



Mitchell Intermediate Fine Arts

2024-2025



Mitchell parents have many choices of districts and schools in which to enroll their child. However, few districts support the fine arts programs like Conroe ISD. We are blessed to offer exceptional programs and are very lucky to have talented educators who love teaching their passion.

On April 2, your child will experience a unique opportunity at Mitchell Intermediate School. All 4th Graders will attend the Mitchell 4th Grade Orientation where we will showcase our wonderful fine arts classes. 4th graders will hear from the **Art & Music, Band, and Orchestra** teachers about instrument options for each class and what the class entails. In addition, they will hear about the extra-curricular choir program that rehearses before school. Due to scheduling changes, these choices cannot be changed once the school year has begun. After your child visits Mitchell Intermediate School, the Band and Orchestra directors will visit each elementary campus to demonstrate instruments and answer questions.

Art & Music is one rotating course similar to what students have experienced at their current elementary school. Students choosing Art & Music will spend one quarter (9-weeks) in alternating classes (ex. 1st Quarter-Art, 2nd Quarter-Music, 3rd Quarter-Art, 4th Quarter-Music). Course content and activities will be a continuation of what students experienced at their elementary school. Students in this rotation will be exposed to various styles of music and art to evaluate, create, and explore. Feel free to reach out to one of the teachers if you have questions.

Julie Stobbe (Music/Choir) | jstobbe@conroeisd.net **Sara Adcock** (Music/Choir) | sadcock@conroeisd.net

April Murray (Art) | amurray@conroeisd.net; **Leigh Ann Vadala** (Art) | lvadala@conroeisd.net

Choir is an extracurricular activity offered in 5th and 6th grade. Mixed Choir is composed of 5th & 6th graders (singers and instrumentalists). They rehearse every Monday & Wednesday from 7:40-8:40 AM. The Mitchell Chorale is an auditioned choir consisting of both 5th & 6th graders (singer & instrumentalists). The Mitchell Chorale meets Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 7:40-8:40 AM. Auditions are held in early September. In 6th grade, Choir is a fine arts option during the Fine Arts block for students that are in Art/Music in 5th grade. All choir members will perform two concerts and participate in a spring choral festival.

Julie Stobbe (Music/Choir) | jstobbe@conroeisd.net **Sara Adcock** (Music/Choir) | sadcock@conroeisd.net

Band is a performance-based class where students learn how to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Fifth graders can choose from Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba, and Percussion. Fifth Grade Band students will perform two concerts. The following is basic information about what the band program entails. More detailed information will be provided to parents after initial selections. Please do not seek out private lessons or instruments until receiving information from the band directors in April/May.

What to expect: Students will need to rent an instrument; this can cost between \$35-\$75/month, depending on the instrument. Extra equipment will need to be purchased every couple of months and will cost between \$5-\$30, depending on the instrument. We have an annual \$35 Band Maintenance Fee to cover materials, instrument repair, etc.

Due to the popularity of **Percussion and Saxophone**, students interested in these instruments must complete two separate evaluations to determine 2nd/3rd choice instruments and potential success factors. Not every student completing percussion or saxophone evaluations will be selected for these instruments in order to maintain balance in the program. Feel free to reach out to one of the directions if you have questions.

Jason Harvey (Brass) | jharvey@conroeisd.net **Marcail Hicks** (Woodwinds) | mhicks@conroeisd.net

Jack McQueen (Percussion) | jbmqueen@conroeisd.net

Orchestra is a performance-based class where students learn how to play string instruments. Fifth graders can choose from Bass, Cello, Viola, or Violin and will perform two concerts, one in the Fall & one in the Spring. The following is basic information about what the Orchestra program entails. More detailed information will be provided to parents after initial selections. Please do not seek out private lessons or instruments until receiving information from the orchestra directors in April/May.

What to expect: Students will need to rent an instrument, this can cost between \$20-\$70/month depending on the instrument. Extra accessories will cost between \$10-\$40 depending on the instrument. We have an annual \$60 Orchestra Activity Fee to cover the cost of classroom equipment, activities, and provided materials for students. The Orchestra Activity Fee includes a polo shirt and tuner for incoming 5th graders.

Sizing: All string instruments come in fractional sizes, meaning any student can play any instrument, large or small. Recommended rental shops will trade out instruments for larger sizes as your child grows. Even the smallest children can play the larger instruments. Orchestra students will complete a sizing evaluation at the Instrument Evaluation Day on April 27th, but are able to choose any instrument. Feel free to reach out to one of the directors if you have questions.

Izayah Gomez | eigomez@conroeisd.net

Kalista Kresta | kjnguyen@conroeisd.net

Fine Arts FAQs

- **Can I take Art all year?**
 - Art is not offered as an individual class. Students who choose Art & Music will rotate through each of the four Art & Music teachers each quarter.
- **Can I participate in Choir and Band/Orchestra?**
 - Yes; both 5th and 6th grade students can participate in Band or Orchestra during school and Choir before school.
- **What is the difference between Band and Orchestra?**
 - Band teaches **woodwind** (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, oboe bassoon), **brass** (trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba), and **percussion** instruments. Orchestra teaches **string** instruments (bass, cello, viola, and violin).
- **How do I decide which instrument to play?**
 - All 4th graders will visit Mitchell Intermediate School for the 4th grade orientation on April 2nd. This will be an introduction to each fine arts program at Mitchell.
 - Then, band and orchestra directors will visit each elementary school to demonstrate individual instruments and give more detailed information about each option.
 - Finally, students interested in playing an instrument will attend Instrument Evaluation & Selection day at Mitchell on April 27th. Here, they will have the opportunity to try each instrument and discuss their options with the directors. More information on this will be provided soon.
- **Can I purchase an instrument over the internet?**
 - Local music stores stock recommended models/brands based on our supply list. It is NOT advised to purchase over the internet unless you have consulted with a private instructor or director.
- **What is the time commitment for Band or Orchestra?**
 - All instrumental programs require practice time in addition to the daily band or orchestra class to hone their new musical skills. Playing an instrument is a physical activity that requires developing commonly unused muscles through daily individual practice as you would for any sport. This practice time contributes to the student's grade. Remember, "the more you put in, the more you'll get out."
 - Band and Orchestra will perform two concerts in 5th & 6th Grade.
- **Do I have to attend the Instrument Evaluation & Selection April 27th?**
 - If you are interested in playing an instrument in Band or Orchestra, you need to attend Instrument Evaluation & Selection on April 27th. If you cannot attend, please contact the appropriate director to schedule an alternate time.