

Bell Shoals Academy

Fine Arts

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Fine Arts
Handbook

— 2026-27 —

Fine Arts Handbook

Mission Statement

Bell Shoals Academy exists to infuse our school community with a Biblical worldview by effectively sharing the gospel and developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ through scripturally based discipleship, academics, fine arts, and athletics.

Departmental Philosophy

“God created man in his own image,” Gen. 1:27. Since God created us in His image, each student is innately creative. Fine Arts releases the creativity within each student and allows each student to glorify God through products of their creativity. The arts foster critical thinking and stimulate imagination while addressing all the different learning styles—visual, auditory and kinesthetic. The arts enrich the educational, spiritual, and cultural lives of our students as well as increase the sense of community and teamwork.

Fine Arts Policy Disclaimer:

All written policies and areas of concern either specific or non-specific covered in the Fine Arts Handbook are subject to clarification and/or change by the school administration.

Course Descriptions

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts at Bell Shoals Academy includes both vocal and instrumental music and theatre. Elementary students attend weekly music classes from kindergarten through fifth grade. Our 6th- 10th graders are involved in weekly theatre electives, worship band, or orchestra.

Music

- **K – 5th Grade Music**
Kindergarten through fifth-grade students attend weekly music classes which focus on spiritual principles and Biblical stories through the fundamentals of music. Students participate in all aspects of music-making both in class and through performances such as Grandparent’s Day Concert, Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Quaver Curriculum, and co-curricular activities.
 - **Middle School – Panther Worship Band (\$)**
For 7th & 8th graders: Worship Band is a class designed to bring a group of students together to seek and worship the Lord while learning and improving in their musical skills, knowledge and development of their faith to bring glory to God with their gifts leading their peers to worship during chapels and in their personal lives. Students will pray and discuss scripture, grow and practice in their vocal and instrument skills, learn how to work as a team, and develop their songwriting skills.
 - **High School – BSA Worship Band (\$)**
Students in high school may participate in the BSA Worship Band, continuing their growth in musical leadership, performance, and worship. Audition required.
 - **Orchestra \$)**
Orchestra as an elective for grades 6–10. Orchestra will meet for 5 days and will continue to grow into an established program.
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Theatre Performance & Performance Training Courses

Middle School

- **Theatre Appreciation – 6th Grade**
Students learn the basics of theatre arts through “Creative Dramatics,” exploring characters with pantomime, improvisation, and effective speaking using articulation, projection, and breathing. They also explore technical theatre, including costumes, props, scenery, and lighting techniques. Students practice writing for the theatre, explore theatre roles and functions, and may participate in public performances as a culmination of instructional goals.

- **Intro to Theatre – 7th**

Intro to Theatre is designed to introduce and explore the basics of theatre making: staging, storytelling, writing, movement, acting, performance, and other aspects of theatre arts. The intent is to invigorate and inspire a love and respect for the craft as a whole.

- **MS Theatre 2 – 8th Grade**

Through simple scripted scenes, performance projects, and/or practical application, students learn to identify what makes performances believable and explore the tools used to create, articulate, and execute them. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day.

High School

- **HS Acting 1**

Through improvisation, scripted scenes, performance projects, and/or practical application, students learn to identify what makes performances believable and explore the tools used to create, articulate, and execute them. Upon completion, students will have a strong foundation for future scene work, script analysis, and play production. Public performances and rehearsals outside of school may be required.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts department offers art classes to every elementary and middle school student. High school students may elect to take art classes. Elementary students attend weekly art classes from K4 through fifth grade. Middle school students may select art as an elective.

Elementary Art

Elementary students create original works of art in a variety of media, participate in art critiques, and are introduced to artists and their works. Student artwork is displayed around the school and during special Academy performances.

Middle & High School Art

Students begin their artistic journey in 6th grade with Intro to Art, meeting one day each week to explore the foundations of visual arts through a variety of creative techniques and media.

Students may continue developing their artistic skills by enrolling in art throughout 7th and 8th grade, and high school students may choose Art as an elective to further expand their creativity, technical abilities, and personal artistic expression.

Throughout the year, student artwork is proudly showcased throughout the school and, whenever possible, displayed in the local community to celebrate student achievement and creativity.

Grading Policy (Performances)

Music Classes and Performing Arts Electives

Performances are an essential part of each student's learning and growth in music. To reflect their importance, each performance counts as **10% of the overall grade per 9 weeks**.

- **Kindergarten–6th Grade:** Attendance at performances is required. If your child cannot attend due to special circumstances, please contact us ahead of time so we can provide an alternate written assignment. If a student misses a performance without communication, their class grade may be lowered.
- **7th–10th Grade:** This year, students in these grades have transitioned from “general specials” to an elective model. In this model, missing a performance in a performing arts elective is equivalent to missing a final exam in an academic class. Performances are mandatory and carry significant weight toward the overall grade.

Policies

Co-Curricular Activities Eligibility

Bell Shoals Academy believes that participation in co-curricular activities is part of the student's educational experience; however, when involvement in a co-curricular activity interferes with his/her academic performance, in the best interest of the student, he/she must set aside the co-curricular activity to concentrate on academic studies.

Probationary Eligibility

Elementary students who receive two or more N's (needs improvement) or any number of U's (unsatisfactory) in any academic area and **middle school students** who receive any number of D's or F's in academic classes will be placed on academic probation. The probation period will begin when quarter report card grades are final and uploaded by the teacher after the grading period has ended (one week after the end of the quarter). Students on quarterly probation will have their grades checked every two weeks to determine participation in extracurricular activities.

- **On Probation:** During the probation period, an immediate effort must be observed to improve grades. All students may be kept from extracurricular activities while on probation.
- **Progress Checks/ Regaining Eligibility:** After two weeks, if a student's academic grades remain satisfactory, students may resume previously paused activities, including extracurricular events they were kept from and may play in athletic competition at this time.

Probationary student grades will continue to be checked every two weeks. If grades remain satisfactory in academic class at the time grades are checked, students may continue to participate in extracurricular activities. At any two-week check, if any academic grade is below satisfactory, probationary students will not be able to participate in certain activities, includes weekly Fine Arts classes and concerts.

Students NOT on quarterly academic probation may be subject to grade progress checks by the Fine Arts Director. Any student may be put on temporary probation based on these checks.

The probation period ends at the time that the next quarter grades are due and uploaded to the report card by teachers. If grades are satisfactory, the student is removed from quarterly probation.

The probation period allows students to maintain their involvement in Fine Arts while focusing on improving academic performance.

Participation Guidelines for Afterschool Fine Arts (paid program)

- Students on probation must not attend Fine Arts classes for two weeks until grades are checked again.

Expectations

- Students are encouraged to use the study hall effectively to pull up their grades.
- Regular check-ins with instructors may be required to monitor progress.

Goals

- The aim is to balance Fine Arts participation with academic success, ensuring students can thrive in both areas.

BEHAVIORAL PROBATION

Any student who serves a detention, In-School Suspension, or Out-of-School Suspension will be put on behavioral probation.

Students with an Unsatisfactory grade in Citizenship or Conduct may be put on behavioral probation (the offenses will be taken into consideration).

Co-Curricular Conflict Policy

Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they can manage while remaining academically successful. Fine Arts students are expected to be loyal and committed to their cast or music ensemble for the entire duration of the season or production. When a student is involved in both fine arts and athletics at our school, BSA Fine Arts Director and BSA Athletic Director will meet to discuss the student's respective schedules. Conflicts will be resolved as follows:

1. Games or performances have priority over practices or rehearsals.
2. In the event of two conflicting practices, the student may split each conflicting time half and half between practices or alternate evenly between activities so that neither activity loses more than 50% of its scheduled practice time.
3. In the event of conflicting major events, the Fine Arts Director and Athletic Director will meet to determine which activity is most beneficial to the student.
4. It is very important that students and parents communicate conflicts of co-curricular activities early to fine arts faculty and coaches.

Quitting or Dismissal From Cast/Ensemble

Fine Arts students who quit or are dismissed from a cast or ensemble by the teacher or Fine Arts Director due to poor attitudes or discipline problems are ineligible to participate in a fine arts production or ensemble the following semester.

Practice and Attendance

Fine arts students are expected to attend all rehearsals, unless absent from school. A Fine Arts student with an unexcused absence from a rehearsal is subject to dismissal from that cast or ensemble.

Fine Arts Chain of Command

The Fine Arts Director oversees the entire Fine Arts program. The Fine Arts Director works with the Head of School and all principals to provide a quality program. Each fine arts teacher reports directly to the Fine Arts Director.

Auditions

Some Fine Arts activities, both curricular and co-curricular, require student auditions.

- Audition opportunities are open to any student with the understanding that the teacher/director has the final word on selection and placement of student.
- A parent may request a meeting with the teacher/director to discuss their child's audition. A teacher/director will not discuss the audition of another student with any parent.
- The teacher/director in charge of the auditions will decide if the auditions are open or closed to the public. The teacher/director may request the room be cleared of an audience at any time if the auditions are public.
- Students and parents may not remain in the audition room when the fine arts faculty is discussing auditions.
- Audition results will be published as soon as possible in most cases.

Performance Etiquette

Professionalism is a major part of any concert grade. Expectations include:

- Performers are to be prompt to their assigned meeting place and time before a performance.
- Performers are to wear appropriate attire.
- Performers are to remain focused on the task of performing.
- While others are performing, the performer is to be courteous and attentive.
- No texting or other types of electronic communication are allowed during a performance.

- Talking on stage and chewing gum are always prohibited.

Audience Etiquette

Guidelines for audience members are as follows:

- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- No flash photography or videotaping is allowed during performances.
- If you must move during a performance, please leave between musical numbers.
- Do not bring food or drinks into the performance facility.
- Please do not talk during the performance.
- Please plan to attend the entire performance.
- Applause is encouraged. A standing ovation is appropriate when warranted. Whistles and yelling are considered rude and disruptive.

Fine Arts Calendar

The Fine Arts Calendar is located on the school's website. Students will also receive a calendar for their activity from the teacher/director of that class or activity.

FINE ARTS HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION

I have read and fully understand the high expectations that the handbook has for me. I am also aware that this handbook can be found on the BSA Website. I will follow these rules and wish to be part of a great tradition of the Fine Arts Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Fine Arts Director at (813) 689-9183 ext. 289

Fine Art's Student Signature_____Grade_____

Print Fine Art's Student Full Name_____

Parent's Signature_____

Print Parent's Full Name_____