



# Arts Application and Audition Guidelines 2024-2025 Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Matthew Miller  
*Principal*

Michael Cook  
Suja George  
*Assistant Principals*

8901 Cypress Lake Drive  
Fort Myers, Florida 33919  
Telephone: (239) 481-1533  
Fax: (239) 481-3121  
[cym.leeschools.net](http://cym.leeschools.net)

Deadline to Return Audition Packet to CLMS: Friday, January 26, 2024 (4:00pm)



## Audition and Admission Criteria

*Please read this entire packet completely.*

Cypress Lake Middle School is an Arts School located in middle school proximity zone MM. We offer four levels of Band, Art, Dance, and Theatre and three levels of Orchestra and Chorus. Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are interested in coming to Cypress Lake Middle as one of our selected arts students can live anywhere in Lee County, however, students living outside middle school proximity zone MM **will not** have transportation provided by the Lee County School District. Students living outside zone MM who are accepted on an arts seat must provide their own transportation. An interactive middle school proximity map is located [HERE](#) for reference.

Please follow the procedures described on the following pages carefully. The entire process for application into the Cypress Lake Middle School Arts Program includes the following steps:

1. Complete Student Application (enclosed) and return by **January 26, 2024**.
  - Application
  - Two letters of recommendation (one from a current teacher and one that can speak to the student's artistic ability. Letters must not be from a member of the applicant's family.) See forms included in this packet.
  - Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions.
2. You will be contacted to schedule this audition during the week of **January 29th**. Please block out these dates on your calendar now. On our school webpage there is a [link](#) to audition monologues and music. Auditions will be held in person on campus.
  - Prepare for your audition by following the audition guidelines as listed under each art area in this Audition and Admission Criteria packet.
  - Come to your audition at the appointed time. All auditions are closed to observers.
    - If a student becomes ill and is unable to audition, written verification documenting the illness from a doctor must be presented to the school within three (3) school days of the date of the student's scheduled audition. A new audition date and time will be selected for the student by the school.
3. If you auditioned:
  - You will receive notification by mail no later than 15 days from your audition date.
  - If you are accepted for one of the Arts seats, an intent form will also be included. This letter of intent is due back to Cypress Lake Middle School no later than **February 21, 2024**. After that date, we will go to the next student on the waiting list.
4. If you are selected for the Arts Program at Cypress Lake Middle School:
  - You are making a three year commitment to the Arts Program at Cypress Lake Middle School in the arts discipline for which you auditioned. For example, if you audition for Dance, you will remain in the Dance program all 3 years.
  - The student is required to maintain a full academic course load on the CLMS campus.
  - Participation and attendance for performance related after school activities is required.
  - Parent/Guardian involvement is HIGHLY recommended and welcomed.
5. **It is an expectation that you adhere to all the deadlines.** Failure to meet deadlines will result in forfeiting your seat at the school.

# Arts Program Descriptions/Audition Requirements

The arts provide an exciting opportunity for artistically talented elementary school students of Lee County. Once selected at an arts designated school, students become part of an artistic environment designed to develop their talents to the highest possible level while fostering an appreciation and love of the arts which will serve them well in the pursuit of the next step in their educational training and chosen careers.

*ALL* auditions are closed to all observers with no exceptions. This is for the purpose of fairness and equality for all students auditioning.

## Dance

At CLMS, dance students will be provided with a wide range of quality opportunities and experiences that will allow them to prepare for advanced study, creative growth, and personal fulfillment. Students participating in dance will study the major dance styles and choreography, with a strong focus on performance practices and individual creative expression. In the dance classroom, skills are developed through classwork, technique, individual and class projects, and performance opportunities.

### **Audition Requirements:**

**Each student will participate in an in-person audition to include but not limited to the following:**

- A short assessment of ballet barre exercises such as plie, tendu, degage, and grand battement.
- A short assessment of locomotor movement such as chasse, leap, and chainés.
- A short assessment of basic jazz exercises such as pivot turn, Jazz Square, and pirouette.
- A short paragraph or resume outlining a student's dance experience and desire to be a member of the Cypress Lake Middle School Dance Department.
- A pre-choreographed solo performance piece between 30 seconds-1 minute highlighting the dancer and their strengths.

### **Audition Attire**

Please be sure to wear appropriate dance wear or clothing that is easy to move in. Hair should be secured up and out of the face in a ponytail, bun, or French braid. Feet can be bare or appropriate dance shoes may be worn.

## Theatre

CLMS Theatre students will study and explore all aspects of the theatre process. Through classroom study and studio work, students will be trained in the art and craft of theatre. Drama students gain skills in acting, pantomime, costumes, lighting, sound, stagecraft, literature, history, vocal techniques, and playwriting. Students will learn successful communication in the theater involves the full integration of all of these parts.

### **Audition Requirements**

**Each student will participate in an in-person audition to include the following:**

- Prepare gender-specific monologue provided on the Arts Auditions link on the Cypress Lake Middle School website. The monologue must be memorized.
- Students may be asked to participate in a cold reading exercise.
- Students may be asked to answer a few questions about themselves, e.g. hobbies, activities.

Applicants are expected to arrive at the beginning of the audition time block. Students will be auditioning one at a time. Parents and guardians will NOT be allowed in the audition room. The only set piece will be a single chair.

### **Audition Attire**

Students are to dress as they would for a professional audition but be able to move freely. Flat, closed-toe shoes that cover the entire foot are suggested. Students should not be wearing sandals, flip-flops or other inappropriate footwear. Hair is to be secured away from the face. Ladies are asked to please NOT wear skirts or dresses.

# **Music: Band, Chorus, Orchestra**

CLMS students have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with one or more ensembles based on their skill and performance area: Band, Chorus, and/or Orchestra. In addition to learning the fundamentals of music theory and performance techniques, each student will participate in several performance opportunities throughout the year. Students who are auditioning with piano and guitar will be encouraged to sign up for a concert band or orchestra instrument in 6th grade as guitar and piano seats are very limited.

The Cypress Lake Middle School Band Program is designed to help students establish the fundamental techniques needed to perform on a band instrument as well as how to read music. There are four levels of band offered: Beginning Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band. All students must perform in seasonal concerts and students in the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band perform at Music Performance Assessment events each spring.

The Choral Program consists of three levels of chorus: Chorus 1, Chorus 2, and Panther Singers. Each group will be expected to perform in front of an audience consisting of student community, family members, and possible community performances. Students will develop music theory and reading skills as well as fundamental singing techniques.

The Strings Program consists of three levels of orchestra: Orchestra 1, Orchestra 2, and Chamber Orchestra. Each group will be expected to perform in front of an audience consisting of student community, family members, and possible community performances. Music theory and music reading are part of the expectations for all three levels of orchestra. Chamber Orchestra will have opportunities to audition for All County, All State, and participate in the MPA process.

## **Audition Requirements**

### **Chorus**

**Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:**

- A prepared performance of “The Water is Wide.”
- A major scale sung on a neutral syllable, *solfeggio*, or numbers a cappella, evaluated for accuracy
- A rhythmic sight-reading exercise evaluated for rhythmic accuracy
- A melodic sight-reading exercise, evaluated for melodic accuracy
- *Optional and Highly Encouraged: Each student may perform an additional song of his/her choice which demonstrates the student's vocal skill. Students may sing acapella or they may bring a recorded accompaniment. Recorded accompaniments must not contain a vocalist singing the student's part.*

### **Orchestra & Band**

**Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:**

- A prepared performance of “The Water is Wide.”
- Students must perform at least one Major scale in the style and tempo that demonstrates his/her ability. Students may perform additional scales to demonstrate musical aptitude.
- A rhythmic sight-reading exercise evaluated for rhythmic accuracy
- A melodic sight-reading exercise, evaluated for melodic accuracy
- *Optional and Highly Encouraged: Students may perform an additional piece of his/her choice which demonstrates the student's instrumental skill. Students may use recorded accompaniments. Recorded accompaniments must not contain the student's part.*

### **Instrument Notes:**

- Students are required to provide their own instrument for auditions.
- Students who need percussion instruments and/or piano for their auditions may use CLMS instruments.
- Music stands will be provided.

# **Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts program at Cypress Lake Middle School develops students' creative thinking and problem-solving abilities through learning that is centered around artistic growth. Students selected to join our Visual Arts program will have an opportunity to obtain ongoing practice in drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, and ceramics. Each of the four integrated levels of Visual Arts courses at Cypress Lake Middle School builds upon the foundation laid in the prerequisite course. Students who complete our three-year program will leave with greater confidence in both their artistic selves and as well-prepared learners.

## **Audition Requirements**

Each applicant is required to participate in a one-hour audition. During this hour, students will be observed as they demonstrate their understanding of drawing from observation and creating the illusion of space, creating landscapes, and applying creative thinking to their artwork (see example questions below).

Applicants are required to submit quality photographs of five to eight of their artworks through this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/VyxSUeZ46HrqF2Wj7) (URL is here: <https://forms.gle/VyxSUeZ46HrqF2Wj7>). To upload photos, students can:

- Take a photograph using a smartphone; then, using the smartphone, sign-in to Google Drive using their student account. They will then be able to upload photos to their drive.
- Open the camera app on their Chromebook. Next, hold the artwork centered in front of the Chromebook screen and photograph their work. They will then be able to upload their work from their Chromebooks.

### **Draw from observation**

*Pick something that you see in front of you. Draw it in a way that looks three dimensional by using different tricks that artists use to create the illusion of space.*

### **Draw a landscape**

*Close your eyes for a second and imagine you are outside sitting in the most amazing setting. Now, draw that place. Try to include a foreground, middle ground and background in your drawing.*

### **Show your creativity.**

*Finish the picture using the line you see below. Make it a complete artwork.*

Rec. By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Cypress Lake Middle School**  
**Middle School Audition Application Form**  
**2024-2025 School Year**  
**Fax Number (239) 481-3121**  
**Phone Number (239) 481-1533**  
**8901 Cypress Lake Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33919**

**Please fill out the information below and return by fax. US Mail or in person to our school.**

**The deadline to submit this application is Friday, January 26, 2024**

**No applications will be accepted after Friday, January 26, 2024, no exceptions.**

_____ Last Name	_____ First Name	_____ Middle Initial	_____ Student ID
_____ Current Mailing Address		_____ City, State, Zip Code	
_____ Date of Birth	_____ Gender	_____ Present School	
_____ First and Last Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)		_____ Parent Contact Number	_____ Primary Language (English, Spanish, etc.)
_____ Parent/Guardian e-mail address			

**Auditions will be held during the week of January 29, 2024.**

You may audition for up to **two** arts areas below.

Please rank your preference with a 1 for your top choice and a 2 for your second choice.

\_\_\_\_ Band; Please list instrument: \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_ Chorus      \_\_\_\_ Dance  
\_\_\_\_ Orchestra; Please list instrument: \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_ Theatre      \_\_\_\_ Visual Arts

**We will contact you with your audition day and time once we receive all applications and can schedule auditions. Please ensure the parent contact number above is accurate.**

\* Students are expected to make a three year commitment to participating in the elective course in the school's arts program.

*I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the Audition and Admission Criteria.*

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only: Date Received\_\_\_\_\_ Complete\_\_\_\_\_ Not Complete\_\_\_\_\_

# Cypress Lake Middle School

Passion for Success—Academics, Arts & Life



## Application: Teacher Recommendation 1

*Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher's signature across the sealed back.  
Recommendations must be included in the application packet and returned by Friday, January 26, 2024.  
Please print clearly.*

Student Last Name

Student First Name

Student ID

Name of person making the recommendation

Phone Number

E-mail address

Years You Have Known the Applicant

*Please rate this student:*

	<i>No Basis</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>
Creativity						
Self- Motivation						
Self-Discipline						
Work Habits						
Academic achievement						
Interpersonal Skills						
Interest in the Arts						
Written expression of ideas						
Potential for growth						
Ability to follow directions						

(Continue on the other side)



This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the entire width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Cypress Lake Middle School

Passion for Success—Academics, Arts & Life



## Application: Teacher Recommendation 2

*Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher's signature across the sealed back.  
Recommendations must be included in the application packet and returned by Friday, January 26, 2024.  
Please print clearly.*

Student Last Name

Student First Name

Student ID

Name of person making the recommendation

Phone Number

E-mail address

Years You Have Known the Applicant

*Please rate this student:*

	<i>No Basis</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>
Creativity						
Self- Motivation						
Self-Discipline						
Work Habits						
Academic achievement						
Interpersonal Skills						
Interest in the Arts						
Written expression of ideas						
Potential for growth						
Ability to follow directions						

(Continue on the other side)

Please provide a short recommendation for the applying student. Please reference your direct experiences with the student to include details from the criteria on the preceding page.

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

Signature

Date