



COVINGTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
FINE ARTS ACADEMY

2024-2025 Prospective Student Application

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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 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	Visual Arts

Application Timeline and Important Dates

October 6, 2023– CMSFAA Handbook and Prospective Student Application available online through Covington’s website (www.covingtoncolts.org)

November 8, 2023 – *Enroll Austin Round One* portal.austinisd.org (must complete Covington FAA Application <https://tinyurl.com/cmsfaa2024> also)

December 9, 2023 – CMSFAA Application Workshop 10am-Noon (Q&A and guidance on application/audition process)

February 6, 2024 – Deadline for submitting applications for 2024-2025 school year (complete applications include: essay, teacher recommendations, report cards, and standardized test results)

February 13, 2024 – CMSFAA will notify qualified applicants their advancement letter indicating advancement to Audition Phase. Students will be contacted with an assigned audition time.

February 17, 2024 – FAA Auditions/Interviews at Covington 9am-3pm.

March 1, 2024 – CMSFAA Decisions Emailed

March 5, 2024 – Enroll Austin Round One results

March 8, 2024 – Deadline for Students to Confirm Attendance at CMSFAA

Audition/Portfolio Information

Students selected to audition for the FAA, **will be notified the week of February 13, 2024.**

Auditions will be conducted on Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Covington

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.

If auditioning for two strands, please prepare audition materials for both strands.

Dance Auditions

Students wishing to enter the dance academy are required to attend two 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: Students should wear ALL BLACK dance attire with hair pulled back out of the face. Dancers will be led through a across the floor warmup, contemporary movement phrase, and a prompt based improvisation.-This will be done in a group setting.

Part 2: Individual Interview with Ms. Murillo.

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: Prospective 5th grade students 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 ♭).

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 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. Consider sharing work from your elementary classes that you enjoyed creating.

We will NOT accept paper applications.

All applications must be completed online. Use this document to plan materials and information needed.

Please complete the **Enroll Austin application found in the portal.**

The Covington FAA Application will need to be completed online at <https://tinyurl.com/cmsfaa2024>

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

AISD Student ID# _____

Student Name _____

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

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 Visual Arts

Please upload a handwritten or typed 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.

Previous Fine Arts Experience (only complete sections for your 1st and 2nd choice strands)
You will complete this online

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.

Digital Arts

List experiences and/or trainings you have participated in (examples – summer camp, private lessons, experience at elementary school, competitions, exhibits) and for how long.

Theatre

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)

Checklist

- Enroll Austin
- AISD ID#
- Covington FAA Application
- Essay (250 word minimum)
- Last year's report card (included in the online Enroll Austin for current AISD students)
- Most recent report card (included in the online Enroll Austin for current AISD students)
- Most recent STAAR test scores or equivalent assessment for Reading and Mathematics if STAAR is not available (included in the online Enroll Austin 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)

This form can be completed at:
<https://tinyurl.com/cmsfaarec>

(AISD Teachers - Please Complete the Online Recommendation Form)

Teacher Recommendation

Please return **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** online or email (ruth.lim@austinisd.org)

Applicant's Legal Name _____ Current Grade Level _____

Teacher Name (Print) _____ Teacher Signature _____

Subject Taught _____ 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: