



**McCallum**

Fine Arts Academy

**Your Next Steps To Success:**

**A Handbook for  
Academy Students and Families**

**2018-2019 Academic Year**

**Heather Ramsay, Academy Coordinator**

**Tonya Moore, Academy Assistant**

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# McCallum Administration & Staff

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| Assistant Principal, Last Names Mi-Sd | Larry Featherstone | 414-7503 |
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| Academy Coordinator                   | Heather Ramsay     | 414-7506 |
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| Counselor, Last Names Co-Hd           | Shelley Goldstein  | 841-7317 |
| Counselor, Last Names He-Me           | Daniela Galvan     | 414-7510 |
| Counselor, Last Names Mi-Sd           | Cristela Garcia    | 414-7509 |
| Counselor, Last Names Se-Z            | Mickey Folger      | 414-7514 |
| College Counselor                     | Nancy Nitardy      | 841-7315 |
| Counselors' Secretary                 | Jody Ray           | 414-7502 |
| <b>McCallum HS Key Staff</b>          |                    |          |
| Front Desk/ Asst. Principals Clerk    | Cindy Torres       | 414-2519 |
| Attendance Clerk                      | Jewell Jackson     | 414-7582 |
| Bookkeeper                            | Tena Pinion        | 414-7527 |
| Registrar                             | Josie Santiago     | 414-7522 |
| Registrar Assistant                   |                    | 414-7522 |
| Data Processor                        | Andrea Rogers      | 414-7519 |
| PEIMS Clerk                           | Lisa Valadez       | 841-7312 |
| <b>Police</b>                         |                    |          |
| AISD Police Dispatch                  |                    | 414-7503 |
| McCallum HS Student Resource Officers |                    | 414-7537 |

# Introduction

## Mission

The mission of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy is to foster and advance a diverse group of student artists who will create, lead, inspire, and contribute to a global community.

## McCallum Fine Arts Academy's Five Pillars

The McCallum Fine Arts Academy:

- ▲ Focuses on the individual development of each student
- ▲ Provides high quality instruction
- ▲ Integrates collaborative, intentional, reciprocal relationships with the broader Austin arts community into our programs/classrooms/instruction
- ▲ Encourages an interdisciplinary approach to curriculum and instruction
- ▲ Graduates students who can produce a pre-professional level of product in their chosen art form

## Major Courses of Study

Students apply to major/study in the following areas.

- ▲ Choral Studies
- ▲ Cinematic Arts
- ▲ Dance
- ▲ Instrumental Music: Band
- ▲ Instrumental Music: Classical Guitar
- ▲ Instrumental Music: Collaborative Piano
- ▲ Instrumental Music: Orchestra
- ▲ Performance Theatre
- ▲ Technical Theatre
- ▲ Visual Arts
- ▲ Musical Theatre Performance Certificate: Choral Studies, Dance, and Performance majors only

## Academy Program Description

As Austin ISD's district-wide fine arts intensive high school program, the Fine Arts Academy at McCallum High School provides an exemplary arts education program for 9th – 12th grade students to pursue an accelerated arts curriculum as fine arts majors.

McCallum Fine Arts Academy attracts a diverse student body from all over the Austin area, including students who attended public, private, charter, and home middle schools.

A group of Austin community members who realized the value of drawing together like-minded arts students to study and learn from arts experts and from each other initiated and coordinated the

movement for a fine arts intensive high school in Austin in the early 1990s. This community group asked for guidance on where to create a fine arts academy in Austin from Ruth Denney, who founded Houston's High School for Performing and Visual Arts after retiring as a professor at The University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Denney recommended McCallum High School as the site for the fine arts academy due to its rich history of excellence in arts education and its close proximity to a high concentration of community arts organizations.

Partly as a result of Denney's involvement, the McCallum Fine Arts Academy was embraced by The University of Texas College of Fine Arts from its inception in 1993 and enjoys a strong partnership which continues today. The McCallum Fine Arts Academy also collaborates with the Austin Chamber Music Center, Texas State University, the Austin Classical Guitar Society, ZACH Theatre, the Austin Symphony, MINDPOP, and myriad other artists, community organizations, cultural agencies, and educational institutions to provide the highest level of experiential learning opportunities for our students.

## **Academy Purpose**

*The Fine Arts Academy exists to develop well-rounded students, critical thinkers, collaborators, and a community of arts advocates.*

## **Well-rounded Students**

The McCallum community maintains a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. All McCallum students share the same academic classes, and Fine Arts Academy classes and auditions are open to any McCallum student. Academy majors take a minimum of six Fine Arts courses over the course of their high school careers along with a variety of before and afterschool arts-related activities.

## **Critical Thinkers**

Instruction at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy teaches students how to be critical thinkers. Students are challenged and taught to analyze, critique, and revise their work. The Fine Arts faculty hold students to a high standard and require students to develop self-discipline as well as exhibit the motivation to do their best work. Our students learn to ask important questions and work hard to get the answers. Critical thinking is as key to learning to create an artwork or to choreograph a dance as it is to be successful at math and science. The McCallum Fine Arts Academy holds its' students to the highest standards for their practice, which requires critical thinking and accepting constructive critique, as well as a willingness to analyze, practice, and revise.

## **Collaborators**

All arts students are encouraged to work as members of a team at McCallum. This collaboration happens within each arts major as well as across majors. There are many opportunities for students to work with peers in other areas of the arts. For example, visual arts students plan and execute gallery exhibitions that go up before major Fine Arts Academy events in the theatre; orchestra members perform with dancers, singers, and actors; band and orchestra majors come together as a full orchestra to prepare and present music for contest. In addition, students collaborate with the broader arts community through in-school and outside-of-school fine arts partnerships. These few examples demonstrate that McCallum Fine Arts Academy students benefit from a broad range of opportunities throughout their high school experience.

## Arts Advocates

By encouraging our students to explore multiple art forms during their time at McCallum, we cultivate future arts advocates who are able to speak firsthand about the value of the arts in education and in the fabric of society. We also have parent organizations that advocate for exemplary fine arts education in Austin ISD. Indeed, when it's time to support McCallum, the arts, or other important causes, the Fine Arts Academy gratefully enlists the help of our students and parents.

# Section 1: Getting Connected

## Stay Updated

The Fine Arts Academy maintains a database separate from the district system. All information originally listed on your Academy application is entered into its records. Therefore, we ask that you inform the Academy Office directly of any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, residency, etc. as they happen.

## Academy Parents as Partners

First and foremost, parents partner with McCallum to be actively involved in their child's education. Due to the rigors of our intensive fine arts programs, parents should be prepared to support the significant involvement of their child's time at school. McCallum parents join advocacy groups (booster clubs/guilds) to support the activities in which their child is involved. Parents also volunteer in areas of their interest and professional expertise to support the school and the program. The McCallum Fine Arts Academy is known for our strong community of supporters, and we rely on our parent advocates to help us to continue attracting talented students.

Parents promote and support McCallum Fine Arts Academy in the areas of:

- ▲ Event assistance
- ▲ Promotion, publicity, and online presence
- ▲ Committee/ task force work: Bond Oversight and Campus Advisory Council
- ▲ Communications: local and broader community
- ▲ Curriculum support: securing guest artists and college/career speakers
- ▲ Fundraising and grant writing: securing matching funds and identifying corporate sponsors
- ▲ Graphic design: posters and programs
- ▲ Carpentry for productions
- ▲ Costume construction or acquisition
- ▲ Landscaping
- ▲ Photography
- ▲ Parent Advocacy Group: officer or parent representative

Whether an active participant or not, parents may wish to sign up and receive important information from their fine arts parent advocacy group, in case your child may forget to tell you something in advance. Each Fine Arts major manages their own communication systems to keep their parents informed.

## **Facebook**

Although the McCallum Fine Arts Academy will send out important information via direct email, we recommend that you join the “McCallum Fine Arts Academy” Facebook page. Reminders of upcoming deadlines and events will be posted there. In addition, you can stay informed about each majors’ news and events on this page.

## **McCallum HS/ Fine Arts Academy Website & Calendars**

The McCallum website (mccallumhs.com) has a significant amount of information about the school and its many excellent programs. While some pages are static sources of information, you will also find it useful for events, news, and calendars. Specifically, new Academy majors will need the “Fine Arts Academy Calendar” since it will assist with meeting the Enrichment Participation Requirement (see Section 3).

## **MacKnightly Newsletter**

The MacKnightly Newsletter is a weekly online publication that keeps our MAC community informed about all-school activities such as testing, late start reminders, athletics, and more. To sign up go to the MAC website. At the bottom right of any page, you will see fields to enter your name and email to subscribe.

## **AISD Parent Cloud**

As a reminder, all parents have access to the Parent Cloud. A link to more information can be found at the top of the MAC website. We highly recommend that you stay informed about your child’s ongoing progress as a McCallum Fine Arts Academy major. You are also encouraged to contact any of the MAC faculty, administration or staff should you have any questions about what you see there or otherwise.

## **Academy Ambassadors**

Students can communicate directly with the Academy Ambassador(s) from their major for assistance, information, or feedback. While we encourage all of our students to provide support for one another, students can be assured that the Academy Ambassadors are there for them as much as they can be.

*About the program:* Beginning in Fall 2017, the Academy Office started a new program for outstanding seniors. The purpose of the Academy Ambassadors program is to invite and engage our seniors’ participation in Academy programs and events. Information about the criteria as well as the nomination and selection process will be available in the spring for prospective AA’s.

## Section 2: Navigating Your Courses

### Required Curriculum by Major

In addition to completing the coursework necessary to graduate under the State of Texas and Austin Independent School District requirements, Fine Arts Academy students must complete the requirements\* listed on their contracts and copied below for their major. All Fine Arts major curriculum is designed to include six courses to be completed at McCallum along with outside-of-school participation requirements. For a complete list of your individual major requirements, please refer to your Major Contract. Copies are available upon request at the Academy Office.

#### CHORAL STUDIES

- 🏠 Large Choral Ensemble every year
- 🏠 Music Theory I/Piano – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (option to test out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 🏠 AP Music Theory – Required in 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation in UIL Solo Contest every year

#### CINEMATIC ARTS

- 🏠 Audio Video Production I – Required in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Audio Video Production II – Required in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Practicum in A/V Production I and II – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Theatre Arts (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade), Technical Theatre (10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade) or Film Analysis (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Must take 2 of these 3 courses
- 🏠 A/V Club every year
- 🏠 Senior Capstone project

#### DANCE

- 🏠 Academy dance course(s) every year (course placement determined by Directors)
- 🏠 One year of Ballet - Recommended in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 The Anatomy and Physiology Course - Recommended in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Perform in the fall and spring faculty-directed Dance concerts every year. *Please note that freshmen in the fall semester will work as “crew” for the Fall Dance Concert.*

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: BAND\*

- 🏠 Large Band Ensemble and Marching Band every year
- 🏠 Music Theory I/Piano – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (option to test out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 🏠 AP Music Theory – Required in 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation in UIL Solo Contest every year

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: CLASSICAL GUITAR

- 🏠 Large Classical Guitar Class/Ensemble every year
- 🏠 Music Theory I/Piano – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (option to test out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 🏠 AP Music Theory – Required in 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation in UIL Solo Contest every year

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: COLLABORATIVE PIANO

- 🏠 Collaborative residencies with large music ensembles every year, faculty assigned
- 🏠 Piano I, II, III, and IV
- 🏠 Music Theory I – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (option to test out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 🏠 AP Music Theory – Required 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Multiple recital performances every year
- 🏠 Participation in UIL Solo Contest and TMEA every year

- 🏠 Collaboration with McCallum musicians at UIL and/or AISD contests, faculty assigned

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: ORCHESTRA\***

- 🏠 Large Orchestra Ensemble every year
- 🏠 Music Theory I/Piano – Required in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (option to test out in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 🏠 AP Music Theory – Required in 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation in UIL or AISD Solo Contest every year
- 🏠 Participation in chamber ensemble, faculty assigned

## **PERFORMANCE THEATRE**

- 🏠 Theatre Arts course every year (Levels I-IV taken each year in sequence)
- 🏠 One year of Technical Theatre (Level I)
- 🏠 One year of Dance (dance can be taken for PE credit)
- 🏠 Participation as cast or crew in one faculty-directed show in the freshman year and two faculty-directed shows each following year. These shows require attendance at all rehearsals, performances, tech calls as appropriate.

## **TECHNICAL THEATRE**

- 🏠 Technical Theatre course every year (Levels I-IV taken each year in sequence)
- 🏠 One year Theater Arts (Level I)
- 🏠 Art I – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation as technical crew in one faculty-directed show in the freshman year and two faculty-directed shows each following year. These shows require attendance at all tech calls, from the first production meeting through strike.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

- 🏠 Art II Design I
- 🏠 Four additional MAC year-long Studio Art courses (min. 1 course every year; 2 at honors/Advanced Placement (AP) level)
- 🏠 AP Art History – Required in 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE,) or equivalent as determined by visual arts faculty team, every year
- 🏠 Senior Capstone project

## **MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE\*\*\***

### **Choral Studies, Dance and Performance Theatre Major General Requirements**

- 🏠 Two years of Musical Theatre – Recommended in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 Participation as cast in one faculty-directed musical each year
- 🏠 Pay all theatre production fees

### **Choral Studies Major: Additional Certificate Program Requirements**

- 🏠 One year Theatre Arts – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 One year Dance – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Dance Major: Additional Certificate Program Requirements**

- 🏠 One year Theatre Arts – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 One year Choir – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Performance Theatre Major: Additional Certificate Program Requirements**

- 🏠 One year Choir – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 🏠 One year Dance – Recommended in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Please note that these are the **minimum** requirements for each strand. Most Fine Arts Academy students participate in numerous electives, both within and outside their major.

\*Some courses are double-blocked, meaning they span two class periods in the student's schedule

*\*\*\*Since the add-on Certificate requires additional coursework and participation, not all students who participate in the program fulfill the requirements to graduate with it. Selecting to pursue this distinction should be done thoughtfully.*

## **Course Scheduling**

At the end of February/beginning of March, all MAC underclassmen students/families will participate in the Choice course registration process for the next school year. Students need to know their INDIVIDUAL graduation and Fine Arts Academy requirements – referring to what a friend has to take in the same major is not recommended. Consult your Major contract, visit the Academy office and/or speak with a counselor, as needed. Staying informed is vital to not only selecting the correct required courses but also for registering in time to ensure that the classes they need or would like are available.

Prior to the start of the new school year, students will receive their selected classes. At that time, if any changes are necessary, campus counselors hold a Back-To-Mac event (August) as well as an online process to do so. On the first day of school, students will receive their schedule. Email your counselor for course or schedule change requests, not the Fine Arts Academy office.

Always refer to your individual Major contract for the “Required Academy Curriculum” necessary to graduate as an Academy major.

Physical Education is a state requirement to graduate. Band majors fulfill this requirement with Marching Band over several years. Likewise, all majors should consider taking Dance for PE credit. See your counselor and/or faculty for specific scheduling advice.

## **Summer Study**

Many of our students participate in summer courses in order to fulfill all of their requirements as well as to continue being actively engaged in their discipline through to graduation. The primary resource for camps and summer study within your major is your supervising arts faculty. However, if you are interested in completing academic courses during summer, you should speak to your guidance counselor.

Summer study on a college campus is also highly recommended for several reasons, including: introduction to dorm life, working with college professors, and immersing yourself away from home in a college environment. If summer study is done at a college where the student plans to apply, there is value added, such as meeting professors who may take special interest in students who will be submitting an application.

There are a variety of summer study opportunities (short length and longer). They can be expensive, but students should not be hesitant to ask for a summer camp scholarship. If interested, students should start researching in the fall as an application usually is necessary. Almost ALL college campuses have a summer study program available to high school students.

## Changing or Adding a Major

On occasion students wish to take a different direction on their path as an Academy major. As such, we have a required process for requesting any change or addition of a major. This process includes form completion, essay, signatures and conversations with student, parents, faculty and Academy Office. Once a year in early Spring semester the Academy Office begins processing requests; students may stop in for a form and specific instructions at that time. While all requests are reviewed, they are not all approved.

Requirements:

1. All changes to majors must be completed in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade year.
2. A completed Change or Add Major form (pick up at Academy Office) and an essay are required by the deadline.
  - a. Grades and behavior will be checked from current McCallum reports.
  - b. Teacher recommendations will not be necessary, as the approving faculty of your new major should know you from classes you are currently in or have taken.

## Choosing to Leave the Academy

When you were accepted into the Academy, you were given a valuable spot that many other young people would have loved to have had. Therefore, a decision to voluntarily drop your major should not be taken lightly. While we understand that there are some circumstances from which a student may choose to no longer be a major in the McCallum Fine Arts Academy, we do not wish to see this happen. Administration, faculty and staff invest time and effort towards your success that should not be taken for granted. Likewise, positive character traits of commitment, dedication and follow through are very important to future colleges, professors, and employers.

If you are considering leaving, the following are requirements that must be met:

1. You must meet with the Academy Coordinator. You will need to have conversations with your parents and your supervising arts teacher as well.
2. You must complete a Drop Form from the Academy Office.
3. Seniors will only be allowed to drop during the first 6 weeks. After that time, no drops will be provided and students will need to meet the rest of the expectations of a major.
4. Students attending McCallum on a curriculum transfer will lose the transfer and the ability to remain at MAC. Contact Student Services for more info, 414-1726.

## Section 3: Expectations of Academy Majors

### Enrichment Participation Requirement

The purpose of this Academy Contract Requirement is based on our commitment to developing well-rounded, critical thinking and collaborative arts advocates. **Beginning Fall 2017, new Academy majors are required to attend 1 after school or weekend Academy performance or exhibition opening not of their major EVERY semester EVERY year at McCallum.** That's 2 each year – 1 in the Fall and 1 in the Spring. Students should plan in advance for scheduling and transportation needs using the Fine Arts Academy Calendar found on the MAC website ([mccallumhs.com/fine-arts-](http://mccallumhs.com/fine-arts-)

academy/events/). For each instance, students will be expected to complete a BLEND assignment through the Academy Office. Students will be given details about the assignment requirements. Since this is a contract requirement, failure to complete this expectation fully can lead to removal from the Academy and loss of transfer, as applicable.

## Code of Conduct

The Fine Arts Academy expects our students to follow the AISD Code of Conduct and represent themselves and our school in an exemplary manner. McCallum administration, Principal and/or Assistant Principals, will handle incidents of misconduct. Please review the AISD Student Code of Conduct at: <https://www.austinisd.org/parent-information/conduct-code>

In general, the McCallum Fine Arts Academy expects students to:

- ▲ Maintain passing grades
- ▲ Maintain exemplary attendance
- ▲ Earn no serious behavior consequences
- ▲ Make satisfactory progress in their major each year.

An Academy student who falls short of expectations will be given required interventions to complete. The intention of the intervention is to show the student what it will take to achieve the desired result.

## Grade Expectations

- ▲ All Academy majors are required to maintain a minimum grade of 80 in their required fine arts courses listed on the Major Contract.
- ▲ All Academy students are required to maintain a minimum grade of 70 in all other classes at all times.
- ▲ A student with ANY grade below the minimum expectation will be assigned mandatory tutoring. This applies to all classes whether AP, Honors or otherwise. (See Academy Probation Procedures)
- ▲ Your high school transcript is important when applying to colleges, as well as for graduate schools, internships, and potential employment. An excellent GPA, a transcript that shows rigorous high school courses, and a resume showing long-term commitment to an organization or activity contribute to more (and better) opportunities down the road.

## Behavior Expectations

Academy majors are expected to demonstrate a level of conduct both in and out of school that earns the honor and distinction of being called a McCallum Fine Arts Academy graduate. We look to our students to exhibit appropriate, respectful, and kind behavior towards faculty, staff, administration, community members and other students. The Code of Conduct is just the baseline from which Academy majors can serve as a role model to inspire and lead others towards becoming better global citizens.

Most behavior infractions are managed directly by faculty. However, should behaviors persist or call for it, students and/or parents may be asked to meet with the Academy Coordinator. Again, serious and persistent behavior infractions are handled by MAC Administration. Appropriate behavior, as indicated on the Academy Contract, is an obligation of each major, and, therefore, inappropriate behavior can lead to removal from the Academy and loss of transfer, as applicable.

## **Attendance Expectations**

At McCallum High, teaching and learning exists primarily in a face-to-face environment. Attendance is a vital factor towards developing good habits as well as staying engaged with the curriculum. As a Fine Arts Academy major, students are required to maintain a 90% in-class attendance rate. Like grade and behavior expectations, poor attendance can lead to removal.

## **Academy Probation Procedures**

1. *Each step relates to one 6 week grading period. Grades, attendance and behavior are monitored every 6 weeks; semester and finals grades are not reviewed.*
2. *Failing a grading period happens when a student does not meet the expectations as listed previously. It does not matter whether a student fails one or more class; ANY fail constitutes a failure and places the student within the process described next.*
3. *Steps rollover to the following year. Students can only come off probation when passing requirements as described next.*

### **Step 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Probation**

If the student fails to meet an Academy expectation, the Fine Arts Academy office will notify the student and/or parent by email. The parent is asked to reply and acknowledge the probation notification. For instances related to grades and attendance, students are expected to complete mandatory tutoring hours as a remediation intervention. Hours are recorded and submitted to the Academy office on an Academy Tutoring Log, which is sent as an attachment with the probation notice email or can be found in the wall pocket just outside the Academy office. Further details about completing tutoring can be found below and on the log. When the student passes the next grading term, s/he will be removed from probation. However, failure to make improvements will lead to Step 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Probation.

### **What Counts as Tutoring:**

- ▲ All tutoring must be completed on the student's own time. In-class time during the school day DOES NOT count. After school called rehearsals or work sessions DO NOT count.
- ▲ Tutoring must be completed with a teacher on your current course schedule, at Saturday School, or with a private professional tutor hired by a parent/guardian. Tutor MUST sign log every time.
- ▲ Tutoring must be actively supervised by a teacher. Library time and/or studying with a peer DOES NOT count.
- ▲ Tutoring does not need to be completed in the same courses that were failed/low grade. However, it is highly recommended that tutoring is completed where there is the most immediate need.

### **General Tutoring Instructions:**

- ▲ Tutoring must be completed DURING the six weeks following the failed/low grade(s) by deadlines indicated on log.
- ▲ Student is responsible for logging and turning in all tutoring records, including Saturday School, to the Fine Arts Academy Office, Room 161A located in the Language Hall.
- ▲ Completing the form:  
*Subject/Type:* list class or Saturday School; for example, Pre-Cal, AP Music Theory, or Saturday School  
*Total Time:* amount of time completed during that one instance; for example, 45minutes or 1 hour  
*Total Hours Completed:* add up your total time; it should match your total tutoring hours needed

### **How Much Tutoring Time Am I Required to Do:**

- ▲ 4 hours for the first failed/low grade; expectation – min. of 80 in major coursework and min. 70 in all other academic coursework
  - ▲ 2 hours for every additional failed/low grade class
  - ▲ Example: 68 in English and 75 in Ceramics – a Visual Arts major would do 6 hours of tutoring vs. a Band major would do 4 hours because Ceramics is not a class in their major
- Exception: AP Music Theory (all music majors), Anatomy and Physiology (dance majors) and AP Art History (visual art majors) expectation is min. of 70 each 6weeks due to level of rigor in these courses \*NO exception for any other courses AP or otherwise

### **Failure to Complete Tutoring:**

Failure to meet tutoring deadlines will result in the following:

- ▲ Mandatory assigned Saturday School and/or
- ▲ Additional tutoring hours and/or
- ▲ Administrative action and/or
- ▲ Parent conference

***Tutoring deadline dates as well as Saturday School Dates can be found on the tutoring log.***

The goal of tutoring is to provide a timely strategy for individual improvement as well as an opportunity for rigorous engagement towards academic success in the Fine Arts Academy.

We fully expect a student on probation to work harder, attend tutoring, and earn all credits for the grading term and semester. We realize that working at this level is challenging. Sometimes failing grades are the result of not turning in work. Parents are expected to monitor their child's grades through the Parent Cloud. In addition, our student-centered faculty make themselves available for tutoring/office hours. Please contact them directly with class concerns and questions. McCallum wants your student to be successful. With parent, student, and school working together, we expect good outcomes.

### **Step 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Probation**

If a student fails a 2<sup>nd</sup> grading period in a row, then s/he is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Probation. Everything in Step 1: Probation applies, including mandatory tutoring, with the addition of the following.

Students beginning to show a consistent pattern of failure will meet directly with the Academy Coordinator. Students will receive support and encouragement, and a full remediation plan will be discussed and completed. The Remediation Plan form must be taken home and returned with a parent signature within 2 days. We recommend that parents and students discuss the plan as well as any other strategies that may help to improve student success.

Failing grades, as well as poor attendance and behavior, are not acceptable for a Fine Arts Academy student. Therefore, with support from the Academy office, administration, counselors, and parents, we expect full pro-active engagement from the student to do her/his part to remedy the situation.

When the student passes the next grading term, s/he will be removed from probation. Failure to do so leads to Step 3: Removal Warning.

### **Step 3: Removal Warning**

Should the student fail a 3<sup>rd</sup> grading period in a row, then s/he is placed on Removal Warning. Everything in both Step 1 & Step 2 apply as requirements and expectations, with the addition of the following.

At this consistent stage of failure, the matter should be taken very seriously. The Academy Coordinator will pursue direct contact with parents to discuss removal from the Academy and what might be done to assist the student to prevent that outcome. Any student who is removed from the Academy loses the transfer to remain at McCallum, as applicable.

To be taken out of Removal Warning status and the danger of leaving the Academy, the student must pass TWO grading periods in a row. Failure to do so will lead to Step 4: Removal.

### **Step 4: Removal from the Fine Arts Academy**

If the pattern continues and the student still has failure(s), s/he will be automatically removed from the Fine Arts Academy. Parents will be notified of the removal via email.

## **Section 4: Graduation & Beyond The Academy**

### **Build a Portfolio**

Although the Fine Arts Academy is not officially a portfolio school, you will be building a body of work that, when documented, will be your fine arts portfolio. Not just for visual arts majors, the portfolio can be an excellent tool to set yourself apart from other college candidates. While you should talk directly with your fine arts faculty about specifics, the portfolio is a collection of evidence of your work.

Starting as a freshman, Academy majors are held accountable for particular requirements in and out of their classes. Parents - documenting this evidence will greatly assist you later. Artifacts could include:

- ▲ Performance Photographs
- ▲ Recordings
- ▲ Programs/ Playbills
- ▲ UIL/ VASE Adjudication Results
- ▲ Honor Organizations
- ▲ Other Clubs and Activities

- ▲ Academy Portfolio
- ▲ High School Resume
- ▲ Brag Sheet
- ▲ Scrapbook

## College Preparation

The Fine Arts Academy strives to provide you with enough opportunities for success in learning that you will embark upon your college endeavors fully prepared, whether as a pre-professional in your arts field or as an academic in another direction. However, getting there will take some planning and work.

At McCallum, all students have access to the Gear Up Lab, which is our college resource room run by a college counselor. In addition, your fine arts faculty is the best resource for preparations towards a fine arts program. Start your research early to know what is required as well as when deadlines occur for each college you are interested in applying.

While staying actively engaged in your coursework and other studies, keep your portfolio and resume up-to-date. Remember that colleges can, and do, revoke admission due to poor work senior year.

Cultivate professional relationships with your faculty and other experts in your area(s) of interest. These people can serve you by writing your college recommendations. Ask early, and give them reminders so that they can meet your timetable.

## Convocation

Every year, often the day prior to the whole school graduation, the McCallum HS Fine Arts Academy hosts a Convocation (graduation) ceremony for the class of graduating Academy majors. Attendance is mandatory, as we believe that the success of each of our student's hard work should be celebrated in the best possible way. Specific information about Convocation is communicated in the spring.

***Remember that attending the McCallum HS Fine Arts Academy is a privilege and not a right. We look forward to helping you make the most out of this honor and distinction!***