



Fine Arts Update to the MISD School Board August 2026

"The arts are an essential element of education, ... music, dance, theater, and art are keys that unlock potential in every child."

— William Bennett (Former U.S. Secretary of Education)

On behalf of the students and staff of Midway ISD Fine Arts, I would like to thank the MISD School Board and Administration for their continued support of arts education. The support for the arts in MISD is both essential and transformative and we are proud to be a part of a team that values arts education as an important piece of educating the whole child.

The MISD Fine Arts department impacts many students as MISD provides exceptional teaching in numerous fine arts disciplines. Fine Arts courses provide TEKS based instruction that align with state requirements. We are exceptionally proud that Midway ISD provides a full range of fine arts offerings. As we grow, we will strive to keep our offerings numerous and our contact minutes as high as possible.

Due to MISD's ongoing commitment to excellence, we have, once again, received the National Association of Music Merchants Best Communities for Music Education Designation.

Overview of MISD Fine Arts Courses

Elementary Grades

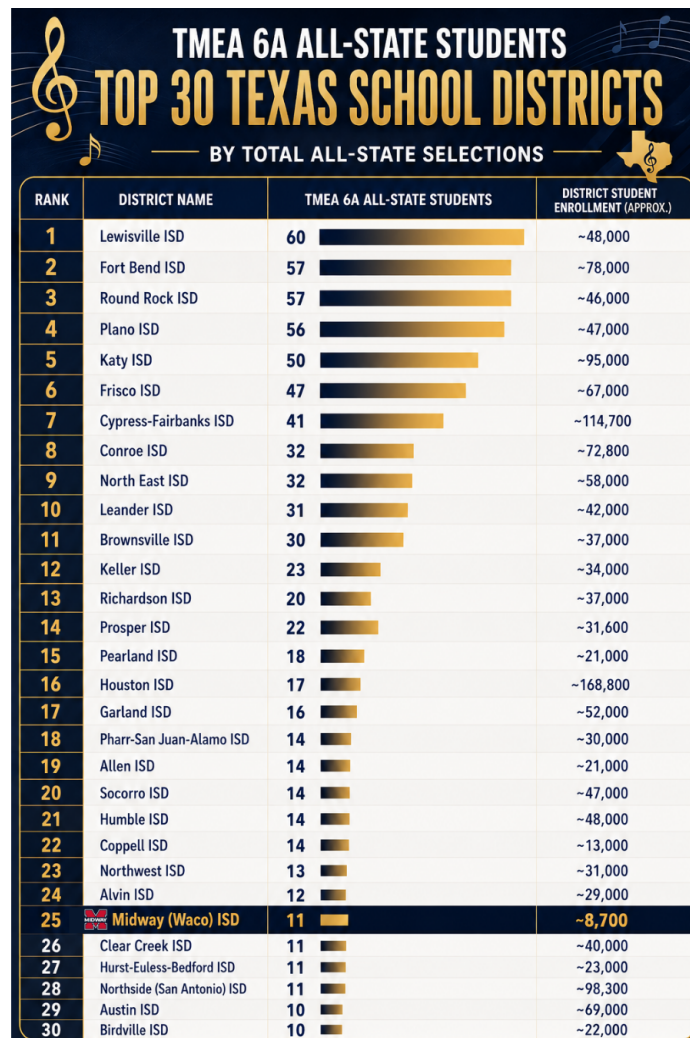
- Art and Music for 100% of our elementary students.
- We provide art and music to every elementary student for approximately 45 minutes a week.
- Each teacher serves all students in the school.
- Music and Art are TEKS-based components of the required academic curriculum.
- All elementary campuses have certified music teachers.
- 6 of 8 Elementary campuses have certified art teachers.
 - Moving to 7 of 8 in 2026-2027

Secondary Grades

- Art - Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, 2D and 3D Design, AP Art, Portfolio
- Band - Concert, Marching, Jazz, Color Guard, Applied Music
- Choir - Women's, Men's, Mixed Choir, Applied Music
- Dance - MS Dance, HS Dance, HS Dance 2, Drill Team
- Theatre - Intro to Theatre, Play Production, Technical Theatre, UIL One Act Play, Advanced Theatre
- Orchestra - String Orchestra, Full Orchestra, Applied Music

Fine Arts Major Accomplishments

- 500+ Fine Arts students awarded for individual superior achievement
- NAMM “Best Communities for Music Education”
- UIL One Act Play ranked 3rd Place in the State in the 6A Contest
- State VASE: 6 HS Art Gold Medal Award winners
 - 10 Student Qualified for State- School Record
- Jr. VASE: 4 Platinum Medals
- TMEA HS All-State: 11 members representing Band, Choir and Orchestra.
 - 9 Choir, 1 Band, 1 Orchestra
 - In 2025-2026 TMEA 6A All-State Auditions, [Midway ISD](#) is among the top performers in the state in relation to the size of our district (see below)
- TMEA HS All-Area performers in Band, Choir and Orchestra.
- TMEA All-Region performers in MS Band, MS Choir, MS Orchestra, HS Band, HS Choir and HS Orchestra.
- TMEA Texas Music Scholars awards
- UIL Sweepstakes for HS Marching Band, HS Concert Bands, HS Choirs, HS Orchestras.
- UIL Sweepstakes for MMS and RVMS Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras.
- UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest Outstanding Performer in Choir
- Art Award Winners HOT Rodeo, Waco Young Artists.
- Thespians National Qualifiers in Acting, Stage Management and Film Production
- MISD Showcase of Stars: 7 of the 49 teachers selected for were fine arts staff members



Facilities Use

The Performing Arts Center and High School Theatre continue to serve as our primary venues for performing groups within MISD. MISD is blessed to have professional quality venues for students to showcase their talents and hard work. Due to outstanding community support, many of our departments are splitting or duplicating concerts to allow more parents to attend.

We continue to hold elementary music programs for grades 3,4, 5 in the PAC to handle the outpouring of support and attendance from the parents and community.

MISD Fine Arts Events we hosted in 2025-26

- **175 MISD** Events/Performances/Assemblies in The Performing Arts Center and High School Theatre
- **200+ MISD** rehearsals or preparation days
- Non-MISD Events involving MISD Students:
 - UIL Region Marching Band Contest
 - TMEA MS Band Auditions
 - UIL MS Band C&SR Contest
 - UIL HS Band C&SR Contest
 - UIL MS Choir C&SR Contest
 - UIL HS Choir C&SR Contest
 - UIL One Act Play Clinics
 - UIL 6A OAP Area Competition
 - TMEA Vocal Pre-Area Auditions
 - TMEA Vocal HS Region Clinics /Concerts
 - TMEA Vocal Area Auditions
 - TMEA MS Region Band Auditions
 - Waco Youth Symphony Orchestra

Community Use and facilities rentals:

- Ballet Frontier
- Baylor Dance Company
- Baylor Theater
- Joy's School of Dance
- Ignite Dance Company
- Expressions Dance Studio
- Dance By Emily
- UIL 3A Area OAP Competition
- Stephen Fite Elementary Music Program
- MCC Law Enforcement Academy Graduations

HS Musical - Anastasia

In January of 2026, the Fine Arts staff and Midway HS students produced the musical "Anastasia" and all aspects of the production were a complete success.

The goals for the musical that were met or exceeded include:

Provide a "real world" professional production experience for everyone involved, including the staff and adult support.

The "Anastasia" production was designed from the beginning to be a professional show, and everyone involved worked tirelessly to make the production happen. Several students used their experience and performances as their university auditions and in their scholarship applications.

Allow as many students to participate as feasibly possible while maintaining the highest standards for performance and production. Involving over 200 HS students, Anastasia utilized two full casts and choruses, high school strings, wind and percussionists from the orchestra and band program, and two technical crews working backstage. When including art students, technical crew, and orchestra, there were more "behind the scenes" students than on-stage students.

Involve as many of the fine arts staff members as possible.

Anastasia incorporated HS Fine arts staff as well as several MS and elementary staff members. It is vitally important and valuable to have a fine arts staff that desires to work together for a common goal.

To break even financially.

Through the resources of ticket sales and program ad donations, the production was able to provide several staff members extra duty funds for their extensive work over the Christmas holidays and the productions showed a modest overall profit. Profits from the production were distributed to provide additional video services and are being held to support the future start-up costs of future middle school and high school musical productions. Utilize the staff for the best of their talents.

Anastasia is a challenge to produce from all aspects of musical theatre production. The MISD fine arts staff challenged themselves to utilize all their talents and expertise in their fields to provide our students "the stage for which to shine".

January 2026
Four Performances
3311 tickets sold

Bond Update

We are eternally grateful to the community, board and administration for their support in the 2025 Bond. The Fine Arts Bond items are in process. Instruments, equipment, and uniforms and more are already in the hands of students. We are actively moving forward on auditorium seating replacements, elementary stage light and sound updates and more.

Teacher Incentive Allotment- Fine Arts (TIA)

Midway is ahead of the curve statewide by including Fine Arts as a part of Teacher Incentive Allotment. Fine Arts completed the pilot year for TIA in the 25-26 school year. Growth measure data is in process, but preliminary data is promising and we look forward to going into the first year of Fine Arts data collection.

Future of MISD Fine Arts

MISD Fine Arts has a rich history and tradition of excellence that is important to the district and the community. Any storied program experiences periods of transition as part of the natural seasons of growth and change, including a “changing of the guard,” as experienced staff retires. The Fine Arts department is experiencing this with recent high school director retirements and a new Fine Arts Director. However, even in the midst of change, the future is bright! New head directors are strong teachers and leaders and are already making an impact. New hires are great additions to the team. I am cognizant of this time of transition as I step into this role and will continue to work closely with the Fine Arts staff to grow leadership, quality instruction, and effective community engagement. It will be essential to continue to be good financial stewards and explore avenues to maximize budget efficiency and community resources. We will continue to play to the strengths of MISD Fine Arts with a keen eye to innovate, grow and evolve to meet the needs of our students, district and community.

Innovation. Commitment. Excellence. These values will serve as a lens for advancing Fine Arts across Midway ISD. This year, I look forward to collaborating with the Fine Arts staff to develop guiding principles and plans that strengthen our programs while supporting the broader goals of MISD. Students who engage deeply in the arts build critical thinking skills, discipline, grit and develop connections to the school community and deeper commitment to their education and future.

I am incredibly proud of our MISD Fine Arts students and staff. Their talent, dedication, and passion are what make our programs exceptional. It is an honor to support this team. I am grateful to serve in a school district where the arts are valued, supported, and recognized as an essential part of the educational experience.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Martin

Director of Fine Arts, Midway ISD
President, Texas Music Educators Association
254.761.5610 | www.midwayisd.org/finearts
13885 Woodway Drive, Woodway, TX 76712