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Creating the Fine Arts Calendar

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As a child I enjoyed assembling large, 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles. Creating the fine arts calendar is very similar to solving a large jigsaw puzzle because there are many pieces of the puzzle that must fit together.



One of our greatest challenges as a department is lack of performance and rehearsal spaces. Since the school has no theatre space, we must rent one of the three facilities available in this area—Oconee County Civic Center, Seney-Stovall Chapel, or Brightstone Productions Theatre. We are a private entity; therefore, Oconee County Civic Center is rented to Oconee County schools and government organizations before it is made available to other organizations. In addition, the Civic Center is only rented six months in advance of an event. Seney-Stovall must serve the University of Georgia organizations before the facility can be rented by other organizations, and the space is not available on Sundays. Brightstone Productions has a full calendar of classes, rehearsals and productions.

Since our fine arts concerts are held in the Prince Avenue Baptist Church worship center, we must consider the church calendar. If our concerts or lower school musicals occur on Thursday, we must relocate our instruments and sets for the church's Wednesday evening activities. The same is true when presenting a show in the children's theatre. It is very challenging to rehearse Monday and Tuesday, dismantle a set on Wednesday, and then rebuild the set and prepare the auditorium for a Thursday evening show.

Many of our fine arts students are involved in athletics; therefore, we must consider the athletic calendar. We know that we cannot place a fine arts activity on Friday nights in the fall because of the football games. Our pep band plays for the home games, and our school community enjoys Friday nights "under the lights." In 2016 and

2018, the fall productions dates were set and facilities were rented before the football schedule was finalized. Once the football schedule was set, Coach Ricketts and I realized the best date for spirit week was the week of the fall production. We along with the administration worked together to coordinate the events of that week. Likewise, we must consider the University of Georgia football schedule because of its impact on facility rental, traffic, fan base, etc. We must take into account playoff games for other sports when setting the fine arts calendar.

Georgia High School Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, Association of Christian Schools International, and other organizations set their dates for activities. We must decide if we can participate based on our school calendar.

The academic calendar is examined when creating the fine arts calendar. Testing, AP exams, end of the quarter, and other dates affect our fine arts planning.

The fine arts faculty works with our students in planning and participating in the numerous fine arts opportunities. We assist students in learning how to balance their academic, athletic, arts and personal life through planning and preparation. Although there are many pieces to the fine arts calendar—academic, athletic, facilities, and arts opportunities—when pieces are joined together there is a beautiful picture that represents a picture of the body of Christ.

