



**BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023**





from the **DIRECTOR**



Fine arts programs in Broken Arrow Public Schools are among the most highly recognized in the nation. With a diverse curriculum, our fine arts offerings include visual arts, speech and debate, vocal and instrumental music as well as theatre. Featuring a faculty of some of the most creative teachers from across America, Broken Arrow fine arts programs provide a place for students to engage themselves in the power of expression.

Fine arts play a key role in the intellectual, social and emotional development of students. In music, for example, students learn to think critically and creatively, as well as develop self-discipline and focus. In theatre, they learn about social and cultural nuances, empathy and collaboration with others. In visual arts, they learn to think and act creatively, promote self-awareness and develop spatial and visual intelligence.

Fine arts in Broken Arrow lead to a more well-rounded education for students, promoting a more robust and diverse range of knowledge. These experiences help students excel in critical thinking, enhance their creativity, increase their empathy towards others and foster positive social relationships. It enhances their self-esteem and boosts their motivation to learn other subjects. Students engaged in fine arts curriculum overwhelming experience a more inclusive environment where everyone can excel and feel an authentic sense of belonging.

We are proud to share the vast and many achievements in the Broken Arrow fine arts department for the 2022-2023 school year. Come with us on a journey to celebrate, what we believe, are the very best students and staff not only in the state, but in the nation.

Darrin Davis  
Executive Director  
Broken Arrow Fine Arts Department



## arts EXPANDED

The 2022-2023 school year brought about many changes for the Fine Arts Department in Broken Arrow, including new leadership roles, a brand new stand-alone website, a rejuvenated social media presence and a re-branding of the department as a whole under one banner.

**Fine Arts Friday** showcased student talent from across the district as teachers nominated students to be recognized for their contributions to arts excellence from various sites and grade levels. Those students were honored with a certificate and social media recognition every week.

A brand new website, **BAFineArts.com**, was launched in April 2023 as a hub for all-things fine arts, including a robust events calendar, programming and curriculum for all grade levels, important links to educational resources and contacts for fine arts staff. Since inception, the site has garnered 1.4k page views.



We recognized  
**51**  
**STUDENTS**  
in 22/23 from across the district  
for Fine Arts Friday, an award  
driven by teacher nomination.

In the Top 10%  
of the graduating  
Class of 2023  
**40%**  
were Fine Arts Students,  
occupying 58 out of the 143  
total spots.

SOCIAL MEDIA:  
**66,951**  
**ACCOUNTS**  
reached on both Facebook and  
Instagram, with page visits for  
both platforms totaling  
**13,817.**

Students participated  
in more than  
**125**  
performances, contests,  
exhibitions and productions  
in the 2022-23 year.





# LET THE MUSIC PLAY

Broken Arrow bands program had a banner year with national recognition, prestigious invitational performances



Steeped in tradition and excellence, Broken Arrow Bands continued to show unbelievable momentum during the 2022-2023 school year, providing unforgettable experiences for its students and staff.

The Pride of Broken Arrow marching band debuted its "Over The Edge" show for the season, capturing the grand championship at the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association event, also winning outstanding visual performance, outstanding music performance and outstanding general effect. This was the Pride's 20th CONSECUTIVE OBA state championship and 29th overall state win.

The honors continued at the Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Championships, as The Pride scored a 92.425, capturing both outstanding music performance and outstanding general effect.

Returning to the BOA Grand Nationals in November of 2022, The Pride receive third place in the nation with a score of 96.050.

The Wind Ensemble was invited to the American Bandmasters Association 88th annual national convention in



The Pride of Broken Arrow's "Over The Edge" marching band show

March of 2023, performing 10 pieces with several guest conductors. The group was the only high school invited to perform at the convention, sharing the stage with collegiate and military bands.

In early April of 2023, the BA Indoor Percussion ensemble was named Percussion-Scholastic World State Champions at the WGPO Percussion Circuit Championships for the show "Transcend." They would take their show to the WGI Scholastic World Finals and finish eighth--the only Oklahoma school in its class to finish in the top 10 nationally.

Six high school and freshman academy bands received superior ratings on the concert stage as well as five bands receiving a superior rating in sight reading contest at state contests in the spring. Paired with The Pride's superior rating in the fall, this meant five Broken Arrow bands were OSSAA sweepstakes awards recipients.

At Oklahoma All-State Auditions, 73 students advanced to the final round while 25 students were named All-Staters.

The Northeast Band Directors Association welcomed 181 students in grades 7-9 as members of the all-district band, while 100 students in grades 10-12 earned their membership.

Locally, all 1,300 band students across all secondary school sites marched down Main Street in the Rooster Days Parade--the first time in four years this happened due to previous pandemic and scheduling restrictions.



BAHS Wind Ensemble performing its annual "At The Movies" concert



# VISUAL ARTS

## AWARDS & HONORS

- Four Broken Arrow High School art students had works selected for a gallery at AHHA Tulsa for the Tour de Quartz exhibition. Ava Boswell, Janie Ellis, Karsyn Luker and Lindsey Samuel all attended the 2022 Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute learning painting and drawing. The program only accepted 20 total students statewide.

- Liberty Elementary School art teacher Elizabeth Pelnik was named the site Teacher of the Year for her school, and went on to vie for District Teacher of the Year at the annual spring Star Awards gala.

- Leisure Park Elementary School's partnership with Not Your Average Joe's Coffee Shop helped provide artwork for their store, created by special education level 2 and 3 students.

- BAHS art teacher Kyle Todaro had works displayed at the Paseo Arts Association in Oklahoma City as part of a juried show, and at the Oklahoma Art Education Association annual conference in Stillwater in November. In May, he was named as a recipient of the Oklahoma Arts Institute's Transformative Teacher Award through Quartz Mountain. He was selected from a long list of teachers nominated by students across the state attending the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute.

- Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Art Winners- Ava Boswell won a Regional "Gold Key," the highest possible award, for her painting "A Journey into the Wichita Mountains." Since it won a Gold Key, Ava's painting moved on to the National level of the awards. Regional Silver Key winners are Alora Shellenbarger, Janie Ellis and Aylin Altorre. Honorable Mention winners are Ryu Lor and Bri Stephenson.

- Broken Arrow High School students took home three awards from 2023 Sutton Art

Nature Works, Alora Shellenbarger, received 2nd place, Elizabeth Marchuk and Tru West both received Honorable mention for their work in the show.

- Broken Arrow had 26 entries selected to be a part of the OAEA Juried Young Talent Art show, bringing home; 1 Judges Choice Award, 1 Presidents Choice Award, 4 Merit Awards, and two honorable mentions. Two Broken Arrow seniors were selected for their works as the top ten senior Portfolios; Angel Tran and Alora Shellenbarger.

- Angel Tran was selected as one of the top three seniors in the Oklahoma Art Educators Association Young Talent Art competition. Angel received a \$1,000 art scholarship to the school of her choice.

- The annual District Art Show was held for two weeks in April 2023 at NSU-Broken Arrow--the only event in the district that features EVERY site in Broken Arrow. Superintendent Awards were given to 15 students, with attendance being the highest ever from families across the district.

- The Red Earth Youth Art Competition featured Tru West with a first place win in basketry, first place beadwork, first place cultural Items and second place in jewelry. Ava Boswell first place in sculpture, Makenna McWortjher won second place in sculpture and Denton Biggs placed third in pottery.

- BAHS sophomore Sabs Anderson won the prestigious PSO Mark of Excellence award at this year's Mayfest Youth Art Gallery along with \$500. Other students receiving Mayfest honors include senior Raphael LeLeux winning a first place ribbon, Kyleigh Cantrell, senior, who took home a second place ribbon, sophomore Cey Karch winning third place and senior Camila Perez gaining an honorable mention. Two students from Leisure Park Elementary won awards as part of the Oklahoma State Fair competition, with fifth grader Emma McCain winning an exceptional merit award, the second highest award presented. Third grader Harlow Davis won a merit award. Both students' artwork will be displayed at the Oklahoma State Fair in September.

- BAHS senior Candence Kinney was selected as winner for our District's Congressional Arts Competition. Her work, "Oklahoma Proud," was flown out to Washington, D.C., and displayed at our nation's capital in the Cannon Tunnel for the next 11 months.

All the world was a stage for the students of Tiger Theatre, and the school year was filled to the brim with aspiring thespians in multiple comedic and dramatic presentations district-wide.

Broken Arrow High School's students labored hard in the fall with the hilarious presentation of "Black Comedy" a farcical comedy.

The Freshman Academy followed suit with "The Miss BAFA Beauty Pageant" in November, where a fictitious beauty pageant goes awry with hilarious results.

The annual Middle School Theatre Festival, held in early December, featured all five middle schools showcasing their fall plays in front of their peers.

Some selections performed during the festival included "The Mad Tea Party" by Centennial Middle School, "The Scottish Play: A D&D Adventure" by Oneta Ridge Middle

# IN THE SPOT LIGHT

Tiger Theatre left it all on the stage with 22/23 season



"Shrek The Musical" cast members Kenley Sigman and Moroni Echeverria competed in the Discovery Awards (aka the high school Tony Awards) in May, with Moroni winning the Rising Star award.

School, "So You Want To Be a Cheerleader?" by Sequoyah Middle School and more.

Advanced drama students at Centennial developed a "Book Buddy" program with neighboring school Country Lane Primary, where the middle school students read library books to kindergarten students to teach them about theatre.

The Freshman Academy presented "The Women Who Weave" in February of 2023, with students producing the entire show, from acting to technical operations.

Spring of 2023 was all about "Shrek The Musical," the Broadway award-winning musical. The four-day, sold-out show played to the largest audiences ever in Tiger Theatre history, with more than 3,000 patrons gathering to see the adventures of Shrek, Fiona and Donkey. The show also boasted a cast of more than 90 students.



The cast of "Shrek The Musical"



# RAISE YOUR VOICE

Vocal music department sets the bar high with district-wide success

A legacy of incredible vocalists, calculated dance moves and high energy continued to shine brightly in 2022-2023 as the vocal music department showcased students and staff across the region.

Broken Arrow High School Chamber Choir was invited to perform at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association annual conference in January of 2023, a prestigious honor extended to only a handful of choirs across the state.

For All-State, 37 junior high and 43 high school students who auditioned were selected to participate in the all-state treble and mixed choirs.

Broken Arrow High School Tiger Rhythm--the high school's variety show choir--had an incredible season at various competitions with their show "The Dolly & Porter Story." The student group were named grand champions at the Joplin In The Spotlight Invitational, also picking up best costume, best

band, best choreography and best vocals. At the Lone Star Invitational in Keller, Texas, they took home grand champions again, as well as best vocals, best choreography, best band and best female soloist for Raeleigh Beck. Shortly after, they were named grand champion for a third time at the Jenks Show Choir Invitational, taking home best vocals, best choreography, best opener and best ballad. Companion show choir Tiger Mystique placed first in the single-gender division and third overall.

The Freshman Academy's show choir Tiger Momentum took home first place at the Jenks Invitational, first at Lone Star Invitational and won all captions as well, including best choreography and vocals in their division.

Middle school show choirs also attained excellent marks this year, as Childers Middle School's Tiger Tonez placed first in the middle school division at the Jenks Invitational,

Oliver's Tiger Genesis placed second, Sequoyah's Tiger Legacy placed third and Centennial's Tiger Valor placed fourth.

All five middle schools dominated regional competitions in the spring, including big wins at the Edmond-Santa Fe Show Choir Competition for Oneta Ridge's Tiger Fever, Top 10 finishes for Sequoyah at Joplin In The Spotlight Invitational and almost a dozen more wins for the other middle school show choirs.

Every show choir came together in the spring of 2023 for the annual Show Choir Spectacular at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center. The student groups performed their seasonal shows for each other while clinicians observed each choir and offered constructive feedback.

OSSAA all-state competitions in the spring showcased the incredible talents of vocal music students across the board.

BAHS's chamber choir received superior ratings in performance and sight reading, while the altos and sopranos also received superior ratings in sight reading. The chamber choir tenors/basses also received superior marks in sight reading, as well

as treble choir. Freshman Academy received a superior ratings in sight reading for the treble choir and the mixed choir.

All-state honors also befell the middle school groups, as the schools took home individual and group honors for the all-BA district honor choir, junior high all-state groups and various OSSAA honors.

In April of 2023, more than 350 fifth grade students came together from across 15 elementary school sites for the annual Elementary Choral Festival. A packed stage at BA Assembly saw the students sing and dance for more than 1,000 parents, family and friends with "At The Movies," including songs from cinematic blockbusters from yesterday and today.

Creekwood Elementary School music teacher Stephanie Farlow was named the site Teacher of the Year for her school, and went on to vie for District Teacher of the Year at the annual spring Star Awards gala.



Childers Middle School  
Tiger Tonez Show Choir



Middle School Combined Choir



OkMEA Chamber Choir



Tiger Momentum Show Choir



Elementary Choral Festival with all fifth grade students



Show Choir Spectacular 2023 Full Cast







# TALK THE TALK

Speech & debate team dominates local tournaments

Below are highlights from an incredible year for the Broken Arrow High School speech and debate team:

- Booker T. Washington Tournament (Oct. 2022): Seniors Madison DuVarney and Sebastian Chavez qualified for the regional tournament with top three finishes in poetry and Lincoln Douglas debate respectively, while junior Jackson McCloud also qualified for Regionals in Lincoln Douglas and domestic extemporaneous speaking. Sophomore Evden Tilley won novice Lincoln Douglas debate and placed second in novice extemp.

- Bishop Kelley Tournament (Oct. 2022): Sophomore Mason Lewis qualified for the regional tournament with his third place win in Lincoln Douglas debate. Junior Jackson McCloud scored his third regional qualification with his third place finish in international extemporaneous speaking. Sophomore Edan Beverly also qualified for regionals with a second place finish in humorous interpretation. The BA novice squad dominated debate competition. Freshman Abigail Blais placed first in novice Lincoln Douglas debate while teammates William Harris and Dakota Bell placed second and fourth, respectively. The wins earned the novice squad second place in sweeps.

- Broken Arrow Tournament (Nov. 2022): For the third straight tournament, a Broken Arrow novice

has won the novice division of Lincoln Douglas debate. Freshman Elizabeth Grounds took home the gold for BA.

- Muskogee "Little Nationals" Tournament (Dec. 2022): Lilly Cole, first place champs in Lincoln Douglas; Tucker Nance, first place in 6A international extemporaneous speaking; Evden Tilley, second place in 6A international extemporaneous speaking; Marley Fagbenle and Jackson Buzzard, first place in 6A public forum debate; Sage Walters, first place in 6A poetry; Marley Fagbenle, third place in 6A US extemporaneous speaking; Mallory Pandian, third place in 6A standard oratory (declamation); Lainey Philips qualified for regionals in 6A Lincoln Douglas debate (fourth place); Evden Tilley qualified for regionals in 6A Lincoln Douglas debate (fifth). Freshman Beaumont Morris placed third in novice Lincoln Douglas debate.

- As a member of the National Speech & Debate Association, Broken Arrow High School and its students earn recognition through points and degrees in the NSDA Honor Society, with each new degree representing hours of learning, practice and improvement. BAHS students recently earned several degrees in December 2022: Lana Albik, merit, Esu Beniyam, merit, Beaumont Morris, merit and Evden Tillet, honor.

- Bixby Tournament (Feb. 2023): Sophomore Jackson Buzzard placed

second in 6A prose and beat a host of debaters from the other side of the state to place first in US extemporaneous speaking. Fellow Sophomore Marley Fagbenle placed second in 6A international Extemporaneous. Aya Omar placed top three in the champ division of standard Oratory. Junior Sophie Kim qualified with a third place in original oratory. Junior Sage Walters won first place in champs poetry and first in 6A monologue.

- **REGIONALS and NATIONALS:**
  - Qualified 40 events for the Regional Tournament
  - Qualified more Lincoln Douglas debaters for Regionals than any other school in the state.
  - District champions/National Qualifiers in Public Forum Debate
  - District champions/National Qualifiers in Congressional Debate - Senate
  - District champions/National Qualifiers in Big Questions Debate
  - National qualifier in United States Extemporaneous
  - National qualifier in Lincoln Douglas Debate

- OSSAA: three state finalists and second place at 6A state in Lincoln Douglas debate

- BAHS speech and debate teacher Robert Walters was unanimously voted as the national Speech and Debate Association Eastern Oklahoma Coach of the Year.



# LIFE IS A Symphony

Orchestra students keep the world on a string

With a full schedule in their midst, the students and staff of the orchestra music program spent much of 2022-2023 with their minds and hearts full of music.

The year kicked off with the chamber orchestra being invited to perform at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association annual conference. The prestigious honor is by invitation only, with just a small handful of Oklahoma schools invited to perform.

At the OSSAA regional string contest in Edmond-Santa Fe, both the symphonic strings and chamber orchestra received superior ratings.

Later on in Edmond at the state orchestra contest in February 2023, chamber and symphony orchestras made all superior ratings in both stage performance as a full orchestra and sight reading, winning another sweepstakes award.

Broken Arrow High School junior and orchestra member Philip Oh was honored by the Oklahoma State Department of Education Fine Arts department with a 2023

Oklahoma Education Awards for Arts Excellence—the only BAPS student to receive such an honor.

OSSAA district solo and ensemble contests resulted in Broken Arrow High School and the Freshman Academy coming home with 48 ensemble and

12 solo medals with superior ratings.

OSSAA state solo and ensemble contests were just as fruitful as BAHS and BAFA received 32 superior ensemble medals and six superior solo medals.

Orchestra students in the spring 2023 concert







#### Notice of Non-Discrimination

There will be no discrimination in the District because of race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information in its programs, services, activities and employment. The district also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Broken Arrow Public Schools will take all necessary steps to ensure that each school and work place in the District is free from unlawful discrimination or harassment. The following people within the District have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies, issues and concerns: For all student issues related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (questions or complaints based on race, color, and national origin), the Deputy Superintendent should be contacted at 918-259-5700 or at 701 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; For all student issues related to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) (for questions or complaints based on disability), the Executive Director of Special Services should be contacted at 918-259-5700 or at 701 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; For all student issues related to Title IX, of the Education Amendments of 1972 (for questions or complaints based on sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity), the Assistant Superintendent should be contacted at 918-259-7722 or at 701 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; For issues related to accessibility to facilities, services and activities pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Associate Superintendent should be contacted at 918-259-5728 or at 701 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; For all non-student and/or employment related issues (including questions or complaints based on age), or for any individual who has experienced some other form of discrimination, including discrimination not listed above, the Chief Human Resources Officer should be contacted at 918-259-7724 or at 701 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Inquiries concerning non-discrimination can also be made to, and outside assistance obtained from, the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The contact information for the Kansas City Enforcement Office is included below:

Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education  
One Petticoat Lane  
1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
Telephone: (816) 268-0550  
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