



Mitchell Fine Arts



2017-2018

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Fine Arts Information

On April 24, you will experience a unique opportunity at Mitchell Intermediate School. You will attend the Mitchell 4th Grade Orientation. At this event we will be showcasing all of our wonderful Fine Arts classes. You will hear from the Art/Music teachers who will give you information about all the fun activities you will experience in their classes. You will also see the Mitchell Honor Band and Chamber Orchestra perform to learn which instruments are taught in

band or orchestra. In addition, the Mitchell Chorale will perform for you. The Choir program at Mitchell is an extracurricular activity (before school). Therefore, you may choose to participate in choir regardless of whether you choose to participate in Band, Orchestra, or Art/Music during your Fine Arts period.

Due to scheduling issues, these selections cannot be changed during the school year.

5th Grade Options:

- Art and Music
- Band
- Orchestra



Questions? If you have questions about any program, please feel free to contact any of the staff.

Check out these web sites:

Art— <http://mitchell.conroeisd.net/Teachers/dgannon/>

<http://mitchell.conroeisd.net/Teachers/amurray/>

Band—<http://mitchell.conroeisd.net/Teachers/mhicks/>

Choir/Music—<http://mitchell.conroeisd.net/Teachers/clowry/choir>

Orchestra—<http://mitchell.conroeisd.net/Teachers/smcmahon>

Art:

Daryl Gannon (dgannon@conroeisd.net)

April Murray (amurray@conroeisd.net)

Band:

Randy Veazey (rveazey@conroeisd.net)

Ralph Hicks (rhicks@conroeisd.net)

Marcail Hicks (mhicks@conroeisd.net)

Choir/Music

Cyndie Lowry (clowry@conroeisd.net)

Carolyn O'Rourke (corourke@conroeisd.net)

Orchestra

Dr. Sheronna McMahan
(smcmahon@conroeisd.net)



Art/Music FAQ

How do students rotate in Art and Music?

Students in Art/Music will meet with their Fine Arts class daily. Each student will have Art for two quarters and Music for two quarters.



How will my child benefit by taking Art/Music?

Students in the Art/Music elective get the dual benefit of art/music appreciation and participation. Students will be exposed to the works of masters of Western (and some non-Western) art and music, becoming familiar with their names and styles, as students build their own stockpile of cultural knowledge! Students will also get to experience the joy and release of making both music and art, discovering and building interests that can last a lifetime either as a vocation or hobby, both independently and with others. They will come to recognize the satisfaction to be gained by making something with their own two hands and by hearing their voices joined with others to make something more grand

than they could make alone. They will learn how to join with others in sometimes creating something new, either in art or song, in sharing their ideas with others, and in discussing and evaluating works of visual and musical art. In music and art, we offer “soul food”, sustenance, recognition and expression for the place in each of us for which there sometimes are no words.

How will Art/Music in 5th/6th grade be different than in elementary school? How will it be the same?

Students at Mitchell will still have the opportunity to work with some of the art materials that they have already learned to love, like paper mache, paint, colored pencils and pastels, cut paper, printmaking, fiber...too many to list them all! However, fifth and sixth grade students are a little more grown up than in elementary school, so the projects we do will be, too. Rather than drawing their portraits, we may create them out of paper mache! It is our goal to introduce students to new experiences, ideas, mediums and WAYS of SEEING. We will build upon the vocabulary learned in elementary school and prepare you to be successful in art in junior high and beyond with a working knowledge and understanding of the Elements and Principles of Design, as well as color theory and the vocabulary of different media.

Music students will continue their studies of folk music, learn to read and write musical notation, dance, sing and play instruments.

As with all the Fine Arts electives at Mitchell, you will receive a numerical grade just like any other class. We believe EVERYONE can be successful and we are eager to help you attain that goal. Grades are derived from a combination of class work and participation. We grade on both the process and the finished product. You will be given the framework of criteria to meet and directions to follow as you create your own solution to each project.

As in elementary school, we participate in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show, Central Office Art Show and Youth Art Month Library Show. We also send student work to the Capitol Art Show, PBK Architects' Calendar contest, Texas Art Education Association TEAM contest, as well as others that come up during the year.



Choir Information

The Mitchell Choir program is extra-curricular for the fifth grade and rehearses every Monday and Wednesday from 7:45 – 8:30 am. Sixth Grade Choir will meet during the school day during Fine Arts blocks. The Mitchell Chorale is an auditioned choir consisting of both fifth and sixth graders. The auditions are held in early September. The students selected for the Mitchell Chorale will meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45-8:30 a.m. Each year members of the choir program perform three concerts and participate in a local choral festival. Sixth Grade choir members have the opportunity to participate in the CISD Solo Contest. All members of the Choir program may also audition for the CISD Intermediate Honor Choir.

Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra) FAQ

Can my child register for band or orchestra if they've not had any musical lessons?

The majority of students who start an instrument in the fifth grade have never played an instrument before. We welcome everyone. The fifth grade band/orchestra programs are beginning instrumental programs, so it is best to begin in the fifth grade year.

Why does my child need to attend Instrument Evaluation?

The directors have many years of experience helping children find just the right instrument. Allow the professionals to help guide your child to the instrument in which they will be most successful.

What is the cost involved?

Instruments can be rented or purchased through local music stores. In addition, band and orchestra students will need to purchase a shirt which is usually around \$10. They will also need supplies for maintaining their instrument. Most stores include these with your original purchase or rental. Some are disposable and need to be replenished as they are used up. Orchestra students need to purchase a rock stop or shoulder rest which run between \$10-\$40 and, unless lost, is a one time purchase. Trumpets will need valve oil about every 1 1/2 to 2 months. This runs about \$4-5 a bottle. Trombones will need slide cream every

three or four months. This runs about \$5 a tube. Clarinets and saxophones need to purchase a box of reeds about every 1 1/2 to 2 months. Depending on the instrument, boxes generally run between \$20 and \$30.

What instruments are offered?

The instruments taught in orchestra are: violin, viola, and cello. In band, the fifth grade choices are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion (mallets and drums).

How do students decide what to play in orchestra?

The stringed orchestra instruments come in all different sizes, so students simply select the instrument they would like to play. Once the students have selected an instrument, the orchestra director (or possibly the assistant at the store where it was purchased/rented) will determine what size instrument needs to be rented or purchased. **Please do not purchase orchestra instruments over the internet – the local music stores carry instruments that are properly set up for beginning students.**

How do students decide what to play in band?

At the instrument evaluation night the directors will look at physical characteristics such as teeth and

mouth formation and finger coordination. The band's instrumental needs will be considered to find the best choice for the students. We want the child to be interested in their instrument but also have the potential to be successful. Please note that the saxophone and percussion classes have very limited numbers. Soon after the evaluation nights, we will send a letter/email indicating their instrument selection and can then begin obtaining that instrument for the start of the new school year.

Please do not purchase any equipment before receiving this letter/email.

What will it cost in time?

All instrumental programs require practice time outside the class day to hone their new musical skills. Playing an instrument is a physical activity that is impossible to achieve without practicing at home. This practice time is part of the student's grade. Remember, "the more you put in, the more you'll get out." Other than practice time, we have two concerts a year and solo/ensemble events that require time outside the school day.

For more information, please check out the band and/or orchestra web sites.

It is best to start instrumental music in the 5th grade since there is not a beginner band or orchestra for 6th graders.

To be successful, both band and orchestra students have to practice outside of the school day. This extra practice is required.

DON'T MISS THE INSTRUMENTAL EVALUATION NIGHTS

All evaluations will take place at Mitchell Intermediate School from 5:00-7:30 PM. All fourth grade students interested in playing in band or orchestra need to attend one of these evaluations along with their parents. Please enter the building via the Commons (cafeteria) and follow the signs to the instrument you are most interested in learning to play. In order to try to make the evaluations more efficient, we ask for last names beginning with A-L to come May 15 and M-Z on May 16. Percussion and saxophone auditions will be held on May 22. Students must attend either the May 15 or 16 audition to be considered for percussion or saxophone. If there is a conflict with these dates, please contact Ralph Hicks at rhicks@conroeisd.net. The evaluation nights attract many visitors. We recommend only the 4th grader and a parent attend.

These evaluations will take place on May 15 (last names A-L) and May 16 (last names M-Z). All instrument choices are available both nights. Percussion and saxophone are only on May 22 as long as you attended one of the other audition nights.

Saxophone and percussion classes are very limited. Students interested in one of these instruments MUST attend one of the two evaluation nights.