



Fine Arts Program Handbook

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Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy

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1. Introduction

Welcome to our handbook format!

- Use the search box at the top to quickly find what you seek.
- The Table of Contents is displayed on the left. Click the arrows to expand and collapse sections.
- Many included topics are linked back to our website. They are here for your convenience, but always directly accessible on www.chca-oh.org.
- We believe an online version of this document will be most helpful so you can directly link to other content; however, if you desire a paper version use the “Download as PDF” button at the bottom of the Table of Contents.

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2. Mission

The Fine Arts Department will support the mission of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and provide each student a well-rounded, excellent fine arts education in order to discover, explore and develop their gifts, talent, and creativity in the arts while honoring and glorifying God for the gifts He has given.



Our website puts [CHCA's Vision, Mission, and Values](#) at your fingertips.

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3. Department Philosophy

All material the Fine Arts Department presents will reflect the vision, mission and values of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and will be cleared with the Fine Arts Director as necessary.

The role that students play in Fine Arts performances, whether music and dance solos or parts in theatre productions, are assigned by the appropriate faculty members, directors or coaches on the basis of experience, ability, and auditions. Selections for visual art exhibits and displays are handled in a similar manner.

The Fine Arts program at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy is designed to be a student-focused, Christ-honoring experience in the visual arts, instrumental and vocal music, theatre, and dance. It responds to the need all Lower School students have for the age-appropriate development of basic skills in *each* of these areas, and permits Upper School students to specialize in a *specific* area of the arts.

A strong and consistent arts curriculum (visual, music, dance and theatre) has repeatedly shown strong correlation to increased academic performance in several areas, including academic success, leadership, communications, interpersonal, and relational skills. The arts foster life skills such as creativity, collaboration, confidence, perseverance, problem solving, focus, dedication, and accountability. Self-discipline as well as delayed gratification is intrinsically present in the arts. Ultimately, the CHCA Fine Arts program will demonstrate to the students, their families, and the community that participation in the arts can effectively develop and demonstrate Christian character.

The CHCA Fine Arts program endeavors to take into account the distinct differences among students based on their age, abilities and interests. Students in PK – grade 4 need an emphasis on instruction and skill development; students in grades 5-8 need similar instruction and sensitivity but will also be exposed to additional performing opportunities. Instruction continues for grades 9-12 with advanced training and participation, and performing opportunities for our students. CHCA students have many opportunities to use their visual and performing arts gifts and abilities in outreach service.

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3.1. PK-Gr 8

CHCA's Visual Arts Program

Our PK-Gr 8 program supports the general visual arts development of the student through curriculum designed to nurture and develop their God-given desire to create and appreciate the aesthetic beauty in God's universe. Students use value judgments to make decisions about art that honors God and shows appreciation for God's handiwork and its effect on their lives. Through various processes, students become aware how art relates to other areas of study. Students examine the human experience through their own creativity, through art history as an expression of culture, and through the use of visual mediums, technology, literature, and God's Word. Students experience and gain skill with the various art processes to gain confidence in their ability and grow in their aesthetic sense. Students value cultural diversity through the knowledge of the visual arts. Visual arts prepare students to acknowledge their God-given talents and to pursue with confidence opportunities and challenges set before them.

✿ Your child's opportunities are described on the [CHCA's Visual Arts Program](#) webpage.

CHCA's Music Program

Our PK-Gr 8 program supports the general development of the student through curriculum designed to ensure students recognize that music is a gift from God and as such should be used to glorify and serve Him. We encourage students to develop a lifelong love of music through participation in performance and study. Growing from these studies is an appreciation of the diversity of musical experience, culture, Christian heritage, and an ability to evaluate both aural and written music for quality and to evaluate music and performances congruent with scriptural principles. Students pursue musical opportunities with confidence and knowledge. They engage competently in a variety of musical experiences both for academic and personal purposes demonstrating creativity, appreciation, and expression in a variety of situations. Audiences within and beyond the school provide opportunities for musical outreach. Students work cooperatively and responsively in groups. Students demonstrate appropriate leadership and giving value to others' work. Students receive challenge and support in pursuit of success in music. All students have the right to participate.

For PK-Gr 4, the curriculum is primarily vocal and rhythm based, and performance opportunities range from school programs to performances in the community. For Gr 5-8, instrumental music is added to the curriculum and training in technique, as well as expanded performance opportunities, becomes part of the student experience. An extra-curricular theatre program is also open to students in Gr 4-8, which produces two musicals annually in collaboration with the Vocal Music department. Our Upper School Theatre Department provides additional theatre opportunities for students in Gr 7-8, which vary annually.

✿ See information for students of all ages on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

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3.2. Gr 9-12

The Gr 9-12 Fine Arts program deepens the student's knowledge of any specific Fine Art curriculum in which the student engages, and creates the potential to develop pre-professional portfolios of work for advanced study. Students are offered opportunities to use their abilities in the Arts in service of others through performances and displays in the community and around the world. There are multiple performance and exhibition opportunities including concerts in the community and in conjunction with local college programs, five theatre productions per year, dance, improvisation, and art exhibits.

✿ Imagine your child's opportunities in [CHCA's Visual Arts Program](#).

✿ See information for students of all ages on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

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4. Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities

CHCA's Fine Arts program provides comprehensive, sequential art education and extracurricular options as our students advance through the program providing many opportunities for artistic expression and growth.

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4.1. Early Learning Program and Lower Elementary (PK-Gr 3)

Curricular:

All Preschool through Gr 3 students receive weekly art and general music instruction and have performance opportunities to enhance and complete the music instruction.

Performance opportunities are listed on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular Enrichment:

We strive to provide our students with curricular enrichment opportunities to further build on their classroom instruction. All our EBL Gr 2 students participate in a Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra program, "Sound Discoveries – Music for Life," and attend two CSO concerts at Music Hall.

Extracurricular:

The [myArts Links and Info webpage](#) puts Fine Arts info and extracurricular links at your fingertips.

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4.2. Upper Elementary (Gr 4-6)

Curricular:

All Gr 4-5 students receive weekly art and general music instruction. Gr 5 students are introduced to instrumental music with options in either band or strings. Gr 6 students receive weekly art instruction along with options for weekly instruction in choir, band, and strings.

Performance opportunities are listed on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular Enrichment:

Many of our vocal and instrumental music students participate in outreach performances around the city.

Extracurricular:

The [myArts Links and Info webpage](#) puts Fine Arts info and extracurricular links at your fingertips.

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4.3. Upper School (Gr 7-8)

Curricular:

Gr 7-8 students may choose vocal or instrumental music or visual art for their fine arts class. The music students further develop their skills and musicianship through performance opportunities.

Performance opportunities are listed on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular Enrichment:

String and band classes meet in sectional groups which provides specialized instruction in addition to their full ensemble classes. Many of our students participate in visual art competitions and musicians participate in solo and ensemble competitions. We periodically bring in professional artists and musicians to enrich our students' experience. Our students regularly share their artistic skills and gifts through community outreach performances.

Extracurricular:

The [myArts Links and Info webpage](#) puts Fine Arts info and extracurricular links at your fingertips.

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4.4. Upper School (Gr 9-12)

Curricular:

For Gr 9-12 we further expand our offerings to provide students opportunities to try something for the first time or to spend four years in music or visual arts to work on perfecting their craft and musicianship.

Curricular offerings and performance opportunities for dance, instrumental and vocal music, and theatre are listed on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular offerings and exhibit opportunities for visual arts are listed on [CHCA's Visual Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular Enrichment:

Our students participate in many art and music competitions. Some of these include Cincinnati Art Association's Overture Awards (regional high school scholarship competition), Ohio Music Educators Association Honors Orchestras and Choirs, National Scholastics, Governor's Awards and local art organization competitions.

On a regular basis we bring in professional artists and musicians along with college and university groups to conduct master classes. We take our students on field trips and also encourage attendance, as a group and individually, to the many cultural events Cincinnati offers.

We are also blessed to have outstanding Fine Arts faculty members who continue perfecting their craft and musicianship through their outside professional involvement in the community. Not only does this keep them sharp but it also provides many wonderful opportunities for collaboration for our students and school.

Extracurricular:

The [myArts Links and Info webpage](#) puts Fine Arts info and extracurricular links at your fingertips.

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4.5. Armleder School (PK-Gr 6)

Curricular:

All students receive weekly art and general music instruction. In addition, all Gr 4-6 students receive weekly instrumental music instruction classes.

Performance opportunities are listed on [CHCA's Performing Arts Program](#) webpage.

Curricular Enrichment:

Each year with the generous support of the Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA) boosters, our Armleder students enjoy an artist-in-residence experience. These artists-in-residence experiences include visual and performing arts.

Extracurricular:

The [myArts Links and Info webpage](#) puts Fine Arts info and extracurricular links at your fingertips.


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5. Campus-Wide Art Festival

ArtBeat – Fine Arts Festival:

Since 1998 we have celebrated the visual and performing arts with ArtBeat, our Fine Arts Festival. More than 2,300 people attend this one-day festival which features:

- Performances by students from all four campuses on three different stages
- 1,000 pieces of student artwork on display
- A juried art competition for grade 9-12 students
- Hands-on arts and crafts for attendees of all ages
- Professional and student artists providing demonstrations of their work
- Delicious food and drink

 Discover more on the [ArtBeat webpage](#).

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6. Role Models – Fine Arts Faculty, Staff, Directors, and Coaches

Because of our commitment to excellence, outstanding faculty, staff, directors and coaches are an integral component of our Fine Arts program. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like attitudes, behavior, and desires for our students while creating opportunities for student experiences and for deepening skill levels. One of their most pivotal roles is to work with students whose character, revealed under pressure, needs to be Christ-like. They have a great responsibility to mold young lives for Christ.

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7. Expectations of Students

We believe all CHCA students should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and tenacious in pursuit of excellence at all times. As Christian students display these characteristics, all who are involved benefit.

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7.1. Mandatory Events and Schedule Conflicts

At the beginning of the year there are three ways to determine if a fine art class has a mandatory event, outside of the regular school day:

- All School / Fine Arts Calendar
- Class syllabus
- Meet the Teacher Night

The majority of these events have a class grade that is **dependent** on participation. These events are the culmination of a semester's worth of work. It is expected that every family will make every possible effort to prevent conflicts from falling on these dates so their student can be on-time, appropriately dressed and fully prepared to participate.

In the rare instances of a death in the family or illness, teachers should be notified as soon as possible so a director/teacher can make the necessary arrangements to cover for the student's absence. The student will be expected to make up the event with an assignment. Such assignment, though important, does not compare to the privilege of a united or corporate performance.

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7.2. School-Sponsored Field Trips

Wherever CHCA students go on extracurricular activities and/or field trips, they represent Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. We have often been complimented by restaurant owners, bus drivers, coaches and others in the community for our students' courteous and respectful behavior. We are proud of this tradition and trust it will continue.

Parents must give permission for students whenever they go on a field trip or an off-campus trip scheduled by the school (except team members going on regularly scheduled extracurricular trips who already have a permission slip on file). Faculty sponsors of an activity will notify parents of transportation arrangements and other details and, when the trip is over, will remain at school until all students have secured a ride home.

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7.3. Gr 7-12 Extracurricular Participation Requirements



Gr 7-12 Extracurricular Participation Requirements are described in the [CHCA Upper School Gr 7-12 Student and Family Handbook section on Extracurricular Activities](#).

Additional Requirements

Many extracurricular activities, i.e. Theatre and Dance Academy, etc. have additional participation requirements and guidelines that students must agree to in order to participate.

Last modified: May 14, 2020

8. Parent Concerns

Parents, we ask that if you have a problem needing attention, please follow the Matthew 18 principle as outlined below:

1. **Talk to the faculty member, director or coach in private, away from a class or activity.** If a parent goes to the Fine Arts Director or Administration without speaking with the faculty member, director or coach first, the parent will be directed back to them. The faculty member, director or coach will be notified of the meeting and the concern. The parent will be asked to contact them as soon as possible. If the parent does not contact them, they will contact the parent to address the concern.
2. If you are not satisfied with the results of the meeting with the faculty member, director or coach, talk with the Fine Arts Director, who may set up a meeting between the parent, faculty member, director or coach, the Fine Arts Director and possibly the Principal depending on the situation.
3. If you are still not satisfied, the Fine Arts Director may set up a meeting with the parent, faculty member, director or coach, Fine Arts Director, and the Principal.

Please remember that a majority of all concerns can be resolved by talking directly to the faculty member, director or coach. Please support the Fine Arts program at all times with your son or daughter. Also, please understand that performance roles and participation is at the discretion of the faculty member, director or coach.

 The [Help & Head's Up webpage](#) keeps The Matthew 18 Principle at your fingertips.

Schedule Conflicts

See the "[Mandatory Events and Schedule Conflicts](#)" handbook section for further information.

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9. Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA) – Fine Arts Boosters

Established in 1997, the Friends of Fine Arts are a parent-based booster group dedicated to providing spiritual, volunteer and financial support to the visual and performing arts programs at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. The Friends of Fine Arts have invested extensively, inside and outside the classroom, to boost CHCA's Fine Arts programs.



Visit the [Friends of Fine Arts \(FOFA\) Boosters](#) webpage for more information and to get involved.

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10. Contact Information



[View this topic on our website](#)

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