



## **Frequently Asked Questions about Southwood Academy of the Arts**

- 1. How does my child get to attend Southwood Academy?** Each year, we visit all ten elementary schools and meet with 5th grade students about our school and what we have to offer. We then have them fill out an audition form with a first request and a second request to set up an audition for them at their school during the school day. Students can audition in up to 2 areas, but will have to select their first choice if chosen for both. Once all of the auditions have been judged, an audition score will be assigned based on an audition rubric and students will be ranked according to their score.
- 2. What are the choices of art majors you can choose from?** Visual Art, Dance, Band, Orchestra, Drama, and Chorus.
- 3. What are the audition criteria?**
  - Band:** Complete a rhythm and pitch aptitude test (no prior experience required)
  - Chorus:** Sing the first verse of *My Country 'Tis' of Thee*
  - Dance:** Learn a short dance taught by our dance teachers and perform it (please wear loose fitting clothes to move in)
  - Drama:** Select and perform a monologue of your choice (monologues will be provided at your audition or you can bring your own with help of your teacher)
  - Orchestra:** Perform one or two selections from your current method book and complete an aptitude test (students must be enrolled in 5th grade strings)
  - Visual Art:** Complete an art session with our faculty
- 4. When are the auditions occurring and where?**

All auditions will occur at the school during their regular related arts time during the month of October.
- 5. Will you perform in front of an audience?** Yes, students perform in class as well as outside of school on a regular basis.
- 6. Are students able to take two art majors?** No, students must choose only one.
- 7. When will I know if my child was accepted based on their audition?** We will inform parents of audition results before the winter holiday each year.
- 8. How many students can you take?** We can accept 130 students each year. 30 in visual art and 20 in each of the other art areas.
- 9. What are my child's chances of being accepted?** Each year, we audition about 250 students and accept 130. Depending how many audition, which can change from year to year, students have about a 52% chance of being selected.

10. **What academic classes do you offer?** We offer regular, accelerated, and GT classes in math and ELA and we offer regular and GT classes in science. Social Studies is a regular academic class taken by everyone.
11. **Can my child earn any high school credits in 8<sup>th</sup> grade?** Yes, for students who qualify. Algebra 1 and English 1 are offered as high school credits during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.
12. **Can we visit the school before committing to attending?** Yes, we schedule an open house during the month of January for you to visit the school and the teachers once you have been notified of your child's acceptance.
13. **Is your school a high performing school?** Yes, we have very high expectations for all of our students and work to help them succeed. Our students perform extremely well on state standardized testing, and Southwood Academy is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among all middle schools (including private) in the state.
14. **How many students are there per class at Southwood?** Typically around 26, however, this number will vary depending on how many students we have entering the school.
15. **What time does the school start and end?** Our school day begins at 8:25am and dismisses at 3:25. Parents may begin dropping students off as early as 7:20am. All students must be picked up by 4:00pm.
16. **Is there transportation for Southwood?** Yes, buses will transport students to the high schools where they will then transition to a shuttle bus to come to Southwood. In the afternoon, students will ride a shuttle bus to the high school and meet their zoned school bus. Students will not be allowed to be picked up or dropped off at either high school.
17. **What is a block schedule?** Students will have 90 minute classes in ELA, Math, and their art major with breaks during the block. Science and social studies split a 90 minute block while getting extra class time once a week for online studies and projects.
18. **What does magnet art school mean?** Not only do students take art classes for electives, but academic classes integrate the various art areas into instruction. Southwood does not have a school zone, but instead recruits its students from all ten elementary schools in the district.
19. **Do students have criteria to be able to stay at Southwood?** Yes, students must maintain a C average, have good behavior, and good attendance to be able to stay at Southwood. If students do not follow the criteria, they may be asked to return to their home school.
20. **Does Southwood have sports?** No, Southwood does not have sports on campus, but students may play sports at their zoned school when they enter the 7th grade. We have bus transportation that will take them to their home school to participate in after school sports.