

Students unable to audition on the audition day may contact Ruth Lim to schedule an alternate audition time, 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 are required to attend all three parts of the audition. Students will also need to **incorporate why they want to be a member of the CMSFAA Dance Academy** into their application essay.

Part 1: A beginner ballet barre, contemporary movement phase, prompt based improvisation.

Part 2: Prepared Solo, 45-60 seconds in length (you may choose the genre of dance and music in which you feel most confident performing)

Part 3: Interview

**** Students should come wearing ALL BLACK dance attire with hair pulled back out of the face. Please also note that callbacks may be required.**

Digital Arts Portfolio Requirements

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 E \flat 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, B \flat).

Choir: 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 a 4-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 4-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 (from your imagination, or of your house or backyard, etc.)

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

Applicant Legal Name: _____
Last First M.I.

CMSFAA APPLICATION CHECKLIST
Completed application DUE no later than February 3, 2020

If you submit a transfer request for a priority or general transfer prior to applying to this program, acceptance into this program will supersede an approved priority or general transfer.

Please complete the **AISD Intent to Apply to a Magnet/Application Program 2020-2021** found in the parent cloud (my.austinisd.org) and then submit the following items in the order listed.

DO NOT STAPLE – please paperclip instead.

Non-AISD students will also have to register for Austin ISD <https://www.austinisd.org/enroll>

Upon acceptance into to CMSFAA, documents such as birth certificate and immunizations will be required to complete registration.

Hand Deliver/Mail to: **Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy**

Attn: Ruth Lim

or

3700 Convict Hill Rd.

Austin, TX 78749

Scan and Email to:

ruth.lim@austinisd.org

- _____ CMSFAA Application (4 pages)
- _____ Handwritten essay (250 word minimum) – we accept essays from other magnet applications
- _____ Last year’s report card (included in the online Program Intent Form for current AISD students)
- _____ Most recent report card (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

Applicant Legal Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Current Grade (circle one): 5th 6th 7th

Fine Arts Discipline of Interest (May apply for up to two strands – please list 1st and 2nd preference):

___ Band ___ Choir ___ Classical Guitar ___ Dance
___ Digital Arts ___ Orchestra ___ Theatre Arts ___ Visual Arts

AISD Student ID#: _____ OR, if none, Social Security #: _____

Elementary School Attended _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent / Guardian 1 – Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent / Guardian 2 – Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Will you be requesting a transfer to Covington through the Fine Arts Academy? YES NO

Please attach a handwritten essay responding to the following (250 words minimum):

Describe some of your character traits and personal goals. Include in your essay how being involved in the Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy will help you achieve your goals in school and life.

(We will also accept written essays from applications for Lamar FAA, Ann Richards, Kealing and Lively magnets).

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

Instrumental Music (Check all that apply)

Band Orchestra Classical Guitar

List instruments you have played and for how long.

List other experiences in this area (examples - Austin Youth Orchestra, private lessons, UT String Project, Austin Chamber Music Center) and for how long.

Choir

List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples - summer choir camp, Conspirare Children's Choir, Austin Lyric Opera, Austin Girls Choir, private lessons, experience at elementary school) and for how long.

Dance

List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples - summer dance camp, Ballet Austin, private lessons) and for how long.

Digital Arts

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

Theatre Arts

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.

Visual Arts

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.

List Academic Awards and Recognitions (include dates and organizations)

List Fine Arts Awards and Recognitions (include dates and organizations)

(AISD Teachers - Please Complete the Online Recommendation Form)

Teacher Recommendation

Please return AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by fax (512-892-4547), U.S. mail, or email (ruth.lim@austinisd.org):

Covington Fine Arts Academy, Attn: Ruth Lim, 3700 Convict Hill Rd., Austin, TX 78749

Applicant's Legal Name _____ Current Grade Level _____

Teacher Name (Print) _____ Teacher Signature _____

Subject Taught _____ Current School _____

Behavior/Social Skills **Superior (4)** **Very good (3)** **Average (2)** **Below Average (1)**

1. Cooperative				
2. Respectful				
3. Works well with others				
4. Considerate of peers				
5. Good Tempered				

Describe how this student's social skills compare 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)**

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				

Describe how this student's work ethic compares to others this age:

Academics

Superior (4) **Very good (3)** **Average (2)** **Below Average (1)**

1. Performance in subject area				
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?

Do you anticipate the student passing STAAR this year?