Collins Fine Arts

2015-2016

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Fine Arts Orientation

On May 4th you will come to visit Collins Intermediate School with your elementary school classmates for 4th Grade Orientation. At this event we will showcase all of our wonderful elective classes. This will help you choose your fine arts class for next year. You will hear from the Art and Music teachers and get to see their classrooms. You will also see and hear the Collins Honor Band and Honor Orchestra perform. In addition, the Collins Concert Choir and Collins Chamber Handbell Choir will perform for you. The Choir program at Collins is an extracurricular activity (before school). That means that you may choose to be in choir before school in addition to Band, Orchestra, or Art/Music during your Fine Arts period.

Here are your choices for your Fine Arts class. *Due to scheduling issues, these selections cannot be changed during the school year.*

Art/Music—(meets every day, one18-week semester of each subject)

Orchestra—stringed instruments (every day for the entire year)

Band—woodwinds, brass, percussion (every day for the entire year)

Questions? For questions about our programs, please feel free to contact any of the staff.

Fine Arts Website: http://collins.conroeisd.net/finearts

Fine Arts Staff:

Art Janet Melton — email: jmelton@conroeisd.net

Music/Choir/Handbells Sarah Schlacks — email: sschlacks@conroeisd.net

Orchestra Holly Ellis — email: haellis@conroeisd.net

Band Brian Moran (brass & percussion) — email: bmoran@conroeisd.net
Tamara Willer (woodwinds) — email: twiller@conroeisd.net
Lauren Kelley (brass & woodwinds) — email: lakelley@conroeisd.net

Q&A

Art/Music

How do students rotate in Art and Music?
Students in Art/Music will meet with their Fine Arts class every day. Students will divide their year with one eighteen-week semester of art and one eighteen-week semester of music.

How will my child benefit by taking Art/Music?
Students in the Art/Music elective get the dual benefit of art/music appreciation, application, and participation. Our program is designed to develop and improve creative and technical skills in the beginner or experienced art/music student.

Art students are given project criteria and the opportunity to choose their subject and art medium, which encourages high interest and student ownership. Two-dimensional projects include: drawing, painting, paper making, and print making. Three-dimensional projects include: weaving, stitchery, mixed media, and ceramics.

At the intermediate level, music students will learn to apply standard music notation by playing handbells. Students enjoy the opportunity to participate in a musical ensemble as they play in their classroom handbell choir. They will also become adept at reading vocal music and developing vocal technique. Both of these activities will serve the students well throughout junior high, high school, college and beyond.

How will Art/Music in 5th/6th grade be different than in elementary school? How will it be the same?
In Art, we will build upon vocabulary and skills learned in elementary school and prepare you to be successful in intermediate art, junior high and beyond with advanced skills, knowledge and understanding of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

As in elementary school, we participate in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Contest, Conroe ISD Central Office Art Show, Youth Art Month Library Show, Texas Elementary Art Meet, Pearl Fincher Art Museum, and Superintendent Art Show. We also participate in the Capitol Art Show in which Collins has had art work chosen to hang in the Governor's office for the last three consecutive years.

For our western art project, we encourage our students to take their own photos of scenes they would like to use as the focus of their artwork. Due to copyright laws, your child's work needs to be original.

This summer, please encourage and allow your child to take photos that have a western theme such as:

1. Landscapes (old buildings, historic sites, ranches, pastures)
2. Animals (horses, cattle, roosters, pigs, chickens, armadillos)
3. Still life (boots, wildflowers, saddles, farm tools)
4. People (dressed up in western clothing)

General Music builds on the skills begun at the elementary music level and develops student independence. Students will be able to read and interpret standard musical notation using handbells. The goal of the General Music class at the intermediate level is to enable every student to be successful in reading and applying music skills that will allow the student to be successful whether the student chooses to participate in Choir, Band, or Orchestra in junior high. Students also develop an appreciation and understanding of standard classical works that encourages them to be culturally well-rounded.

We look forward to having your child in Art/Music next school year.

Choir and Handbell Choirs

Membership in the Collins Concert Choir and the Handbell Choirs is open to all Collins students no matter what fine arts class they take during the school day. Since choir is extra-curricular and meets before school, students can participate in choir in addition to their band, orchestra, or art/music class.

The Honor Choir and Handbell Choirs are auditioned groups. All choirs offer winter and spring concerts both at school and in the community. Choir members may choose to audition for the CISD Honor Choir and also be a part of the Collins Honor Choir. Sixth grade choir members participate in CISD Solo & Ensemble in the fall. Handbell Choirs take part in the spring CISD Solo & Ensemble event. Other performances are scheduled as they become available.

Please contact Mrs. Schlacks if you have additional questions regarding these choirs.

Q&A

Band and Orchestra

Can you join Band or Orchestra if you have never played an instrument?
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 and orchestra programs are geared toward beginning instrumental students. The next opportunity to begin in band or orchestra is in seventh grade at the junior high school.

Can we wait until sixth grade to begin an instrument?
Sixth grade band and orchestra are a continuation of the fifth grade course. Sixth grade students would be a year behind the rest of the class, and we are unable to give them the extra attention they need. Students not already playing an instrument at the start of the sixth grade should wait until seventh grade to start.

What instruments are offered?
The instruments taught in orchestra are: violin, viola, cello and bass. In band, the fifth grade choices are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, tuba, and percussion (mallets and drums).

How do students decide what to play in orchestra?
At the instrument selection night students may choose which string instrument they want to play. String instruments come in different sizes. Once your choice is made the orchestra director will measure you to determine the size instrument you need. Students must either rent or purchase an instrument for this class. It is strongly recommended that beginners rent their instrument for at least the first year before trading up or purchasing an instrument.

There will also be an **Orchestra Parent Information Nigh**t at Collins on **Tuesday, May 19th.** **String instrument dealers will be at the event** to make comparison shopping easy. Look for detailed information on the orchestra web site or pick up a flyer at the instrument evaluation nights.

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 as well as the band's instrumental needs to try to find the best choice for the students out of the instruments they are interested in learning. ***Please note that the saxophone and percussion classes have very limited number*s**. Soon after the evaluation night, band students will receive a letter indicating their instrument selection and can begin obtaining that instrument for the start of the new school year. Please do not purchase any equipment before receiving this letter.

What will it cost in time and money?
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 that require time outside the school day. We also encourage our students to participate in the Solo/Ensemble Contest.

For more information about costs and requirements please see p. 4 of this packet.

Don't miss the instrument selection nights

Incoming band and orchestra students will have an opportunity in May to choose which instrument they will play. Students should plan to attend the event(s) for their chosen elective so that they will be ready to begin in the fall.

Please see the dates below. Choose the date and time according to your child's area of interest. Students can try more than one area. No preference is given to students based on when they interview. Instrument placement is decided after the interview nights are over.

- **Tues., May 5th, 4:30-7 p.m.—** Band (not percussion) and Orchestra instrument selection night. Students can try out for woodwind, brass or string instruments. Tryouts are in the band and orchestra rooms at Collins Intermediate.
- **Mon., May 11th, 4:30-7 p.m. —** Band and Orchestra instrument selection night. Students can try out for woodwind, brass or string instruments. ***Students interested in percussion must attend this night to be considered.*** Percussion is a very small, select group. Students should be prepared to consider a second choice.

Collins Fine Arts

Costs & Requirements

Band & Orchestra

Our Vision
The Collins band and orchestra programs nurture a lifelong appreciation of music. Setting the highest standards of excellence in musical skills and artistry, students achieve success and personal fulfillment through teamwork, discipline, and commitment.

Performance Opportunities
Fifth Graders demonstrate their new skills in playing their instruments at our winter and spring concerts. You will be amazed at what they can do!

Grading

Practice. Turning in a signed practice record every week is required to earn a practice grade.

Participation. Students must arrive at class with required materials each day and participate in class to earn their participation grade.

Tests. Students play individually in class on pre-assigned material. Students may also be tested on music theory.

5th Grade Band Instrument Choices

The following instruments are offered:

Flute
Clarinet
Alto Sax

Trumpet (Cornet)
Trombone
Percussion

Horn
Baritone
Tuba

All students are assessed by the band directors to determine instrument assignment by using the following criteria:

- The choice and desire of the student.
- The physical attributes of each student.
- The instrumentation needs of the band.

Orchestra Instrument Choices

Violin
Viola
Cello
Bass

- Orchestra instruments come in sizes to accommodate any student.
- Students may choose which instrument they like.
- The orchestra director will determine the correct size instrument for the student.

Collins Choir and Handbell Choirs Auditions

Auditions for Choir and Handbell Choir will be held Tuesday through Friday morning from 8:00-8:30 a.m. during the first week of school. Rehearsals will begin the following Monday with Concert Handbells at 7:30 a.m. and Concert Choir at 8:00 a.m.

Choir and Handbell Choir are open to all Collins students no matter what Fine Arts class they take during the school day. Since choir is extra-curricular and meets before school, students can take choir whether they are in band, orchestra, or art/music.

Information will be included in the Collins Newsletter. Students will receive choir calendars and information regarding scheduled events for the year, uniform requirements and attendance policies for each group.

BAND & ORCHESTRA

Instrument and Materials

- Instrument (approx. $22-$70 a month)
- Book(s) (under $10 each)
- Binder, paper, pencil (under $5)
- Plastic page protectors (under $5)
- Accessories for chosen instrument ($10-$40)
- Music stand (under $15)
- Uniform (polo shirt for informal, bow tie & cummerbund for formal—under $30)
- Metronome (suggested) (approx. $20-$40)

Please do not rent or buy an instrument without first talking to the orchestra or band directors.

INSTRUMENT SELECTION NIGHTS

Please attend one of these events.

Tues., May 5, 4:30-7:00 p.m. or

Mon., May 11 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Students can try more than one area of interest in band and orchestra. No preference is given based on the day or time of the interview. Students interested in playing percussion must come on May 11 to be considered.

ORCHESTRA

PARENT INFO/ VENDOR NIGHT
Tues., May 19, 6:30 p.m.

ART

There is a $10 supply fee for art class. Students are encouraged to bring original photos with a Texas Western theme to use as a focus for artwork in first semester art.

COLLINS FINE ARTS CLASS SELECTION RETURN PAGE

Student's First and Last Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Parent Phone: _____
(Number we can use if we need to contact you about your choice)

Parent Email: _____
(Email we can use if we need to contact you about your choice)

Current (4th Grade) School: _____

Fifth grade students will select one of the following Fine Arts subject areas in which to participate for the entire 2015-2016 school year. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your choice.

Please check one:

☐ **Art and General Music**
one semester of each subject

☐ **Band (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion) – all year**

☐ **Orchestra (Strings) – all year**

Parents are requested to sign the form indicating approval of your child's selection. Parents approving participation in **Band** or **Orchestra** are also making a commitment to furnish an instrument for their child.

_____
(parent signature)

Please note: **Choir** and **Handbell Choir** are extra-curricular musical ensembles offered before school and can be taken in combination with any of the above Fine Arts classes.

Return the form to the office at your current school or to Collins by May 29th.