



Middle School Arts Magnet

Literary Arts / Theatre Arts / Rhythmic Arts



The Program

The Middle School Arts Magnet for students in grade 6-8 provides enrichment and instruction in literary, theatre, and dance arts. Learning experiences encourage students to work independently and collaboratively to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and enhance self-esteem. Excellence in the arts is a natural extension of the middle school academic program.

Students take three 60-minute classes (Literary Arts, Theatre Arts, and Dance Arts) at the York County School of the Arts (SOA) facility at Bruton High School. These students also take four classes (history, math, science, and an elective/foreign language) at Queens Lake Middle School. Students participating in the Middle School Arts Magnet begin their day at Queens Lake Middle School with their first block class and then travel to SOA at BHS for Literary Arts (every day), Theatre Arts and Dance Arts (alternating days). Following the Magnet classes, students are transported back to Queens Lake Middle for lunch and the final class of the day.

Eligibility

Students interested in participating in the Middle School Arts Magnet are expected to have good school attendance and citizenship. Additionally, students must have:

- Earned a “B” or above in the first or most recent semester of their English course.
- Students must have earned a passing score (400 or above) on the English: Reading Standard of Learning (SOL) assessment in the previous school year (or an equivalent achievement test from another state).

Application Process

- Applications are available in each elementary and middle school main office and at the School Board Office.
- The applications of eligible students will be grouped by grade level for random, lottery-style selection.

Additional Information

- Students admitted to the Middle School Arts Magnet must enroll at Queens Lake Middle School as their home school.
- Parents of students zoned for TMS, GMS, and YMS are responsible for transportation to/from QLMS.
- Enrollment in the Middle School Arts Magnet does not guarantee acceptance into the School of the Arts in grade 9.
- Applicants who do not currently meet the eligibility criteria may choose to reapply for admission the following year.

Curriculum Connections

Literary Arts

An advanced exploration of literature, writing, and language skills; creative and challenging interdisciplinary environment; composition; communication; critical thinking skills; extension of expressive talents beyond the ordinary; literature-based study to enhance skills needed for successful performance in subsequent English courses. (These courses replace middle school English courses.)

Theatre Arts

Study of theatre through history, culture, genres, and performance; consideration of the role of theatre arts in contemporary society; participation in theatrical productions and design efforts; distinguishing between the meaningful and the mediocre in the arts. (These courses serve as middle school electives.)

Dance Arts

Participation in dance as a healthy lifestyle as well as an art form; exploration of creative dance, improvisation, the basics of choreography, and a variety of dance forms; consideration of the diversity of style, historical, and cultural aspects of dance arts. (These courses replace middle school physical education courses.)



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