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PA Winter Coffee: The Evolution of the Arts @ MICDS

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Let's Make Some Art!

Use the card on your chair to make a drawing that incorporates the two dots.

Share your creation with the person next to you.



The Evolution of the Arts Department



How do we Approach Change?

- Systemic Change
- Curricular Change
- Teacher Leadership



RECENT GROWTH

- 2019 – Orchestra Program
- 2021 – LS Music Contemporized
- 2022 – JK-12 Department Chair
- 2022 – Arts Space Renovations
- 2023 – First Arts Fest
- 2024 – Three Strands
- 2025 – MS Arts Electives



Goals for JK-12 Arts

1. Expand opportunities and differentiation
2. Pull department more fully into academic program
3. Upgrade arts spaces



New MS Arts Electives

5/6: Take all three; choose focus

7/8: Deep dive or explore



5th & 6th Grade Arts Electives

All students take three arts classes: one in each discipline of musical arts, studio arts, and theatre arts, choosing a combination of one year-long PLUS two semester-long electives.

2025 - 2026	Musical Arts	Studio Arts	Theatre Arts
Year-long Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intro to BandIntro to OrchestraCharger BandCharger ChoirCharger Orchestra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build & SculptDraw, Paint, Create!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the SpotlightTheatre Exploratory
Semester Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3-Chord MagicDigital MusicIntro to Vocal Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital ArtLet's Make It 3DPaint & Pencil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intro to ActingTheatre MovementVoice Work & Puppets

7th & 8th Grade Arts Electives

Students choose between two options: **Exploration** pairing two classes that alternate days, OR **Deep Dive** with one class that meets every day.

2025 - 2026	Musical Arts	Studio Arts	Theatre Arts
Deep Dive Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Concert ChoirConcert BandConcert Orchestra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beyond the SketchBuilding in the Art Studio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Actor & the ScriptAdvanced Theatre
Exploration Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intro to BandRam BandRam ChoirRam Orchestra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Art in a Digital WorldFiber Art: Dye, Paint, SewMixed Media MagicSculpture: 3D Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acting without a ScriptThe Art of ActingIntro to Musical TheatreTechnical Design

National Core Arts Standards

- Creating
- Performing
- Responding
- Connecting



Recent Progress on Arts Spaces



Theatre Statistics

1. **22% of middle and HS theatre programs had budget cuts after Covid. (EDtA)**
2. **84% of drama teachers said the pandemic had a “significant impact” on drama education. (AP)**
3. **In 2024, Broadway audiences are still down 17% from pre-pandemic levels while pop concerts are up 65%. (NYT)**



JK-12 Theatre Education Model

More:

- Expansive
- Early Performance
- Stagecraft
- Interdisciplinary
- Interdivisional



“The most interesting challenge is how to take a constraint and turn it into an opportunity to make something really unique in the world.”

MEEJIN YOON

Artist

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