

Q & A about the Arts Integrated Program at Beaufort Middle School

1. ***What is Arts Integration?*** Students in the Arts Integrated Program practice the *Habits of Mind* in science, math, social studies and ELA and make connections to these core classes through arts integration including band, strings, chorus, guitar, theater, dance, visual arts, media arts, and creative writing. Students have opportunities to showcase their learning in the arts, learn from artists in residence, and use professional quality arts equipment and facilities. They *Make their Mark* in the arts and through community service. BMS is designated as an Arts in the Basic Curriculum school with a Distinguished Arts Program. These two designations provide grant funding to support the arts through artists-in-residence, community and school performances, quality learning experiences in the arts, and professional arts equipment and supplies.
2. ***How is Arts Integration different from a traditional middle school program?*** Arts Integrated students learn through the arts in their core academic areas and make connections to these core academics in specific arts courses. The arts are integrated into units of study also. Students learn a multitude of creative processes through the arts that are excellent companions to learning in any content area. Research shows that studying the arts helps us develop critical and creative thinking skills, make connections to our world and various concepts that may appear unrelated, engage in academics, and appreciate to the aesthetics of art in our community and world. With a strong understanding and appreciation for the arts, students contribute to their own community through their creative art endeavors. The Arts Integrated Program focuses on developing good citizens that engage with the community. Class sizes range from 23 – 25 students, and the focus of all learning experiences is to develop leadership skills, thinking skills, and skills of good global citizens.
3. ***What are the benefits of being in this program?*** Arts Integrated students are enrolled in arts classes each year and study a sequenced curriculum of arts beginning with emerging skills as 6th graders to experts as 8th graders. 6th graders sample a variety of arts experiences; 7th graders select two different areas of focus in the arts; and 8th graders may concentrate their arts focus in one area if they wish. They grow as problem-solvers, artists, and good citizens, as they transition through 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.
4. ***What are the Habits of Mind?*** The *Habits of Mind* are sixteen habits that we can practice and develop to solve problems and be successful. They are characteristics of a successful learner because they encourage us to think positively with an “I Can” attitude. Habits such as perseverance, communicating with clarity and precision, and thinking interdependently support arts integrated students in learning and practicing the skills expected of the SC Graduate. These habits help us make intelligent decisions even when we are presented with difficult problems that don’t have a ready answer.

5. *If my child is identified academically or artistically Gifted and Talented, how will his/her needs be met in the Arts Integrated Program?* Students will receive GT services according to their areas of strength in advanced classes taught by highly qualified, gifted endorsed teachers. Artistically gifted and talented students have opportunities for enrichment experiences in their areas of the arts throughout the year. Students designated as academically gifted and talented will be taught by teachers that are qualified to teach academically gifted and talented students through a special endorsement. Our arts staff hold GT certifications and endorsements to teach artistically gifted and talented students. Artists in residence will work with our students, and as particular arts field trips present themselves, students will participate in them. Arts Integrated students participate in school-wide arts events like musicals, choral ensembles, and after school dance.
6. *What if my child needs additional support in a class, how will his/her needs be met?* Students have a daily enrichment / intervention period each day. Academic support and enrichment opportunities are provided during this time.
7. *What math classes are offered in the Arts Integrated Program?* Grade level, Advanced, and Accelerated math classes are provided. These include Math 6, Math 7 & Math 8; Accelerated Math 6, Advanced Math 6, 7 & 8; Algebra I for 7th and 8th graders, and Geometry for 8th graders.
8. *What is the process for enrollment in the Arts Integrated Program?*
 - a. **If you live in the Beaufort Middle School attendance zone** you may indicate your request for Arts Integration during February, March, and April at BMS.
 - b. **If you live out of the Beaufort Middle School attendance zone,** the 2018-2019 Choice Applications window is from February 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018. Completion of this application is the first step in enrollment for out of zone families. After February 28th, families who have moved into the area are to contact our school district's Student Services Department if they are interested in School Choice for Beaufort Middle School.
9. *How do Arts Integrated students have access to technology?* Students learn through personal devices, as well as technology provided at BMS. All students are provided one-to-one tablet devices. Teachers and students use technology consistently. Web-based learning and use of the tablet is a primary learning tools for students and they are expected to bring them to school ready to use daily. Families have access to teachers' resources and web pages for continuous learning also.
10. *If my student was in Arts Integration for 6th grade, will he / she remain there for 7th & 8th grades?* We expect that our current sixth grade and current seventh grade students will continue in the Arts Integration Program as seventh and eighth grade students unless families decide to return to their zoned school.

11. *What are the hours of the school day for Arts Integration?* 1st period begins at 8:45 a.m. Students may enter the building at 8:15 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:45 p.m.
12. *Will my out of zone child be able to stay at BMS if we withdraw from the Arts Integrated Program?* If students leave a choice program at a school outside their regular attendance zone, they must enroll at the school that serves their neighborhood. Students may return to the school zoned for their neighborhoods at any time during a school year. Students have the option of requesting a different choice program during the next school year's application cycle.
13. *What opportunities are available for parent involvement in Arts Integration?* There will be field trips and projects that will be excellent opportunities for parents to chaperone, in addition to performances, and presentations that parents may assist and support. Parents are also expected to remain active and supportive of Arts Integration by participating in parent conferences, and remaining in contact with teachers about their child's progress. Additionally, we encourage parents to be actively involved in our School Improvement Council, Parent Action Council, or to share skills and talents that can enhance learning for our students. When parents are our partners, students succeed.
14. *When can families learn more about Arts Integration?*
Families are invited to attend Orientation at Beaufort Middle School in April. Additionally, on Promotion Day, May 31, 2018, rising 6th grade students will visit Beaufort Middle School. Students will meet staff, participate in Promotion Day activities, and learn about BMS and Arts Integration. Approved Out-of-Zone students in any grade may also attend Promotion Day. Families may also stop by to see us and talk with us about our programs. Our school website also contains information about our Arts Integrated Program.
15. *Who can I contact for more information?*

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