



DICKINSON
FINE ARTS ACADEMY
A PREMIER ARTS SCHOOL

“Every Child
is an Artist...”

~ *Pablo Picasso*



Dickinson Fine Arts Academy
4404 Elwood Avenue
South Bend, IN 46628
(574) 393-3900
website: dickinson.sb.school

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Families & Community

Dickinson has set a goal of 100% parent and family involvement. With your help, we will reach it. As a result, we will see increased student achievement, improved behavior, and the creation of a healthy, thriving school community.

Schools that reach out to families and include them in their educational efforts greatly enhance their success with students. DFAA makes tremendous efforts to communicate with families. This includes newsletters, phone calls, emails, family nights, conferences, parent portal access, and more. Parents are included on advisory committees, both building and corporation-wide. Parent volunteers are welcome and are a valued part of the school.

In addition to family and community events and parent workshops, Dickinson has initiated a parent community center. This program provides a platform for families, community stakeholders, and school personnel to engage in conversations that promote a deeper understanding of how parents and community stakeholders may collaborate to meet student needs.

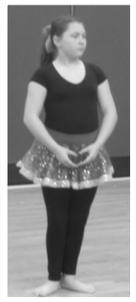
Our Parent Resource Room is supported by our Social Worker and School Guidance Counselor. It is open during school hours and contains many resources for parents including computers available for parent use, free brochures, books and educational games which may be checked out.



Questions? Contact the DFAA Main Office (574)393-3900

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AFTER SCHOOL ARTS ADVENTURES



Opportunities for extended experiences in a variety of the arts are offered through our after school programming. Sessions mirror the grading periods, and classes meet weekly for approximately two hours after school. The after school staff is made up of faculty members, community artists, parent volunteers, and university students. Our partnering sponsors have included the South Bend Museum of Art, Legacy Martial Arts, the Robinson Community Learning Center/ University of Notre Dame, South Bend Civic Theatre, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

Examples of previously offered classes:

Academic Arts

Guarantee Club
ISTEP Bootcamp
Tutoring
Chess
Robotics
Radio Station
Television Studio
STEAM Club
Floetry (Rap & Poetry)
School Newspaper

Fine Arts

Show Choir
Jazz Band
Drumline
Mariachi Band
Mural Design
Clay Arts
Musical Theater
Painting
Jewelry Design
Garage Band

Physical Arts

Lacrosse
Martial Arts
Dance Fit-
Fencing
Cheerlead-
Ballet
Jazz Dance
Tennis
Archery
Zumba



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- ◆ **Rigorous curriculum in all subjects, utilizing strategies for Indiana Academic State Standards along with Gender-Based Instruction, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics), and Arts Integration focused on 21st Century Skills**
- ◆ **Magnet & community students in grades 6-8**
- ◆ **1:1 Technology in Core Content classes**
- ◆ **Monthly formative assessments**
- ◆ **Expanded curriculum in the Fine Arts**
- ◆ **After-school opportunities in Academics, Arts, and Athletics**

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Dickinson was designated a Fine Arts Magnet School with support from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant awarded in the fall of 2007. This resulted in teacher training in arts integration, new musical instruments, digital cameras, art supplies, a clay studio, dance studio, piano lab, art technology studio, television studio, and many additional resources.

In July of 2012, Dickinson was awarded a School Improvement Grant of 4.4 million dollars, which will supplied funding for academic initiatives through 2014. This included support for current programs as well as provisions for staff to plan and implement STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum.

**Dickinson Fine Arts Academy
leads students
on an educational journey
full of academic and artistic
adventures!**



- In 2016, DFAA was recognized as a National Magnet School of Excellence for the second time. The first was in 2015.
- In 2015-16, Dickinson Fine Arts Academy received the "All School Music" Award from ISSMA for it's band program. This is an award that normally is reserved for high school programs.
- In May of 2013, DFAA was recognized as a National Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America.
- Dickinson Fine Arts Academy was recognized in 2012 by the Indiana Department of Education for demonstrating the highest academic gains of all middle schools in the State of Indiana.
- In September of 2012, Dickinson was recognized by the South Bend Common Council for high academic achievement.
- Student have consistently earned high awards for their work in the Visual and Performing Arts from organizations such as Scholastic, ISSMA, and the VanderCook College of Music.
- DFAA continues to draw increasing numbers of magnet students from across the South Bend area.



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Sample Student Schedule:

ADVISORY.....SUCCESS

Period 1.....Math

Period 2.....Math

Period 3.....Language Arts

Period 4.....Language Arts

LUNCH.....LUNCH

Period 5.....Visual Arts

Period 6.....Orchestra

Period 7.....Social Studies

Period 8.....Science

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Additional academic support is available both during and outside of the school day.

Bridge

Bridge is an alternative program that utilizes technology and strategies to improve student achievement and family engagement in underperforming students. It was established in 2013-14 to assist in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

Saturday School

Saturday school meets bi-monthly and will provide instructional assistance to students in lieu of out of school suspensions, as well as those in need of assistance in reaching academic proficiency.

ASAA Tutoring

Tutoring is offered after school on an individual basis by ELA & Math teachers.



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Academics

Dickinson follows an 8 period daily schedule. Each student has two periods of Language Arts and Math. Science and Social Studies complete the academic portion of their day. Students attend these classes in a grade level "house" area, isolated from students in other grades.

Students at all grade levels will change teachers for all four subject areas, while maintaining both gender-based co-hort groupings. Language Arts & Math are blocked for 2 period classes each day, while Science & Social Studies meet on alternate days.



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INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK & INTERVENTIONS

My Virtual Reading Coach (MVRC)/ MindPlay

MVRC is an online reading program that students in the SBCSC district use each day. MVRC is an individualized instructional program that responds to the level of performance for each student, challenging them to improve their reading skills. Data is provided to the teachers, allowing them to further tailor classroom instruction to the needs of individual students.

Exact Path/ Edmentum

Exact Path is a similar program that addresses both Mathematics and English/ Language Arts. Similar to MVRC, the programs adjust to the responses of individual students and track their growth as well as their engagement.

Study Island

Study Island is a component of Edmentum that is used by ELA and Math teachers throughout the district for formative assessments. These short team assessments give teachers information on student progress in relation to specific content-area standards.



ARC

(Assessment Remediation Class)

Students consistently working below expectations in MindPlay (MVRC) or Edmentum (Exact Path) will be placed in ARC during one of their Arts Block classes. Students may earn their way out of ARC through a combination of increased academic proficiency and improved assessment scores.



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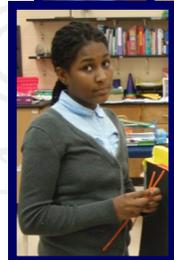
Arts Block Classes

Each student at Dickinson takes part in a two period arts block of classes every day. This allows for expanded time within the arts for all DFAA students. Arts Block teachers work closely with core content teachers to reinforce math and language arts, as well as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) concepts through Project-Based Learning units.

Dickinson students in grade 6 choose one performing arts class which meets daily. Their options are Band, Orchestra, Choir, or STEAM. For the second Arts Block class, each student will have one semester of Visual Arts, and one semester split between Introduction to Technology and Physical Education.

Grades 7 & 8 choose a Fine Arts option for the entire school year. Their choices are Visual Arts (2-D, 3-D, or Media Technology), Choir, Band, or Orchestra. The second Arts Block period will consist of four classes meeting daily for one grading period: Physical Education, Health, Career Exploration, and STEAM (A Project-Based Learning class focusing on the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math).

Our goal is to allow students to explore all five areas of the Fine Arts through arts block classes: Visual Art, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Dance. This will give students a foundational understanding and appreciation of the arts. Students in the upper grades will have had exposure to all areas before making a decision to specialize for their year-long selections, as well as future educational and career decisions.



The arts develop one's ability to understand, decipher, and interpret images, symbols, and sensory data in today's technological environment. They provide a means for expression and response when words are inadequate. The self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, self-motivation, and skills of problem-solving and critical thinking developed as a result of arts study are essential for success in life. Regardless of capabilities, disabilities, talents, or background, all students deserve access to the benefits that focused arts study can provide."

~Indiana Department of Education