

Academy for Performing and Visual Arts at General Ray Davis Middle School

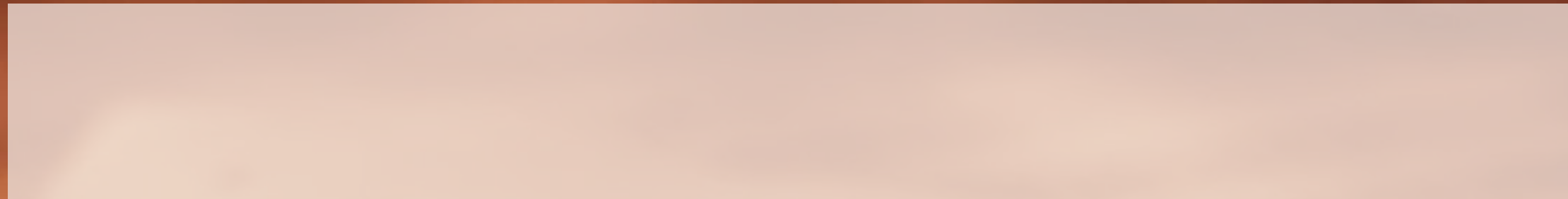
Specialty School Open House
October 17, 2023

Program Overview

- Rigorous Fine Arts Curriculum
 - Focusing on advanced development of artists
 - Field Trips and Performances beyond the classroom
 - Advanced training through special ensembles and opportunities
 - Preparation for the next level of performing and/or visual arts
- Fine Arts Integration in Core Content Areas
- High Academic Achievement expectations
- Development of skills including time management, perseverance, professionalism, etc.

Fine Arts Faculty at General Ray Davis

- Band – John Williams
- Chorus – Jay Sessoms
- Dance – Larae Phillips
- Photography/Film – Amanda Grantham
- Strings – Angie Dollar
- Theatre – Patrick Young
- Visual Arts – Katy King



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Performing and Visual Arts Offerings

- Performing Arts
 - Band
 - Chorus
 - Dance
 - Strings
 - Theatre
- Visual Arts
 - Photography
 - Video
 - Visual Arts (Painting, Drawing, 3-D Art, etc.)

How do I get into the Academy?

- Audition/Artistic Review Process
 - Audition/Artistic Review Date – **January 13, 2024**
 - Inclement weather date – January 20, 2024
 - Must register for an audition/artistic review slot upon application
 - If you apply for two disciplines, you will need to register for two time slots
 - If accepted to both disciplines, you will need to choose a “Major” and a “Minor”
 - Requirements for all auditions/artistic review sessions will be posted by November 1st on our website **dms.rockdaleschools.org**

How do I get into the Academy?

- Application process
 - Must be a Rockdale County resident or parent/guardian is a Rockdale Schools employee to apply
 - Students must meet standards in ELA, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies on the Milestone Assessments
 - Online Application – rockdaleschools.org
 - You may apply for two disciplines
 - Application Window is open November 10th through December 15th
 - NO late applications accepted – if you miss the window, you must wait until the next school year to apply

How do I get into the Academy?

- Very competitive
 - 60 slots total for students out of zone
 - GRDMS zoned students do not have a slot limit, but acceptance into the academy is NOT guaranteed
 - Students must meet an “acceptance” score that is determined based on number of students who audition and number of course slots available for each discipline
- Acceptance Letters will be mailed in early February

I've been accepted. What's next?

- Contract
 - All students and parents accepting the invitation to be a part of the academy are required to sign an APVA Contract
 - Outlines the student and parent responsibilities
 - Outlines our probation and program removal process

I've been accepted. What's next?

- Contract – Parent Requirements
 - Will ensure my child is at school and on-time every day.
 - Will attend all parent conferences and will have an active role in my child's education.
 - Will complete a minimum number of hours of volunteer service annually set forth by each area of study.
 - Will make sure my child participates and attends events pertaining to the specialty school program which sometimes extend beyond the normal school hours. These events and/or rehearsals should take priority over non-program activities. I will keep school officials informed when there is an unavoidable conflict.

I've been accepted. What's next?

- Contract – Student Requirements
 - Demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality and complete rigorous coursework.
 - Develop a program of study related to college and career readiness.
 - Maintain a minimum grade of 75 in each course for each semester including connections.
 - Participate in community service-learning activities each school year set forth by each area of study.
 - Participate in events pertaining to the specialty school program which sometimes extend beyond the normal school hours.
 - Obey the rules of the Code of Conduct for all students and behave in a respectful manner, cooperating with teachers, professionals, and my fellow students. This includes behavior on the bus as well as all extracurricular events and activities which may be outside of the normal school day.

“Signing Day” – February 8th at 6:00pm

All contracts are due on this day by the end of the event.

If your child is accepted and you are unable to attend, contracts must be returned to Davis Middle School by the end of business on February 9th

Frequently Asked Questions

- I live out of the GRDMS zone. Is transportation available?
 - YES. Transportation is provided but must be requested at the time of contract acceptance.
- My child did not get accepted to the Academy. Is there a waiting list?
 - YES, there is a waiting list. If openings occur after the contract signing date, we will begin contacting the parents of students on the waiting list.
- If my child did not get accepted to the Academy for 6th grade, may they reapply for their 7th grade year?
 - YES. Your child may reapply and will need to complete the audition/artistic review process for the 2025-2026 school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Are there costs involved with being in the Academy?
 - Fine Arts Fee - \$50 – due at contract signing
 - Field Trips – Cost varies based on the trip
 - Supplies and equipment – Cost varies based on Fine Arts area
 - Uniforms, art supplies, instruments, accessories, costumes, etc.
 - Extra programs – All-State Band/Chorus/Orchestra, Solo and Ensemble, etc.



GRDMS Fine Arts

Academy for Visual & Performing Arts





Patrick S. Young Theatre

- Mr. Young is excited to reconnect with returning students and getting to know new individuals!
- 6th Grade: Intro to Theatre
 - Fundamentals and Basics
- 7th Grade: Production & Performance Theatre
 - Theatre History
 - Tech Positions
 - Performance Techniques
- 8h Grade: Tech Theatre
 - Research
 - Tech and Design
 - Tech Crews
- 8th Grade: Musical Theatre
 - Choreography and Performance Technique
- 1st Period Advance Theatre
 - Stage Production & Performances

Theatre Courses

pyoung@rockdale.k12.ga.us

- 6th grade Intro to Theatre (no prev. experience required)
- 7th graders Production & Performance Theatre
- 8th graders can join Tech and Musical *if current theatre major
- 7th & 8th graders interested in 1st Period Advance Theatre:
 - Must be a current 7th or 8th grade Theatre Student
 - Current Theatre Major
 - Have taken Theatre at DMS previous school year



Theatre Auditions, Productions, and Other Opportunities

- Guest Artists/ Workshops
- Advance Theatre Fall Production
- 8th grade Winter Musical Review
- 7th grade Fall Performance Projects
- 7th grade Monologue Writing Contest
- 6th grade Fall Performance Projects
- 7th & 8th grade Spring Production (combined grade level production for theatre students)

Chorus



Jay Sessoms
Choral Director

jsessoms@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Mr. Sessoms is an experienced and passionate educator with nine years of successful teaching experience at both the middle and high school levels. This is his fifth year as Choral Director at General Ray Davis Middle School.

About my class: Chorus focuses on using the voice to create a healthy and pleasing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. Students sing literature from a variety of languages, cultures, and musical genres. Chorus offers opportunities for students to perform and travel while developing inter-personal skills.

Ensemble Offerings: Tenor-Bass Chorus, 6th Grade Beginning Chorus, 7th /8th Grade Intermediate & Advanced Treble Chorus

***Vocal Majors** are automatically enrolled in Advanced level ensembles.

Angie Dollar Strings



Angie Dollar is an experienced educator and performer, known in the Conyers area primarily as an organist, pianist, and accompanist. She has accompanied many chorus concerts, served in the orchestra pit as a musician for several local musical productions, and has worked as a music director, conductor, and vocal coach for local musical theatre productions, including recent productions of *Sister Act* and *Once on this Island* with the Arts Association of Newton County and *The Spitfire Grill* with the New Depot Players in Conyers.

Mrs. Dollar holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama), a lifetime membership in the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, and a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Georgia College and State University. Mrs. Dollar has been a dedicated middle school educator for over 20 years.

John L. Williams

Band

jwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Mr. Williams is in his 18th year of teaching and his third year at General Ray Davis Middle School.. Mr. Williams earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University and was a member of the world renowned Aristocrat of Bands. As an educator, he has taught in Fulton and DeKalb Counties before arriving in Rockdale. While in Fulton, he was named a "Who's Who" amongst the American teachers. In DeKalb, Mr. Williams was selected the 2010 DeKalb County Teacher of the Year. Here at Davis Middle School, we have established one of the top Middle School Band Programs in the state of Georgia. The band program consists of 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Concert Bands, Jazz Band, and Pep Band.





Katy King Visual Arts

kking@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Katy King is a National Board-Certified Visual Arts Teacher with over 27 years of experience instructing students across the metro Atlanta area in grades k-12. This is her 17th year at General Ray Davis Middle School. She has been a GRDMS Teacher of the Year, RCPS Teacher of the Year Finalist, Georgia's Distinguished Educator of the Year, Woodruff Salute's Arts in Education Educator of the Year, and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Environmental Education. World doorways for her students have been opened and experienced because of their artistic achievements. Her students have met presidents, governors, state representatives, consulates, ambassadors; appeared on national/international news programs, and traveled the world due to their creativity fostered within her classroom walls. She has given students lifelong positive memories and educational opportunities through art education. These experiences assisted with the development of these children in being lifelong advocates of the arts. She has taught students the importance of the arts to their lives and to foster the creativity that lives in each of them.



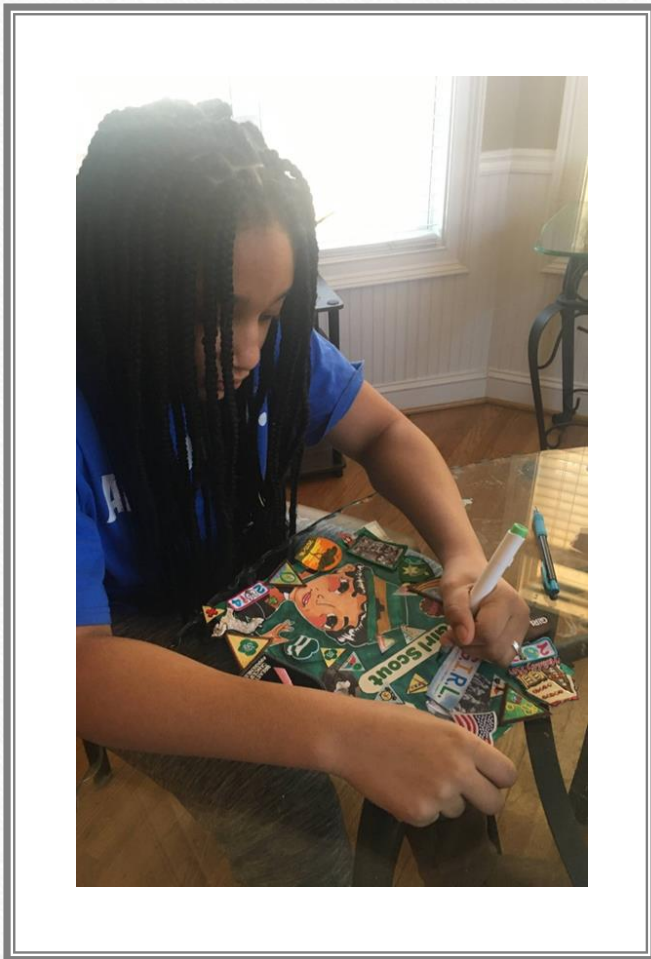
Visual Arts

This program has been designed to promote critical thinking and technical skills in order to bring about a cultural and aesthetic awareness in each student. This will be accomplished through experiences in studio production, art history, art criticism, and evaluation. It is the goal of this class to present a variety of situations and studio experiences, which will academically and artistically challenge the creative potentials of each student. Classes offered include 6th Grade Visual Arts, 7th Grade Visual Arts and 8th Grade Carnegie Unit Visual Arts.



Your Adventure in Art will include some fun experiences throughout the year!

- Field Trips to The High Museum of Art, Michael C. Carlos Museum, The Center for Puppetry Arts, National MLK Historic Site, Arabia Mountain, just to name a few of the places you will go
- Participation in many Local, State and National Art Competitions
- Community Outreach Projects focusing on Arts Advocacy
- Guest Artists, Speakers and Workshops
- Annual Empty Bowls Dinner
- Holiday Haven and Bake Sale
- Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair
- GRDMS Art Show
- RCPS Art Show
- RCPS Photography Show
- And MUCH MORE.....



Visual Arts Portfolio Review Requirements

- **Student Portfolio** – 50 points

Students must bring a portfolio to the audition in the form of a Word Document:

The portfolio can include (if virtual auditions-photos) of the following items: a sketchbook, photographs, drawings from observation, original works in color, 2-D Design pieces, and 3-D artwork. All works must be completed by the student.

- **On-Site Art Production** - 50 points

On audition day, students will be required to draw a still life from observation. A wide range of materials will be provided, but students can bring their own tools to the audition site.

Fine Arts Dance with Ms. Phillips

Our program :

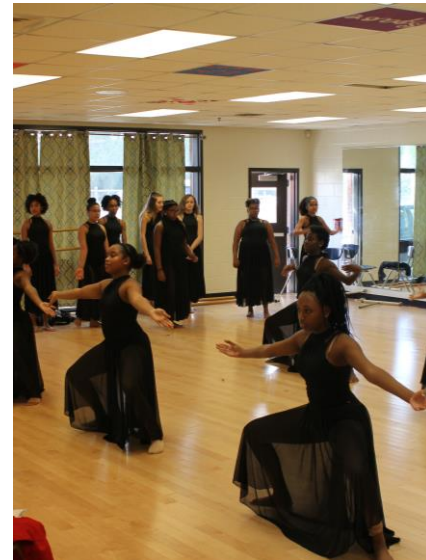
- 6th-8th grade dance students.
- 3- year program-students audition once
- Classical dance training in ballet, jazz, and modern dance
- Choreography and dance composition training and education
- Preparation for dance at a high school level
- Performance opportunities

CONTACT:

Email: lphillips@rockdale.k12.ga.us



Program Objectives



- Students learn and develop skill in these areas:

- -Ballet
- -Jazz
- -Modern
- Improvisation
- Choreography
- Performance ability

- This is done by learning the proper technique in each area and then putting it to use.
- Students practice individual steps and concepts and then learn or create choreography.
- Students showcase their ability through performance.

Possible Future Events for DMS Dance Program

- **Possible Performances for Next School Year:**
- -Veteran's Day Program
- -Black History Program
- -Fall Recital
- -Spring Recital
- -End of Year Showcase



Visual Arts – Photography Film Design Amanda Grantham

- I am passionate about photography and film, and I love sharing it with the kids and seeing them light up when they realize they can control the way their images and movies look. I hope to help them find interest in the uninteresting.
- 25 years Professional Photography Experience
- PPA Award Winning Photographer
- GPPA Previous Director at Large

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PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Photography curriculum develops students' critical thinking abilities, creativity and curiosity. Students will gain the tools to appreciate the creative, cultural and historical perspectives in visual media arts. The students develop their unique creative skills thru technology by exploring photography, graphic design, and web design.
- Students practice self-reflection to for their creative growth as they begin to develop a portfolio.
- Students will participate in a variety of art and photography shows and contests.
- Yearbook Staff: 8th Grade Students who are currently in photography class.
- These students must be responsible and reliable.



Film Design



The Film Design curriculum develops students' critical thinking abilities, creativity and curiosity. Students will gain the tools to appreciate the multiplicity of creative, cultural and historical perspectives in visual media. The students develop their unique creative skills through technology by exploring multiple platforms, such as animation, broadcasting, film, voice over and many other production careers.

- All students are expected to create an entry for the East Atlanta Technology Fair and Competition as well as The Media Festival each year. The film program has had many winning projects at the district and state levels.
- Other opportunities and contests as they arise.
- The Eagle Eye News Show is produced daily by 7th & 8th grade students currently in film class.
- School productions such as fine arts band, chorus, dance, orchestra, and theatre are filmed by film students and maintained on The DMS YouTube Channel.

Supplies: Composition Notebook.

Recording device (cell phones or ipads work well).

Editing software: Film students will have access to editing software.



GRDMS Fine Arts Instructors

- Angie Dollar, Strings
adollar@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Patrick Young, Theatre
pyoung@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Jay Sessoms, Chorus
jsessoms@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Katy King, Visual Arts
kking@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- John L. Williams, Band
jwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Larae Phillips, Dance
lphillips@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Amanda Grantham, Film/Photography
agrantham24@rockdale.k12.ga.us



The background of the slide is a warm, orange-toned image of a musical score. A pencil is resting diagonally across the middle of the page, pointing towards the bottom right. The musical notes and staves are visible but slightly blurred, creating a soft, artistic feel.

Time to visit with the teachers

Academy for Performing and Visual Arts at Davis Middle School Faculty

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Specialty School Open House
October 17, 2023