



**HANDBOOK**  
**2026 - 2027**

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

San Felipe Del Rio CISD Fine Arts programs are an integral component of the district's instructional program and are designed to provide students access to high-quality, standards-based instruction aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines. The Fine Arts Department operates to deliver sequential instruction that supports student growth and achievement.

Students are expected to demonstrate consistent academic eligibility, appropriate conduct, accountability, and professionalism in all classrooms, rehearsal, performance, and extracurricular settings. Standards of behavior and performance apply at all times and are aligned with district expectations and UIL requirements.

Through participation in Fine Arts programs, students are provided opportunities to develop creativity, discipline, collaboration, leadership, and personal responsibility. These experiences are intended to support both academic success and the development of skills necessary for responsible citizenship and effective participation in the broader community.

## **FINE ARTS PROGRAMS COVERED**

This handbook applies to all district Fine Arts programs, including but not limited to:

**Performing Arts:** Band, Jazz, Mariachi, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre, Dance

**Visual Arts:** TEAM, Jr. Vase, Vase

**Spirit Teams:** Belles, Cheer, Dance Co.

Program-specific expectations are supplemented by individual directors/coaches.

## **PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

### **Enrollment and Selection**

Membership in these programs is based on specific course enrollment, auditions, tryouts, or director/coach approval. Please be aware that some groups have limited capacity based on safety standards, instructional needs, or performance requirements.

- Students participating in Fine Arts programs are expected to enroll in the corresponding Fine Arts course(s) when applicable. Exceptions may be made only when enrollment conflicts with a required course needed for graduation. Director/coach(es) must be

notified in advance of the conflict.

### **Attendance and Expectations**

Success in the Fine Arts programs requires 100% participation.

- Attendance at all rehearsals, practices, performances, exhibitions, and competitions is mandatory.
- Students are expected to arrive on time and fully prepared.
- Any absences must follow district attendance policies and specific director/coach procedures.

### **Program Transfers and Spirit Teams**

To encourage dedication and program stability, the following rules apply:

- Students may not leave one program to join another during the same season or year.
- To ensure students can meet the high demands of their team, participation is limited to one spirit team at a time.

### **Time Commitment**

Excellence requires time beyond the standard school day.

- Parents and students should prepare for a schedule that includes after-school practices, evenings, weekends, and travel for various events.
- Students participating in multiple school-sponsored activities may encounter scheduling conflicts. Coaches, directors, and sponsors will work collaboratively to accommodate participation whenever possible; however, students may be required to choose between conflicting events, practices, rehearsals, or performances.
- Students are responsible for understanding that missed practices, rehearsals, meetings, or preparation time may affect their performance, eligibility for specific roles, placement opportunities, and ability to meet the expectations of each organization.

## **ACADEMIC & ELIGIBILITY EXPECTATIONS**

To ensure academic success remains the top priority, all students participating in Fine Arts activities—including performers and support personnel such as managers, photographers, and stage crew—must meet District, UIL, and State eligibility requirements to represent San Felipe Del

Rio CISD in any performance, contest, or competition. Eligibility is maintained across these key areas:

### **Academic Passing Grades**

In accordance with the UIL Constitution and "No Pass, No Play" rules, students must pass all courses.

- Directors/coaches regularly check academic progress to ensure students are staying on track.
- Exemptions: Certain Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses may be exempt from eligibility requirements per district policy.
- Eligibility may be regained at the end of the three-week evaluation period (progress report) if the student is passing all classes. Reinstatement of performance eligibility will follow official eligibility timelines and submission of required forms.

### **Attendance and Discipline**

Eligibility is not just about grades; it is also about character and presence.

- A student's attendance record and campus discipline history are factored into their eligibility to represent the school.
- Students must be in good standing with the school administration to participate in extracurricular events.

### **Consistency**

We are committed to helping students succeed, but long-term academic struggles may affect program membership.

- If a student remains academically ineligible for three (3) consecutive grading periods, they may be subject to removal from the program.

### **"Practice Only" Status**

If a student becomes ineligible, their participation changes until their eligibility is restored:

- Students are expected to continue attending all rehearsals and practices to maintain their skills and fulfill course requirements.
- Ineligible students may not participate in UIL performances, public contests, or travel with

the group until eligibility is officially restored.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Representing San Felipe Del Rio CISD is a privilege that requires a year-round commitment to excellence. Students are expected to uphold these standards—on campus, off campus, and online.

### **Attendance and Commitment**

- Academic eligibility is the priority.
- Students must be in school the day before, the day of, and the day after any event, competition, or travel.
- Truancy, tardiness, and unexcused absences are not permitted.
- Students are expected to bring a positive attitude and their best effort to every rehearsal, practice, and performance.

### **Character and Conduct**

- Students must demonstrate respect, honesty, and responsibility in all settings.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, bullying, hazing, or intimidation. This includes any inappropriate conduct on social media.

### **Substance-Free Policy and Drug Testing**

To ensure the safety and well-being of our students, the following rules apply:

- Students must not possess, use, or associate with alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs.
- Our District requires random drug testing of any students in grades 7-12 who choose to participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities.
- If a student tests positive for an illegal drug, they will be removed from all participation for 90 school days. (For further details, please refer to District Policies FNF (Local) and FNF (Regulation)).

### **Appearance and Safety**

Students must follow all UIL, District, and program-specific guidelines regarding uniforms, costumes, grooming, jewelry, and safety equipment.

## **Technology and Privacy Policy**

To protect the safety and privacy of all students, the following rules regarding electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, etc.) are strictly enforced.

- Capturing or sharing inappropriate photos or videos in dressing areas, rehearsal spaces, or during travel is strictly prohibited.
- Directors/coach(es) and district staff reserve the right to collect or restrict devices during sensitive times, including in locker rooms, bathrooms, hotel rooms, and during designated bedtime hours on overnight trips.

## **DISCIPLINE & CONSEQUENCES**

Fine Arts participants are subject to a tiered system of oversight. In the event of a disciplinary issue:

- San Felipe Del Rio CISD Student Code of Conduct is the primary authority. All violations are first addressed according to District-wide disciplinary standards.
- In addition to District action, directors and coach(es) may issue consequences at the group level based on the specific needs and safety of the program.

## **Consequences for Violations**

Failure to comply with program expectations may result in counseling, corrective action, suspension from events, or removal from the program.

- The exact consequence depends on the severity of the offense and prior violations, as determined by the director/coach(es) in consultation with administration.
- Students may be suspended from performances, contests, or competitions for a set time. During this period, students are generally still required to attend practices or rehearsals to maintain their skills and course requirements.
- Serious or repeated violations may result in increasingly severe consequences and may result in removal.

## **Social Media and Public Behavior**

Fine Arts students are always representatives of the school, including online, in school, and in public. Behavior should reflect positively on the students, the team, and the district. Violations of

district policy or conduct expectations may result in disciplinary action. Certain violations may result in immediate escalation beyond the standard consequence structure based on severity.

- 1st offense: 10 school day Fine Arts probation
- 2nd offense: 20 school day Fine Arts probation
- 3rd offense: Removal from the team/group

This structure applies to:

- Social media violations
- Stealing, vandalism, theft, or cheating
- Inappropriate behavior

### **Alcohol/Tobacco/E-Cigarette/Vape Use**

Any student who is caught, on or off campus, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol will receive the following consequences

- 1st offense: 15 school day suspension from game/season/participation/competition
- 2nd offense: 30 school day suspension or dismissal from the program for the remainder of the year (whichever is longest)

### **Controlled or Illegal Substance/Drug Use**

Any student that is caught on or off campus, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any controlled or illegal substance will receive the following consequences:

- The district administration will be used to determine initial consequences
- In addition to those consequences, the Fine Arts consequence will be
  - 1st offense: 90 school day suspension from participation (may carry over to the next school year if necessary)
  - 2nd offense: dismissal from the program

### **Due Process and Communication**

We believe in transparency and fairness when handling disciplinary matters.

- Students will be informed of the violation and given the opportunity to respond before consequences are finalized.
- Parent communication may occur prior to or alongside disciplinary consequences as a

courtesy and to support student success.

## **TRAVEL & SAFETY**

To ensure student safety and logistical coordination, students are required to travel to all school-sponsored events, performances, and competitions using district-approved transportation.

Exceptions are only made with prior written approval from the Fine Arts Coordinator, director, coach, or campus administration.

### **Safety Screenings and Inspections**

For the security of all participants, the following measures are in place for school-sponsored trips and events:

- Directors/coach(es) reserve the right to check student bags, backpacks, and personal items before departure or during an event.
- Students may be scanned with a metal-detecting wand.

### **Medications and Health**

To ensure student health is managed safely during travel:

- All medications must be turned in to the director/coach(es) or sponsor before departure.
- Medications must be in their original container, placed inside a clear, labeled Ziploc bag with clear instructions for administration.
- District employees may not administer medication to students except as authorized by district policy and applicable law.

### **Overnight Trip Expectations**

Travel is an extension of the school day, and high standards of conduct are always expected.

- Directors/coach(es) will set specific curfews for overnight stays. Violations may result in immediate suspension from the activity and the loss of future travel privileges.
- As noted in our Technology Policy, electronic devices may be collected during overnight hours to ensure student rest and privacy.

### **Student Release Procedures**

If a student needs to leave an event with a parent or guardian rather than returning on the district-approved transportation, the following must occur:

- A Student Release Form must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian.
- The form must be handed directly to the director/coach(es) before the student is released.
- Students will only be released to a parent or legal guardian unless specific, written authorization has been submitted to director/coach(es) 24 hours in advance of trip.

## **PARENT–DIRECTOR/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE**

At San Felipe Del Rio CISD, we believe open, positive communication between parents and staff is vital to a student's success. Clear communication ensures that the focus remains on the student's growth and the program's educational goals.

### **What You Can Expect from the Director/Coach(es)**

- Schedules for all practices, rehearsals, performances, and competitions.
- Requirements for special equipment, uniforms, or conditioning.
- Immediate notification if your student is injured or faces a change in eligibility.

### **What Director/Coach(es) Expect from Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the director/coach(es).
- Advance notification of any schedule conflicts.
- Immediate notification of a student's illness or injury.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss**

Directors/coach(es) are educators. While it can be difficult when a student doesn't receive the role, spot, solo, or performance opportunity you hoped for, please understand that staff make decisions based on what is best for the entire group.

#### **Encouraged**

- \*Mental / physical well-being of your child
- \*Specific ways to help your child improve
- \*Concerns about your child's behavior

#### **Not Up for Discussion**

- \*Casting, placement, or assignment
- \*Program strategy
- \*Matters involving other students

### **The Resolution Process**

If a concern arises, please follow this formal chain of command. To ensure a productive meeting, we observe a 48-hour cooling-off period—please do not attempt to confront a director/coach(es)

before, during, or after a practice or performance.

- After 48 hours, contact the director/coach(es) in writing to request a meeting.
- A formal meeting will be held to discuss the matter. The student is often encouraged to attend these meetings to learn self-advocacy.
- If the issue is not resolved, contact the Fine Arts Coordinator.
- If necessary, the Fine Arts Coordinator will contact the campus administration.

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

In San Felipe Del Rio CISD, we believe that the success of our Fine Arts programs depends on the student, the director/coach, and the parents. By enrolling your child, you are committing to a partnership that fosters a positive environment for all.

### **Modeling Professionalism and Support**

Parents are the primary role models for our students. We ask that you support all participants—including those from visiting schools—by:

- Modeling respect and sportsmanship toward all students, directors, coaches, judges, and officials.
- Encourage your child's creativity, effort, and resilience rather than focusing solely on results or "winning."
- Avoiding negative comments, public confrontations, or inappropriate behavior at rehearsals, performances, or competitions will not be tolerated.

### **Commitment to Programs**

Participation in Fine Arts groups is a significant commitment for the entire family. To help our programs succeed, we ask parents to:

- Acknowledge and support the program's rules, schedules, and expectations.
- Help your student manage their time, equipment/instruments, and academic eligibility.
- As a parent, you are an essential part of the program's success. Whether through booster clubs or volunteering, your active support is what allows our programs to excel.

We strive to provide an exceptional arts education. This can only be achieved when parents and staff work together to ensure that every student's experience is safe, professional, and rewarding.

## **Appendix A: HOMESCHOOL PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES (HB 547)**

In accordance with Texas Education Code §33.0832 and UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, SFDRCSID provides non-enrolled (homeschooled) students the opportunity to participate in UIL Fine Arts and Spirit activities. To ensure fairness and competitive balance, homeschooled students are held to the exact same standards as full-time enrolled students.

### **Residency and Enrollment Requirements**

- **Attendance Zone:** The student must reside within the SFDRCSID attendance zone. Proof of residency must be established in the same manner as an enrolled student.
- **Public School Priority:** A student is not eligible to participate as a non-enrolled student if they were enrolled in a public school at any point during the current school year.
- **Exclusions:** Students enrolled in private or charter schools are not eligible for participation under these homeschool guidelines.

### **Academic Eligibility & Monitoring**

Academic oversight is the responsibility of the parent, but participation is contingent upon meeting UIL "No Pass, No Play" standards.

- **Initial Eligibility:** As a condition for the first six weeks of the school year, the student must demonstrate grade-level proficiency on a nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment (e.g., Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test).
- **Ongoing Grades:** Parents must submit student grades to the District according to the same calendar and grading period schedule as enrolled students.
- **Private Instruction Limit:** To maintain UIL compliance, private athletic or fine arts instruction cannot exceed 60 minutes per day (or 300 minutes per week).

### **Conduct and Safety Compliance**

Non-enrolled students are subject to all District policies regarding student behavior and health.

- Students must follow the SFDRCSID Student Handbook, the Fine Arts Handbook, and all campus-specific regulations.
- Students must comply with RankOne requirements, including updated physical exams and medical history.
- All homeschool participants must participate in the District's random drug testing and drug awareness programs.

### **Practice and Schedule Restrictions**

To maintain the integrity of the school day, the following scheduling rules apply:

- Homeschooled students are only permitted to practice with their teams/groups outside of the regular school day. This includes practices held before school, after school, on Saturdays, or during school holidays.
- Students may not participate in other leagues for the same activity while the UIL season is in progress.

### **Transfer and Varsity Eligibility**

- All students must complete a Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF). Varsity eligibility is subject to the 15-day rule and District Executive Committee (DEC) review if the student moved into the attendance zone within the last 12 months.
- A student may only participate at the school they would be assigned to attend based on their residential address.

## **Appendix B: RANKONE SPORT**

### **Electronic Registration Guide**

All students participating in Fine Arts and Spirit programs must complete their required paperwork through **Rank One Sport**. This platform ensures we have the necessary medical, safety, and emergency information to keep your student safe.

#### **Requirements for Completion:**

- Access to a smartphone, tablet, or computer.
- Both the student and the parent/guardian must be present to sign the forms at the same time.

#### **Step-by-Step Instructions:**

1. **Visit:** [www.rankonesport.com](http://www.rankonesport.com)
2. **Select:** The "For Parents" tab at the top right of the screen.
3. **Select:** "Fill Out Electronic Forms."
4. **Select:** State: TX.
5. **Select:** Del Rio CISD – Fine Arts.
6. **Select:** "Start Online Forms."
7. **Account Choice:** You may "Create Account" or select "I Don't Want an Account" to proceed as a guest.
8. **Complete Forms:** Enter the required student information and digitally "Sign" the form. Select **Submit**.
9. **Continue:** Select "Go to the Next Form" and repeat the process until you see the message: "**All forms have been completed.**"

### **Physical Examination Requirements**

A physical examination is required at a minimum of every two years. Depending on the specific activity (e.g., Spirit teams, Marching Band) or a student's medical history, a physical may be requested annually at the discretion of the director/coach(es).

Please turn in the completed paper physical and health history forms directly to the director / coach(es).