The Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy Experience

Date built: 1986  
Grades: 6th-8th  
Mascot: Colts  
School Colors: Maroon and Gold

About the Covington Middle School namesakes:

Covington, built in 1986, was named after Weldon and Verna Covington. They were master teachers in music, and their bands always ranked among the top in state competitions. Their teaching careers spanned more than 50 years, and together they developed the successful music programs for the District.

Mr. Covington began teaching in AISD in 1932. Under his guidance, the band program grew from eight members to over 1,000 students. From 1935 on, his bands were winning first division places in the National Band Contests. In 1952, he was invited to join the American Bandmaster's Association, becoming recognized internationally as a leader in the concert band field.

Mrs. Covington started teaching immediately after graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in music education, becoming the first woman band director in Texas. Twice, her bands were runner-up to the honor band and her junior high bands consistently won many state and national honors.

The Covingtons were members of the Texas Music Educators Association for over 50 years. Mr. Covington served TMEA as the band and orchestra chairman and also as president in 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Covington gave their careers to their students and to AISD. They served Texas' music through various programs and functions all their lives and are known for their devotion and zest in nurturing thousands of children who received a musical blessing from their instruction.

Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy continues this tradition of dedication to the development of artistic talent and skill in young people today. Come experience our connected learning community, commitment to excellence in arts and academics, and celebration of the unique story that each individual scholar brings to our world.
Overview

The Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy (CMSFAA) is Austin ISD’s signature middle school fine arts program. At Covington Middle School all students have access to all fine arts programs. However, only students accepted into the CMSFAA are assured a seat in the class of their primary strand. The CMSFAA accepts students at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels. Students remain FAA members for their entire middle school career, unless they are removed from the program. All CMSFAA students must meet the requirements of their primary strand each school year.

CMSFAA students may switch primary strands at the end of 6th and 7th grade. Contact Ruth Lim, ruth.lim@austinisd.org, or Dawn Piper, dawn.piper@austinisd.org, for more information.

If a CMSFAA student is in danger of being removed from the CMSFAA, the student's CMSFAA advisor will serve as the point of contact for all parties and will collaborate with the student, parent, counselor and administrator according to the removal process as described in this handbook. A student that withdraws or is removed from the CMSFAA may not reapply at a later time. Transfer students that withdraw or are removed from the FAA will lose their transfer to Covington.

Shadowing Opportunities
Students invited to audition will be able to shadow during the month of February. Dates will be posted on the school's website. Ruth Lim or Dawn Piper will arrange shadowing dates via email for qualified students. All students should complete and submit the shadowing request form with their application.

Acceptance into the Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy is based on the following:

- Completed application
- Teacher recommendations
- Student written essay
- Academic performance
- Daily attendance
- Discipline history
- Interview/Audition (which includes portfolio)
Requirements for ALL Fine Arts Academy students:

- Maintain academic eligibility
- Maintain acceptable daily attendance
- Abide by the student code of conduct
- MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR FINE ARTS ACADEMY STRAND
- Attend at least two activities (performances, exhibits, etc.) outside your primary strand

**Minimum Requirements by Strand**

**Minimum requirements for VISUAL ARTS majors:**
One semester in 6th grade. One year in 7th and 8th grades.
Participate in middle school Visual Arts Scholastic Event (Jr. VASE) each year

**Minimum requirements for DIGITAL ARTS & MEDIA majors:**
One semester in 6th grade. One year in 7th and 8th grades.
Participate in at least one annual event: Jr. VASE, ATPI competition, AISD Digital Arts & Media Festival

**Minimum requirements for THEATRE ARTS majors:**
One semester in 6th grade. One year in 7th and 8th grades.
Specific expectations articulated in class syllabi, guidelines and grading rubrics
Attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing) per semester

**Minimum requirements for DANCE majors:**
One semester in 6th grade. One year in 7th and 8th grades.
Participate in both dance productions (1 each semester,) as well as high school performance opportunities, under Academy direction.
Participate under 1 competition, under Academy direction.
Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in dance.

**Minimum requirements for MUSIC majors:**
Music majors are required to participate in all performances

**BAND:**
Solo and Ensemble each year (must perform an accompanied solo); TMEA Region Band Audition each year (not for 1st year players); attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing) per semester; perform in the Spring Fine Arts Academy recital.

**CHOIR:**
2 years of intermediate/advanced treble or tenor/bass choir in 7th and 8th grade; UIL Solo and Ensemble each year; TMEA region auditions each year; attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing) per semester.

**ORCHESTRA:**
2 semesters of beginning orchestra class, then intermediate/advanced class; enrollment in UIL competing orchestra ensemble each year; AISD Solo and Ensemble Contest; audition for All-Region Orchestra each year; attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing) per semester.

**CLASSICAL GUITAR:**
Year-long guitar class each year; Solo & Ensemble each year (must perform a solo); attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing) per semester.
The Covington Middle School Band program is highly respected throughout the region on the concert stage. The bands consistently receive 1st Divisions in U.I.L Concert and Sight-reading. They have traveled and competed across Texas receiving Outstanding Ensemble awards.

Covington Band has a long-standing tradition of excellence, and we would love to have you join us.

The following instrumental ensembles and music classes are offered and taught by the Covington Band staff. Instrumental Ensembles:

- Wind Ensemble
- Gold Band
- Maroon Band
- Beginning Band (6th and 7th grade)

*You must be concurrently enrolled in an ensemble. Members of rhythm section (guitar, bass, trap set, piano) are not required to be in one of the aforementioned concert groups.

Band Classes

For Academy band majors, band class is required both semesters of your 6th, 7th and 8th grade year. All instrumental ensembles are offered as a fine arts credit or elective. To request band on your schedule, you must sign up for Band on the choice sheet. After your audition, the directors will place you in one of the concert instrumental ensembles.

For 6th graders, classes are broken out by instrument: beginning clarinet, beginning double reed, beginning euphonium, beginning flute, beginning horn, beginning percussion, beginning saxophone, beginning trombone, beginning tuba, and beginning trumpet.

For 7th and 8th graders, students are placed by audition into either the Wind Ensemble, Gold or Maroon Band Jazz Band and Steel Drum classes – placement by audition.

Band Major Academy Requirements

___ Perform an accompanied solo at Band Solo and Ensemble each year
___ Audition for TMEA Region Band each year
___ Attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing each semester)
___ Perform in the Spring Fine Arts Academy recital
___ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Band.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Band Faculty: Ruth Lim, Director of Bands, 512-414-5397 or Lauren Piccione, Assistant Band Director Arnie Yanez, Assistant Band Director rlim@austinisd.org
Classical Guitar

**Website:** www.covingtoncolts.org

The Covington Fine Arts Academy offers three levels of classical guitar studies:

- **Beginning Classical Guitar:** The primary focus of this ensemble is for players to develop correct technique, and advance their ability to express themselves musically. The goal of the ensemble is to prepare students to play in the Intermediate/Advanced Classical Guitar Ensemble.

- **Intermediate/Advanced Classical Guitar:** This performing ensemble contains the top classical guitar players at Covington Fine Arts Academy. The ensemble studies challenging pieces requiring high degrees of independence from all musicians. This group will represent Covington Fine Arts Academy at the Austin Concert and Sight-reading Festival. They will be the representative ensemble for ALL AISD and Austin Classical Guitar (ACG) events. A limited number of sixth grade students with guitar experience will be eligible to audition for this group.

**Goals**

1. **Performance/Practice:** To develop skills and practice habits in guitar playing in order to perform expressively with beautiful tone, rhythm, phrasing, articulation, dynamics, style and intonation.

2. **Listening:** To become sensitive listeners and to describe music intelligently through words.

3. **Musicianship:** To understand musical structures and ideas including but not limited to notation, theory, and music in relation to history and culture.

4. **General Procedures:** Follow daily rehearsal procedures, as outlined in the Classical Guitar handbook. Attend all performance obligations listed in the school instrumental music calendar. Meet individual responsibilities for the care and maintenance of his/her instrument and music.

**Classical Guitar Major Academy Requirements**

___ Perform an accompanied solo at Classical Guitar Solo and Ensemble each year
___ Enroll in the year-long classical guitar class
___ Attend two Fine Art performances (other than performances in which you are performing in) each semester
___ Perform in the Spring Fine Arts Academy recital
___ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Classical guitar.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call:  
**Kelsey Nussbaum,** Orchestra Director, kelsey.nussbaum@austinisd.org  
Class phone: 512-841-3724
Dance

Website: www.covingtoncolts.org

Dance education in Texas schools provides all students with the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of dance. Students learn and refine dance skills and techniques in class. They study the historical and cultural significance of dance and its evolution as an art form, and evaluate personal work and the work of others. (Dance Curriculum Framework, Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts)

The Covington Fine Arts Academy offers a variety of dance studies:

- **Intro to Dance**: (predominantly non-dance majors for PE credit – open to all grade levels) offered as a year-long class; the curriculum focuses on the study of Social Dance, Ballet, and Jazz, as well as the history of dance. Students will learn basic skills and techniques to begin their dance education. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the spring dance production.

- **Intermediate Dance**: (predominantly non-dance majors for PE credit – open to all grade levels) offered as a year-long class; the curriculum will focus on Ballet, Jazz, and Contemporary/Modern with a fall and spring performance.

- **Advanced/Performance Dance**: (predominantly dance majors) offered as a year-long class; the curriculum will focus on Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary/Modern, and Hip-Hop with an emphasis on performance. Advanced dance will have numerous opportunities to perform throughout the school year which will include, but are not limited to, a fall and spring show.

- Year-long dance classes count as the required physical education classes.

**Dance Major Academy Requirements**

___ Enroll in the year-long dance class (preferably Advanced/Performance Dance)
___ Attend two Fine Art performances (other than performances in which you are performing in) each semester
___ Perform in both dance productions (1 each semester) as well as the Musical Theatre Production
___ Optional performance in 1 or 2 Crockett Dance opportunities
___ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in dance.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Dance Faculty:

Mohneesha Washington, Dance Director
512-841-3660 - mohneesha.washington@austinisd.org
Digital Arts & Media

The Digital Arts and Media program is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of digital media creation, then develop skill in creative applications, based on individual performance. The program is divided into three sections, each complimenting the other. The program aims to enhance computer literacy, to analyze current and emerging technologies, and to challenge the student to produce unique, creative multimedia projects. Each course offers students the opportunity to develop as an artist while participating in the shared experience of film production.

The Covington Digital Arts and Media program offers the following courses:

6th grade: Graphic Design
7th & 8th grade: Graphic Design
Graphic Design Yearbook
Multimedia and Animation I (Focus on Animation)
Multimedia and Animation II (Focus on Video Production)
Video Game Design

Digital Arts & Media Major Academy Requirements

_____ Semester-long course in 6th grade. Year-long course in 7th and 8th grades.
_____ Participation in at least one annual event: Jr. VASE, ATPI competition, Digital Arts and Media Festival (AISD).
_____ Attend at least two activities (performances, exhibits, etc) outside of your primary strand.
_____ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Digital Arts classes.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Digital Arts & Media Faculty:

Jeffrey Bryan, Multimedia/Animation/Video Game Design Instructor
512-841-3276 - jeffrey.bryan@austinisd.org
Orchestra

Website: www.covingtoncolts.org

The Covington Fine Arts Academy Orchestra program is an award-winning program with a long history of excellence. Academy orchestra majors are required to be in one of the orchestra ensembles each year, as well as to perform as a soloist and chamber musician.

Fine Arts Academy musicians have many opportunities to perform. The Orchestra receives support from the Austin Chamber Music Center, which provides weekly coaching for students in chamber ensembles. In addition, students work closely with the Crockett orchestra directors who visit often to clinic individuals and small groups.

Orchestra Classes

The following classes are available to Orchestra students:

- **Covington Symphony Orchestra**—Entry into this orchestra is by audition only. This ensemble serves as our Varsity Orchestra in all competitions and represents the Orchestra program at Covington at all showcases and other Fine Arts academy events.
- **Covington Concert Orchestra**—This orchestra is made up of students with at least one year of playing experience. It is the Non-Varsity Orchestra at all competitions.
- **Covington Beginning Orchestra**—This orchestra is for beginners and no music experience is needed. This class provides the foundation for all of the other orchestras.
- **Instrumental Ensemble**—These semester long classes are designed to supplement the Intermediate or Advanced Orchestra and are open to violin, viola, cello and bass. The focus in each class will be alternative styles and students will have the opportunity to perform at more casual venues.

**Orchestra Major Academy Requirements**

- **Perform a solo at Orchestra Solo and Ensemble each year**
- **Audition for TMEA Region Orchestra during 8th grade year**
- **Attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing in) each semester**
- **Perform in the Spring Fine Arts Academy recital**
- **Participation in the scheduled concerts and extra rehearsals**
- **Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Orchestra**

**Recommendations**

- Private lesson enrollment
- Daily practice
- Austin Youth Orchestra participation

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call:

Kelsey Nussbaum, Orchestra Director
512-841-3724 - kelsey.nussbaum@austinisd.org
Theatre Arts

Website: www.covingtoncolts.org

The Theatre at Covington Fine Arts Academy is a 3-year high school preparatory program in the arts. We emphasize creating a well-rounded student artist who feels comfortable in their own skin, and has confidence in their creative abilities. The performance and problem solving skills students learn in theatre help them not only in the performance sphere but in every aspect of business, education, leadership, and community service. As Stella Adler once reflected, "The theatre was created to tell people the truth about life and the social situation." The tools learned in theatre can help students change their reality.

Theatre offerings are broken down into semester-long beginning classes, and year-long intermediate and advanced production classes. Students majoring in theatre will be leveled by ability based on their audition. All other incoming students at Covington will start with a beginning course and work their way up as their ability level dictates.

As a department we produce at least two one-act mainstage shows each year, as well as one or more school-wide musicals. We also represent Covington at the spring AISD drama festival and the AISD Fall One Act Play Festival where students compete in individual and small group performances. These opportunities are supplemented by class-created performances of monologues and scenes to build their audition repertoire and experience level. The stage is our laboratory for students to practice the skills they learn in class every day and the results are outstanding!

Theatre Arts Major Academy Requirements

___ Semester-long course in 6th grade. Year-long course in 7th and 8th grades.
___ Attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing in) each semester
___ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Theatre Arts
___ Other specific expectations articulated in class syllabi, guidelines, and grading rubrics throughout the semester

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Theatre Arts Faculty:

Randall Krawl, Theatre Director
512-841-3678 - randall.krawl@austinisd.org
Visual Art

Website: www.covingtoncolts.org

The Visual Arts Program at Covington Fine Arts Academy focuses on the development of technical skills in a variety of media. In the art program, students will learn new techniques and sharpen their skills while exploring artists and art history. Areas of visual art studies are: drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, screenprinting, 2D/3D design, sculpture and found art.

Visual Arts Classes

- **Art MS 1** — is offered as a semester-long class, and is open to 6th grade students.
- **Art MS 2** — is offered as a year-long class, and is open to 7th grade students.
- **Art MS 3** — is offered as a year-long class, and is open to 8th grade students.

Visual Arts Major Academy Requirements

___ Participate in middle school Visual Arts Scholastic Event (Jr. VaSE) each year
___ Attend at least two activities (performances, exhibits, etc) outside of your primary strand
___ Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Visual Arts
___ Semester-long course in 6th grade. Year-long course in 7th and 8th grades.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Visual Arts Faculty:

**Dawn Piper**, Art Teacher, 512-841-3680
dpiper@austinisd.org
Vocal Music

Website:  www.covingtoncolts.org

There are many opportunities to participate in vocal music at the Covington Fine Arts Academy. The following courses are offered for vocal majors:

**Men’s Choir**
This is an audition-only group consisting of 7th and 8th grade boys, which will have a focus in repertoire, vocal and choral technique, while continuing their curriculum from the Beginning Choir. This group also participates in other "gigs" that surface throughout the year; i.e. Christmas caroling, local events, nursing homes, National Anthem performances for athletic events, etc. The students will perform in at least five scheduled concerts including the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, school assemblies, UIL. They also have the opportunity to participate in the All-City Choral Festival as well as a winter performance for Covington’s feeder elementary schools.

**Varsity Treble and Intermediate Treble Choir**
These choirs consists of a select group of 7th and 8th grade girls selected through an audition process during the previous year. These students will work on advanced repertoire and choral technique. They will perform in at least five scheduled concerts including the fall concert, winter concert, school assemblies, and UIL. This group also participates in other "gigs" that surface throughout the year; i.e. local events, nursing homes, National Anthem performances for athletic events, etc. They also have the opportunity to participate in the All-City Choral Festival as well as a winter performance for Covington’s feeder elementary schools.

**Pop! - Beginning Choir**
Consisting of 6th grade males and females, this choir will have a focus in repertoire, vocal and choral technique, and music theory. These students have the opportunity to participate in the All-City Choral Festival, and Solo and Ensemble competition. The students will perform in at least three scheduled concerts including the Fall Concert, and Winter Concert.

**Vocal Arts Major Academy Requirements**

- Perform an accompanied solo at Choir UIL Solo and Ensemble (7th and 8th grade years)
- Audition for TMEA Region Choir (7th and 8th grade years)
- Attend two Fine Art performances (other than those in which you are performing in) each semester
- Maintain passing grades in all subjects and at least a B average in Vocal Arts
- Enroll in 2 years of advanced treble or tenor/bass choir in 7th and 8th grade years.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Covington Vocal Arts Faculty:

**Carol Hopkins**, Choir Director, 512-414-5398
chopkins@austinisd.org
A Fine Arts Academy student may be removed from the Fine Arts Academy for one or more of the following reasons:

- Lack of academic achievement
- Excessive absences/truancy issues
- Failure to abide by student code of conduct
- Failure to meet the requirements of the fine arts strand in which the student is a major

1. **PROBATION:** CMSFAA Advisor must inform student that he/she is failing to meet one or more of the above requirements to remain in the fine arts academy during the week after report cards are issued (or during week of return from semester break). The probationary letter will be signed by Ruth Lim or Dawn Piper, strand Advisor, student, and parent and will describe the conditions and remediation during the probationary period (PROBATIONARY LETTER WILL BE PROVIDED BY FINE ARTS ACADEMY OFFICE).

2. **WARNING:** Ruth Lim or Dawn Piper, strand Advisor, and counselor will meet with the student and parent to warn that student is in danger of removal from the Academy at least six weeks before the end of the semester. When parent/guardian is contacted, a time is set to meet in person or parent may waive the right to meet in person and receive information by phone conversation and/or email. Parent is informed of the period of time of probation.

3. **NOTIFICATION:** Ruth Lim or Dawn Piper and campus administrator will meet with the parent to present the letter of removal. Removal will be effective as of the first day of the following semester.

If the parent fails to attend the above meeting(s), the campus must reschedule for a later date agreed upon by both parties and not to exceed five school days. Failure of the parent to attend the rescheduled meeting waives the parent's right to participate in that meeting allowing the campus to proceed without the parent. The parent will be sent a copy of any documentation presented at the meeting.

**If the student is a transfer to CMSFAA and are removed from the FAA, they will be sent back to their home school beginning the next semester without the opportunity to reapply for the CMSFAA.**

Note: Steps not included in this document but helpful in the removal process are the CMSFAA Advisor and counselor's interventions such as documented communications with the home that could lead to probation for removal. These interventions must include documented conference(s) with the student, parent, counselor and Fine Arts Academy representatives.
Fine Arts Academy important dates for applying for the 2015 - 2016 school year are:

• November 14, 2014 - Application can be downloaded through Covington's website.

• December 5, 2014 - Covington Open House: 9:00am - 11:00am (You may want to use this opportunity to visit Covington in lieu of shadowing. Students qualified to audition will be notified of shadowing opportunities on January 30th.

• December 5, 2014 - Encore Performance Fine Arts Extravaganza, 6:00pm in the theatre.

• December 6, 2014 - CMS FAA application/audition workshop. 1:00pm - 3:00pm in the Covington Fine Arts building. (Receive guidance on application and audition process.)

• December 12, 2014 - Deadline for submitting CMS FAA application. (Including essay, copies of report card, standardized test results and teacher recommendations.)

• Campus tours to take place during the month of January and February. Dates will be posted on the school website.

• January 6, 2015 - CMSFAA will notify applicants indicating audition advancement time.

• January 17, 2015 - Auditions at Covington (9:00am - 3:00pm) in the Covington Fine Arts building.

• January 30, 2015 - Qualified students will be notified of shadowing opportunity, and shadow dates will be posted.

• February 6, 2015 - Shadow Request form due to Covington MSFAA

• March 6, 2015 - Letters sent out notifying students selected for admittance.

• March 27, 2015 - Deadline for students to notify CMS FAA of acceptance.
Audition Information

Students selected to audition for the FAA, will be notified by email the week of January 6, 2015. Auditions will be conducted Saturday, January 17, 2015 in the Covington Fine Arts building. Students unable to audition on the 17th may schedule their auditions with Dawn Piper or Ruth Lim.

Art Portfolio Requirements

**Art Portfolio**: Bring a minimum of 5 – 8 current pieces of art including:

- Examples of your work including 2D (drawings and/or paintings) and/or 3D (sculpture, mobiles, pottery, etc.)
- 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, a still life using objects from nature (such as leaves, pine-cones, shells), draw a landscape (your backyard, your house) and/or figure drawings.
- Auditions will include an interview and an impromptu drawing. At the audition, your portfolio samples will be placed on a table and photographed for later examination by the visual arts teachers.

Digital Arts and Media Portfolio

Students are encouraged to submit current digital media work. This can include work you have produced or a project on which you worked.

- Examples of work may be: a film, photographs, an animation project, a digital collage, etc. Please limit submissions to five works. Place submissions on a thumb drive and bring to interview.

We will be able to view work samples developed using the following programs. Bring your own device if you are using a different application.

- iMovie
- Adobe Premier
- Adobe Photoshop
- Final Cut Pro
- Adobe Flash
- ProTools
- Garage Band
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). Students who already play a band instrument must bring their instrument and two copies of the music to be performed. The audition panel will pick from the following scales: C Concert, F Concert, B Flat Concert, E Flat Concert, A Flat Concert, D Flat Concert and the Chromatic Scale. Band students will perform the solo on page 36 of the Standard of Excellence Book I (or a solo performed at your Solo and Ensemble Contest); percussionist should prepare a Mallet and Snare Drum solo from a method book (please provide copies during your audition). This audition is separate from the Symphonic Winds/Symphonic Band audition, which occurs at the end of the school year.

**Classical Guitar:** Students are asked to bring 2 copies of a solo or etude that showcase the student's talent and musicianship. Students will also be asked to perform short sightreading examples.

**Orchestra:** Instrumentalists who audition for orchestra must bring their instrument and two copies of the music and perform a prepared solo. It is not necessary to memorize the solo. Scales and sight-reading may be part of the audition. Your UIL solo or music you have prepared with your private instructor are excellent choices of audition material.

**Vocal:** Incoming 7th and 8th grade students auditioning for the Vocal Major will be asked to sing the first verse of "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)". Sheet music and practice tracks can be found at www.covingtoncolts.com. Further, students will be asked to sight-read an 8-measure excerpt of music. 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 (using solfege) for a chance at being placed in an intermediate/advanced choir.

Dance Auditions

Auditions will consist of a workshop in which the dance director will lead auditioning students through a piece of choreography to be performed later in small groups. In addition to the taught choreography, students should come prepared with a solo to perform; no less than 45 seconds and no shorter than 60 seconds. Dancers may choose whatever style of dance and music (school appropriate) to perform for their solo. Following each performance, the director will conduct a short interview with candidates in order to gauge student commitment and prior experience. The workshop should last around 2 hours depending on the number of students auditioning. Students should come wearing ALL BLACK, preferably dance attire, with hair pulled back out of the face.

- Part 1: Director taught choreography and small group performance
- Part 2: Solos (45-60 seconds in length)
- Part 3: Interview
Theatre Arts Auditions

Auditions will consist of a workshop in which the theatre teacher will lead auditioning students through various exercises and theatrical games, as well as a cold reading and a brief interview with the student. The workshop allows the teacher to gauge a student’s level of comfort working with a group or in front of one, as well as their level of creativity and ability to think outside the box. The workshop should last around 2 hours depending on the number of students auditioning.

Part 1: Theatre Exercises
Part 2: Memorized monologue (options provided by teacher at the January 25 workshop)
Part 3: Cold reading/partner scene
Part 4: Brief interview
FAA Application (1 of 5)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please submit the following items in the order listed. DO NOT STAPLE. Use a paperclip.

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

or Email to:
dawn.piper@austinisd.org

_____ Application (5 pages)
_____ Handwritten essay (250 word minimum) – WE ACCEPT ESSAYS FROM OTHER MAGNET APPLICATIONS
_____ Last year's report card
_____ Current year's report card
_____ Most recent STAAR test scores (other standardized test scores if STAAR is not available)
_____ Fine Arts Teacher recommendation form (to be submitted by teacher)
_____ Math teacher recommendation form (to be submitted by teacher) WE WILL ACCEPT TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS USED FOR MAGNET APPLICATIONS (Ann Richards, Fulmore and Kealing)
_____ English teacher recommendation form (to be submitted by teacher) WE WILL ACCEPT TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS USED FOR MAGNET APPLICATIONS (Ann Richards, Fulmore and Kealing)
_____ Shadowing Request form (optional)

* Do not submit portfolios with application. They will be requested if you are selected for an interview/audition.

All applicants please sign and date below.

Applicant’s Signature   Date

Parent/Guardian Signature   Date
Student Name: ____________________________ Current Grade: ________

(Last Name, First Name)

CMSFAA Application (2 of 5)

Application - Please Print – **Due Date – no later than December 12, 2014**

Applicant Legal name: ____________________________________________

Last            First                          M.I.

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

AISD Student ID#: ____________________________ **OR, if none,** Social Security #: ____________________________

Elementary School Attended: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________ Apt. # __________

City ____________________________ State ________ ZIP __________

Parent/Guardian 1 Name: ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian 2 Name: ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian 1:

Work phone: ____________ Cell Phone: ____________ Email: ____________

Parent/Guardian 2:

Work phone: ____________ Cell Phone: ____________ Email: ____________

Is your home address in the Covington attendance zone? _____YES     _____NO

Will you be requesting a transfer to Covington through the Fine Arts Academy? _____YES     _____NO

Students that can attend Covington through a priority transfer should secure that transfer during the January transfer window. Those students trying to attend Covington through a Fine Arts Academy transfer must complete the Fine Arts Academy application process and be accepted to the Fine Arts Academy. The Fine Arts Academy application process takes the place of the district general or curriculum transfer process. All Fine Arts Academy students will be notified of their acceptance/denial into the Fine Arts Academy by March 6, 2015.

**Fine Arts Discipline of Interest (May apply for up to two strands – but can only major in one):**

_____Band  _____Choir  _____Classical Guitar  _____Dance  _____Digital Arts & Media

_____Orchestra  _____Theatre Arts  _____Visual Arts

*** We will accept written essays from applications for Ann Richards, Fulmore and Kealing magnets – please respond to questions on pages 20, 21 and 22 of this application to your packet***

Respond to each of the following (attach additional pages when necessary):

Attach a handwritten essay of approximately 250 words describing some of your personal traits and 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.
Previous Fine Arts Experiences:

(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)

Choral Music (Choir)

1. List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples - summer choir camp, Conspirare Childrens Choir, Austin Lyric Opera, 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) -
Student Name: ____________________________________________ Current Grade: ________
(Last Name, First Name)

CMSFAA Application (4 of 5)

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. Please check each media below that you have had experience with:
   ___ Drawing – for how long? ______________
   ___ Painting – for how long? ______________
   ___ Ceramics – for how long? ______________
   ___ Print making – for how long? __________
   ___ Screen printing – for how long? _________
   ___ 2D/3D Design – for how long? __________
   ___ Sculpture – for how long? ______________
   ___ Found Art – for how long? _____________

2. 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.

3. Recognitions/Awards (what and when) -
Digital Arts & Media

1. Please check each software below that you have had experience with:
   ___ iMovie – for how long? ________________
   ___ Adobe Premier – for how long? ____________
   ___ Adobe Photoshop – for how long? ____________
   ___ Final Cut Pro – for how long? ____________
   ___ Adobe Flash – for how long? ____________
   ___ Avid Media Composer – for how long? ____
   ___ ProTools – for how long? _________________
   ___ Garage Band – for how long? _______________
   ___ Other _____________________ – for how long? ________________

2. 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.

3. Recognitions/Awards (what and when)

List any academic recognition or awards (what and when)
Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy
Shadowing Request 2015-2016

SUBMIT THIS REQUEST WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION BY February 6, 2015

Students applying to the Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy may visit Covington for an approved Shadow Day. Current 5th graders will each be paired with a 6th grade student host and accompany (shadow) that student to each of her/his classes. Current 6th graders will be paired with a 7th grader and current 7th graders with an 8th grader. If you feel that such a visit would help you in your decision process, send this form with your completed application no later than February 6, 2015 to:

Covington Middle School Fine Arts Academy
ATTN: Dawn Piper
3700 Convict Hill Rd., Austin, TX 78749

For the most prompt response, please include an email address (print clearly), so that we may notify you of your assigned shadowing date. If you don't check emails daily, provide a phone number where a parent can be reached during the day and evening. The sooner a completed application is received, the sooner you will be placed for shadowing. Please note that if you cancel or forget to come, we cannot guarantee that you will be rescheduled.

Shadowing will be offered during the month of February. To be scheduled for a visit, students must have a completed application on file in the CMSFAA office by February 6, 2015. In order to maintain the learning atmosphere that students are coming to see, we limit the number of visitors on any single day. We will fill requests on a first come, first served basis.

You are responsible for making arrangements at your school PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT to Covington Middle School so that you will not be counted absent. The CMSFAA office will give you a letter verifying the day spent at Covington Middle School.

Si necesita esta informacion en Espanol, por favor comuniqués con Ruth Lim o Dawn Piper al 512-414-5397

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE COVINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH THE COMPLETED APPLICATION

Date(s) during the month of February 2015 when you cannot shadow at Covington __________________________________________

Student Name: ___________________________________________ Gender: Female Male

Current school: __________________________________________ Current grade: __________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ___________________________ Day phone # __________________

Email: ___________________________ (if you check email daily) Evening phone # __________________

Mailing address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Do you have a friend at Covington you would like to shadow? (If yes, please put name of the Covington student):

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Fine Arts Strand/interest (circle ONLY one):

Band  Choir  Classical Guitar  Dance  Orchestra  Theatre Arts  Visual Arts  Digital Arts & Media

OR

Would you prefer to concentrate your visit on advanced academic classes and your strand/interest?

YES (Circle if this is your choice)

WE CANNOT CONTACT YOU IF YOUR WRITING IS ILLEGIBLE!
English Teacher Recommendation

Please return AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail to:
Covington Fine Arts Academy Attn: Dawn Piper 3700 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX 78749
or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org

Applicant's Legal Name_________________________________ Student I.D.__________________

Sending School ___________________________________________ Current Grade Level:_____

Course title and level: ___________________________________________ Date:__________

Teacher Print Name__________________________Teacher Signature_______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEHAVIOR &amp; SOCIAL SKILLS</th>
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*Compare this student's social skills with others this age.*

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<td>5. Ability to work independently</td>
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*Compare this student's work ethic to others this age.*

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<td>2. Study skills</td>
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*Describe the student's interest & achievement in academics.*

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<tr>
<th>CREATIVE THINKING</th>
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<tr>
<td>How has this student demonstrated higher level thinking skills?</td>
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In your presence, has this student ever exhibited outbursts, belligerent behavior, foul language, inappropriate behavior, bullying, etc.? YES NO
(Attn Teachers – We will accept other magnet forms for this form)

Math Teacher Recommendation

Please return **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail to:

Covington Fine Arts Academy Attn: Dawn Piper 3700 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX 78749
or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org

Applicant's Legal Name ___________________________________ Student I.D.__________________

Sending School _________________________________________ Current Grade Level____

Course title and level ____________________________________ Date__________

Teacher Print Name ______________________________________ Teacher Signature_______________________

**BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS**

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*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**

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**ACADEMICS**

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<td>2. Math study skills</td>
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*Describe the student's interest & achievement in academics.*

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

Please return **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** by fax (512-892-4547) or AISD campus mail or U.S. mail to:
Covington Fine Arts Academy Attn: Dawn Piper 3700 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX 78749
or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org

Applicant’s Legal Name _____________________________ Student I.D. __________________

Sending School __________________________________ Current Grade Level: ______

Course title and level: _____________________________ Date: ______

Teacher Print Name ____________________________ Teacher Signature_____________________

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*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

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<td>3. Music reading ability</td>
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<td>4. Pitch accuracy/intonation</td>
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*Compare this student’s skill level to others this age.*

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Covington Fine Arts Academy Attn: Dawn Piper 3700 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX 78749
or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org
Theatre Arts Teacher Recommendation Form

Applicant’s Legal Name ___________________________________________ Student I.D. __________________

Sending School ___________________________________________ Current Grade Level: ______

Course title and level: __________________________________________ Date: __________

Teacher Print Name ____________________________ Teacher Signature_____________________

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<td>5. Ability to work independently</td>
<td>_______</td>
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Compare this student’s work ethic to others this age.

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<td>_______</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Analytical skills</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Participation in class</td>
<td>_______</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>_______</td>
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Describe the student’s interest & achievement in academics.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Voice quality</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Characterization</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Facial expression</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Movement</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
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Compare this student’s skill level to others this age.

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Covington Fine Arts Academy Attn: Dawn Piper 3700 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX 78749
or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org
Visual Arts Teacher Recommendation Form

Applicant's Legal Name _______________________________ Student I.D. __________________

Sending School ___________________________________________ Current Grade Level______

Course title and level ______________________________________________  Date__________

Teacher Print Name ____________________________ Teacher Signature_____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cooperative</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Respectful</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Works well with others</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Considerate of peers</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Good tempered</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
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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

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<tr>
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<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pays attention to detail</td>
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Compare this student's work ethic to others this age.

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<tr>
<td>1. Drawing from observation</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shading</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Creativity</td>
<td>___________</td>
<td>___________</td>
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or email to dawn.piper@austinisd.org
Digital Arts & Media Teacher Recommendation Form

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Applicant's Legal Name ___________________________ Student I.D. __________________

Sending School ___________________________________________ Current Grade Level:______

Course title and level: ___________________________________________ Date:__________

Teacher Print Name ___________________________ Teacher Signature_____________________

**BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS**

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

**WORK ETHIC**

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**SOFTWARE FAMILIARITY**

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<tr>
<td>1. iMovie</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adobe Premier</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Adobe Photoshop</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Final Cut Pro</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adobe Flash</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Avid Media Composer</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. ProTools</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Garage Band</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Other_____________</td>
<td>____________</td>
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Dance Teacher Recommendation

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Applicant’s Legal Name ___________________________ Student I.D. __________________

Sending School ___________________________________________ Current Grade Level:_____

Course title and level: _____________________________________________ Date:__________

Teacher Print Name ___________________________ Teacher Signature_______________________

**BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL SKILLS**

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.*

**WORK ETHIC**

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.*