



GCCISD FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Performing Arts
Students and Parents

Policies, Rules, and
Guidelines

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GCCISD ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Campisi— President
Richard Clem—Vice President
Tiffany Guy —Secretary
Jessie Martinez—Assistant Secretary
Mercedes Renteria III—Member
Helen Berrott-Tims—Member
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GCCISD ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Randal O'Brien—Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Susan Jackson—Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Matthew Flood—Assistant Superintendent of Technology
Dr. Anthony Price—Assistant Superintendent of Operations Services
Dr. Matthew Bolinger—Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

GCCISD DISTRICT FINE ARTS DEPARMENT

Dr. Ray Lavan – Director of Fine Arts
Rocio Vasquez – Fine Arts Administrative Assistant



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Shares Responsibility
Partners with Community and Businesses
Team-Oriented Mindset

DYNAMIC LEADER

Inspires Others
Honesty and Integrity
Commitment and Passion

COLLEGE & CAREER READY

Goal Focused
Lifelong Learner
Technology and Data Driven

SKILLED COMMUNICATOR

Expresses Ideas Effectively
Active Listener
Values Soft Skills

CRITICAL THINKER

Objective and Reflective
Values Innovation and Creativity
Asks Pertinent Questions



Fine Arts Alignment with GCCISD Strategic Plan

“Here, We Grow Giants” – Strategic Pillars in Action

Pillar 1: Student Ready

- Cultivates discipline, resilience, and time management.
- Offers real-world performance experiences that build confidence.
- Incorporates social-emotional learning through artistic expression.
- Ensures equitable access for all student populations, including GT, SPED, and ELL.

Pillar 2: Staff Ready

- Provides targeted professional development and mentoring.
- Supports new teachers via the Arts Effect Academy and PLCs.
- Encourages leadership development for directors and coaches.
- Celebrates staff publicly and tracks student growth to aid retention.

Pillar 3: Culture Ready

- Promotes student leadership and voice within ensembles.
- Embraces culturally responsive programming and diverse repertoire.
- Builds inclusive, team-centered environments that foster resilience.
- Creates rehearsal spaces where students feel safe, seen, and heard.

Pillar 4: Future Ready

- Connects to career pathways in music, theatre, design, and production.
- Develops collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills.
- Prepares students for auditions, deadlines, and real-world critiques.
- Offers dual credit and AP-level fine arts courses.

Pillar 5: Resource Ready

- Manages budgets, equipment, and travel with fiscal responsibility.
- Leverages community partnerships to expand opportunities.
- Uses data to align offerings with student needs and campus priorities.
- Strengthens district branding through public performance visibility.

GOOSE CREEK FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Five Basic Divisions

Music	Visual Art	Dance	Theatre	UIL SPIRIT
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GOOSE CREEK FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT CLASS OFFERINGS

Music	Visual Art	Dance	Theatre	UIL Spirit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band • Choir • Orchestra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Rhapsody • General Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art I-IV • AP, Dual-Credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS Dance • Dance I-IV • Drill Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS Theatre • Theatre I-IV • Dual Credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheer Elective

Goose Creek CISD Fine Arts Performing Groups

Code of Conduct & Program Removal Guidelines

(Aligned with District Policy, UIL Standards, and GCCISD Handbook)

I. Purpose

Participation in fine arts is both a privilege and an extension of the educational experience in Goose Creek CISD. Students involved in band, choir, orchestra, dance, theatre, and UIL Spirit are expected to exhibit integrity, commitment, academic focus, and personal accountability. These guidelines establish consistent expectations for eligibility, behavior, and safety aligned with district and UIL standards.

II. Relationship to Campus and Program-Specific Guidelines

Note on Program-Specific Guidelines

This Code of Conduct and Removal Guidelines document serves as the **districtwide framework** for all fine arts performing groups in Goose Creek CISD.

Each individual program (e.g., band, choir, orchestra, dance, theatre, UIL Spirit) may have additional **program-specific handbooks, procedures, or expectations** that reflect the unique demands of that discipline. These program-level guidelines must align with this overarching policy but may include more detailed requirements related to performance standards, rehearsal commitments, uniform expectations, competitions, or grading criteria.

Students and parents are expected to review and adhere to **both** the districtwide and program-specific guidelines. Questions about program-specific rules should be directed to the individual program director.

III. Eligibility Requirements

Students must:

- Be enrolled full-time and meet academic standards per Texas Education Code §33.081 (“No Pass, No Play”).
- Maintain a **minimum grade of 70 in all classes** at the end of each grading period (waivers for advanced or dual credit courses may apply).

- Be promoted from the previous grade (especially for students entering grades 7–9).
 - Attend school the day of, before, and after performances/events unless excused.
 - Submit required medical forms and physicals if participating in physically demanding programs (e.g., dance, color guard, marching band, cheer).
 - Participate in required tryouts, auditions, or evaluations according to campus/district guidelines.
 - Meet **UIL eligibility criteria** to participate in sanctioned contests.
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IV. Student Conduct and Expectations

Members of Fine Arts organizations are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, directors, and audience members.
 - Follow campus, district, and GCCISD Student Code of Conduct policies.
 - Exhibit sportsmanship, leadership, and professionalism on and off campus.
 - Refrain from bullying, hazing, gossip, harassment, or inappropriate behavior (in person or online).
 - Avoid unsportsmanlike actions, excessive tardiness, or repeated absenteeism.
 - Use social media responsibly—**no posting of offensive, defamatory, or inappropriate content** involving the school, peers, or staff.
 - Maintain **ethical behavior before, during, and after UIL contests**, as defined by UIL Constitution & Contest Rules.
 - Recognize that fine arts is a **team-based activity**: every student’s full effort, punctuality, and preparedness directly affects group performance.
 - Avoid scheduling conflicting appointments, vacations, or extracurricular activities during rehearsals, sectionals, or performances. **Frequent conflicts or avoidable absences may result in loss of performance privileges or program removal.**
 - Demonstrate academic integrity in all coursework, rehearsal preparation, and artistic assignments. Cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresentation of effort is inconsistent with the values of the fine arts program and may result in disciplinary action.
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V. Offenses That May Result in Removal

A student **may be removed** from a fine arts program/class for:

- Two consecutive grading cycles of academic ineligibility.
- Repeated “N” or “U” citizenship marks or conduct reports.
- Unexcused absences from required events, rehearsals, or performances.
- Leaving a school or program event without permission.
- Misuse of social media that disrespects the program, staff, or peers.
- Insubordination or repeated disruption of the learning/performance environment.

- Violation of **UIL contest rules or ethical guidelines**. Click here for further information: <https://www.uiltexas.org/music>
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VI. Immediate Grounds for Removal

The following offenses will result in **immediate dismissal** from the fine arts program:

- Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products.
- Fighting, physical violence, or making threats.
- Bullying, harassment, or cyberbullying (including social media).
- Theft, vandalism, or other criminal behavior.
- Assignment to **DAEP (POINT, High Point, etc.)** or **expulsion**.
- Posting explicit, violent, or harmful material involving school personnel or students.
- **Falsification of eligibility or misconduct during UIL contests.**

Immediate removals may also disqualify students from awards, honors, or future district representation.

VII. Removal Process

1. **Conference**
 - Held with student, parent/guardian, director, and campus administrator.
 2. **Probation (if applicable)**
 - Students not involved in immediate offenses may be placed on probation with a documented improvement plan.
 3. **Final Decision**
 - Failure to meet improvement expectations or a serious violation will result in removal from the program.
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VIII. Appeals

Students and families may appeal a removal decision through the following process:

- **Step 1:** Submit a written appeal to the **Campus Principal** within **10 school days** of the removal notice.
- **Step 2:** If unresolved, submit a second-level appeal to the **Director of Fine Arts** within **5 school days** of the principal's decision.

The **Director of Fine Arts** will issue a final decision, which cannot be further appealed.

IX. Reentry After Removal

- Students who are removed **may not rejoin** the program **during the current school year**.
- They will be **ineligible to participate in tryouts/auditions for the following academic year**.
- **Earliest eligibility for reentry** will be in the tryout or audition cycle for the **second school year after removal**.

Conditions for Reentry:

1. Completion of a **reflection and reentry conference** with director, parent/guardian, and campus principal.
2. Submission of a **written statement of growth and renewed commitment** by the student.
3. Approval by the **director, principal, and Director of Fine Arts**.

Reentry is **not guaranteed** and is contingent upon student behavior, eligibility, and space availability in the program.

X. Health, Safety, and Conduct Compliance

Students must:

- Provide required physicals or health documentation (if applicable).
 - Follow **UIL concussion, sudden cardiac arrest, and safety protocols** if engaged in physical performance (e.g., dance, marching band).
 - Treat all uniforms, instruments, costumes, and equipment responsibly; loss or damage may result in financial liability and disciplinary action.
 - Participate only in **UIL-sanctioned events** under the direction of a certified program director.
 - Respect and maintain all facilities, equipment, and shared spaces. **Negligence, vandalism, or misuse** of instruments, lockers, uniforms, rehearsal rooms, or performance areas may result in disciplinary action and full restitution for damage.
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XI. Communication Protocol

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Address concerns respectfully and follow the chain of command:
Program Director → Campus Administrator(s) → Director of Fine Arts.
 - Encourage student responsibility in resolving concerns (e.g., students should advocate for themselves with directors first when appropriate).
 - Support students by attending performances when possible, submitting required forms and fees by deadlines, and fostering a home environment that prioritizes responsibility, time management, and respectful collaboration.
 - Understand that late payments, incomplete forms, or lack of communication may limit a student's participation in trips, competitions, or performances.
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XII. Student Leadership

Students selected as section leaders, captains, or officers represent the highest level of trust and visibility within the program. These roles come with increased expectations regarding punctuality, maturity, mentorship, and communication.

Leadership students must model integrity, academic consistency, and respectful conduct at all times—**on campus, online, and in the community**. Failure to uphold these expectations may result in removal from the leadership role and/or program.

XIII. Participation is a Privilege

Fine arts participation is a **privilege—not a right**. Students represent the campus and district in highly visible roles. Continued participation depends on adherence to all academic, behavioral, and ethical standards outlined in this document.

UIL Alignment and Compliance

All fine arts performing groups are governed not only by campus and district expectations, but also by **UIL Constitution & Contest Rules**, where applicable. Any student representing Goose Creek CISD in a **UIL-sanctioned event or contest** is required to meet all UIL eligibility standards and comply with all ethical, behavioral, and performance regulations outlined by the Texas University Interscholastic League.

Violations of UIL contest rules — including unsportsmanlike conduct, academic ineligibility, or falsification of eligibility — may result in **contest disqualification, suspension from the activity, and/or removal from the program**.

XIV. Commitment to Excellence

Goose Creek CISD Fine Arts programs have a legacy of excellence built on discipline, dedication, and pride. Students are expected to uphold this tradition through consistent effort, responsibility, and respect for the ensemble, staff, and community. Participation is not just about talent—it's about commitment, character, and teamwork.

XV. Patron Performance Etiquette Expectations

To maintain a professional, respectful, and encouraging environment for our student performers, we ask that all audience members adhere to the following etiquette guidelines:

- Arrive on time and remain seated during performances unless absolutely necessary.
- Silence all cell phones and electronic devices.
- Refrain from talking, whispering, or using phones during performances.
- Avoid entering or exiting the venue while a group is performing.
- Applaud respectfully at appropriate times; avoid disruptive cheering or shouting.
- Support all student groups—regardless of school, classification, or ability level.
- Follow the directions of ushers and event staff regarding seating and behavior.

Patrons who display disruptive behavior or violate performance decorum may be asked to leave. Thank you for supporting a positive and professional environment for all student performers.