



PREPARE FOR POSSIBILITY

Dance, Vocal and Instrumental Music, Traditional and Digital Visual Art, Creative Writing, and Acting are a part of every student's schedule – ART EVERY DAY. Our extensive arts program is integrated into our solid academic curriculum. The Arts Academy in the Woods is chartered by the Macomb Intermediate School District's Board of Education

Welcome Back to the Arts Academy 2024

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer! Your teachers and support staff at the Academy have been busy making sure everything is prepared for the start of a great year!

We are sad to announce that Mr. Wynn, Mx. Broughton, and Ms. Kaznowski will be pursuing new career opportunities and will not be returning to the Academy. We will be meeting with new candidates for these positions over the next few weeks and we look forward to finding new faces for our community. We have already agreed to terms with Dr. Kraft, who will be joining our science and math department. He is an accomplished and published scientist who is very excited to be a part of our community!

There is lots of information included in this communication. We are updating all information on our website and expect it to be current by Monday.

2024/2025 School Orientation

Parent Orientation

We will host 2024/2025 New Parent Orientation meetings on August 28. We will host a morning session at 8:30 and an afternoon session at 3:00. The presentation will last about 30 minutes.

This meeting is recommended, but not required. We will share all the information in Newsletters and on our website.

It is optional and we will share that information in upcoming newsletters.

Student Orientation

New students will take part in orientation on August 28 from 8:30 – 3:30. Students should be dropped off at Door #3, by the flagpole.

New Students will be provided with an Arts Academy T Shirt. Please complete this survey to ensure your student has theirs: [New Student T-Shirts](#)

Overview –

- Students will start in the gym for a drum circle (paper schedules will be passed out)
- Students go to the advisory to meet with their advisory teacher and Orientation leaders



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- Stations for photos, PowerSchool, tie dye, and scavenger hunt
- Lunch outside in the west parking lot
- Back in advisory rooms for overview/icebreaker activities, and how to use PowerSchool
- Walk schedule
- Back in the gym for staff slideshow and assembly

We have 3 main goals for orientation:

1. Students will have pictures taken for their school ID and Yearbook.
2. Students will get their schedules.
3. Students will learn about the Academy and how they can be successful!

AUGUST 29th– Returning students picture day and pick up schedule

7th and 8th grade – 9:30-10:30

9th grade -9:30-11:30

10th grade – 10:30-11:30

11th grade – 11:30-12:30

12th grade – 12:30-1:30

Picture Day

Picture day will be part of orientation on August 28 and returning students will have a scheduled time on August 29.

Our school picture vendor is [SchoolPictures.com](https://www.schoolpictures.com). Additional information is available on their website. You can click the link on their homepage that reads: Order pictures and enter our school keyword.

Please note, we have switched picture vendors, and we do not have an official affiliation with Lifetouch, but you can still order previous year's pictures from them.

Picture Day Dates:

- New Students: Wednesday, August 28
- Returning Students – Thursday, August 29

Picture Day Keyword: AA3940Fall24



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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2024

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd from 8:30 – 3:31 PM.

Students should arrive no later than 8:25 a.m. and report to the Cafegymatorium for a short assembly.

Please have your student bring a printed or digital copy of their schedule from PowerSchool, a notebook, and a writing utensil on the first day of school.

Family Information Updates and Parent Resources 2024/2025

- To ensure continued enrollment at the Academy, returning students **must complete** the Back-to-School information updates at [Family Information Gateway](#). This will allow families to provide addresses, contacts, medical updates, and other essential information.
- All families should complete the Household Information Form application available at [Household Information Family Portal](#)
- There is information on the [Parent Resource](#) Page that will assist families with communicating with the Academy's staff.
- We recommend that all families register using our online payment provider [E Funds for Schools](#)
- All students will have access to Microsoft Office.com and should use that to communicate with teachers and staff.

Food Service 2024/2025

Edibles Rex will provide food service options to our students this year for both breakfast and lunch.

The schedule and cost are as follows:

- BREAKFAST – Daily from 7:30 – 8:30 AM.
- LUNCH – Daily during scheduled lunch periods.

We are pleased to inform you that the State of Michigan has approved funding for all students in Michigan public schools to have healthy meals.

The GREAT NEWS is that ALL students enrolled at our school can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE each day. However, students will be charged for items purchased a la carte.

To help ensure that we continue to have access to all available funding resources and your family has access to all available supports, please complete the [Education Benefit Form](#)



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School Communications 2024/2025

The Academy utilizes the SchoolMessenger service to notify families of current and ongoing events as well as attendance issues and weather-related school closures. The service will automatically notify your family if your student is absent or tardy. This system uses your email and phone number as listed in PowerSchool to send messages.

Please be sure we have your most current contact information. (Visit the links for the [Family Information Gateway](#) to update your information.) If you receive a message that you believe may be in error, please contact the main office.

Our most important tool for communication is PowerSchool. Please be sure that you check PowerSchool regularly. There are instructions for logging-in available on our website. If you are having difficulty accessing or understanding the information in PowerSchool, please contact the main office.

Finally, remember to stay connected with us through our website at www.artsacad.net, through PowerSchool, and through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/artsacad. In addition to these communication portals, we will be sending regular emails, so make sure that we have your most current contact information!

ANNUAL MATERIALS FEE 2023

The Academy has an annual (non-refundable) Materials Fee of \$50 that we charge every student for general supplies related to attending our school. Examples of costs this fee covers are choir gown/costume cleaning fees, instrument repairs, specialized art supplies, USB drives, printing fees, art framing expenses, science lab fees, just to name a few.

Supplies needed to attend our school and participate in our programs are covered by this fee; however, we do recommend that students have basics like writing utensils and paper/notebooks, especially for the first day of school.

All student fees (material fees, hangout fees, lost or damaged school property fees, etc.) will be listed for review in PowerSchool and can be paid in the main office or online using [eFunds for schools](#).

Who Do I Talk to About...?

A guide for Arts Academy families



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YOUR FIRST STOP IS ALMOST ALWAYS THE TEACHING STAFF – YOUR TEACHERS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

The Academy's teaching staff is the first line of communication for parents and students with questions about day-to-day activities.

The following general topics can usually be resolved by talking to teachers:

- Questions, comments or concerns about academic achievement or classroom discipline issues
- Questions about assignments or test grades

If you want to speak to a member of the student support team (administrators, counselors, social workers) or report a concern with the school) **you can submit your question or concern to this link, and we will contact you right away to help resolve the concern: [I need to talk to...](#)** We will also have QR codes posted throughout the building to help improve communication within our community

WHO CAN HELP ME WITH...?

Counselor (counselors@artsacad.net)

- Exploring career interests, or researching and developing career plans
- Information about credit recovery, dual enrollment, or Early College enrollment
- Exploring college and post High school programs of study
- Individual or group counseling recommendations
- Help coordinating community/agency programs

Social Workers

- Learning about food banks, community mental health agencies, therapists, psychiatrists
- Learning about assistance and resources for homelessness
- Need for a liaison between outside agency and school
- Socio-Emotional issues a student is having that is hindering their learning

Student Support Services, Vice Principal

- Questions about MAP testing procedures or results
- Information on parent orientation or the Academy's Parent Teacher Association
- Need for instructional support due to academic, attendance, or behavioral issues

Parent Liaisons

- Want to host a Shadow Student
- Want to help with Open House, festivals, or other outreach events
- Have a friend/relative who wants to attend the Academy
- Need help finding a carpool to/from school
- Think of transferring to another school district



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The Principal

- General questions about the school
- Questions about school policies and procedures
- Questions about school-wide discipline issues or concerns
- Questions about the school's mission or philosophy
- Concerns about the way an issue is handled by a staff member

The Board

The board is the last step for resolving an issue at the Academy and they should be contacted for the following issues

- Appealing a disciplinary measure
- Proposing ideas for innovative programs or policy changes
- Concerns that have not been adequately addressed by school administrators

The board can also be contacted during their regular, monthly Board meetings. Dates and times are listed on the school calendar. You can also send an email

to: aawboard@gmail.com

Still can't figure out who to talk to? Try asking our Parent Liaisons in the Main Office!

The Main Office at Arts Academy in the Woods is available for walk-in questions and by phone Monday – Friday during regular school hours. If you did not find the right person for your questions yet, chances are you'll need to speak with our Parent Liaisons. You can also email them at arts.academy.woods@gmail.com

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be posted in PowerSchool for returning students on Monday August 28. If you do not remember your log-in information, you can check the Student PowerSchool Log info in the sidebar. If that doesn't work, please email Mrs.

Allen.callen@artsacad.net

New students will receive their usernames and passwords for PowerSchool during new student orientation.

To request schedule changes, please complete the [Schedule Request Form](#). **Students should follow their original schedule until they receive an updated schedule from a counselor or administrator.**

All schedule change requests turned in by August 31st will be addressed before the first day of school in a way that best meets the student's academic and artistic needs. *Unfortunately, not all requests can be implemented, but we will do our best to honor your requests.*

Schedule Changes

If your student would like to request a schedule change, please complete the Request Schedule Change form on the [Counseling](#) page of the website. We will do our best to



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address the changes submitted as soon as possible and we will continue to address change requests after the first day of school.



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Daily Schedule

7:00 AM – 8:15 AM (7:30 – 8:30 AM Breakfast is Available)

Door #3 (by the flagpole) will open at 7:00 am. Students arriving early must report to the gym until 8:15 AM. Students should remain in the cafegymatorium until 8:15 AM.

8:15 – 8:45 AM – Door #17 (Main door on parking lot side) Open for Students

8:45 – 3:45 all doors locked. Enter building at Door #17.

3:45 PM – Doors Close for Students

All students must exit the building by 3:45 PM, be in the Hangout, a staff-sponsored club/workshop, or a supervised after-school activity.

PARKING/DROP OFF 2024/2025

Students should enter the building before 8:30 at door #3, by the flagpole.

Between 8:15 and 8:45, the main office entrance (Door #17) will also be open for students.

After 8:45, students should ring the bell to enter at the main office entrance, Door #17.

Students who drive should park in the student parking lot near the field.

All doors are locked after 8:45 and students should enter through Door #17 after that.

Pick up and drop off procedures.

1. Please be respectful of our families who are picking up and dropping off. Please allow cars to merge into line and be patient while waiting to merge. Please move your car as far to the front of the line as space allows. Follow the arrows and allow other cars space to move around you if you are waiting for your student.
2. Please be respectful of our neighbors during pick up and drop off. Do not make U-turns on Caroline. There is not enough room, and you will end up driving over the lawns. Please drive around the building or approach Door #3 from the north.
3. Do not enter the fenced area with Fraser Buses off Masonic when dropping off or picking up kids. There are entrances to our parking lots on Caroline and Masonic.

HANGOUT 2024/2025

The 'Hangout' has some new procedures for 2024/2025

1. We have updated the Hangout hours. Before school, the Hangout will be available from 7:00 – until 8:15. After school the Hangout will be available from 3:45 – until 5:00 pm.
2. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$50 yearly per student that can be paid via check or cash in the main office or with a credit card using E Funds for schools found on our website.
3. Students can be picked up from Door #3 until 4:00. After 4:00, Students will be dismissed from Door #15 (West parking lot)

All students must submit the Hangout registration form and behavioral contract, signed by both the student and parent BEFORE the student may utilize the Hangout. The



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registration forms and full details can be found on the [Hangout](#) page of our website or in the main office.

Please complete the [Hangout Registration](#) form prior to Tuesday, 9/3/23 if your student plans to utilize the Hangout on the first day of school.

Registration is required prior to attending. Forms may be found on our website under Parent Resources or in the main office.

The registration fee is \$50 per student and can be paid using E Funds or by check in the main office. No daily rate will be charged this year.