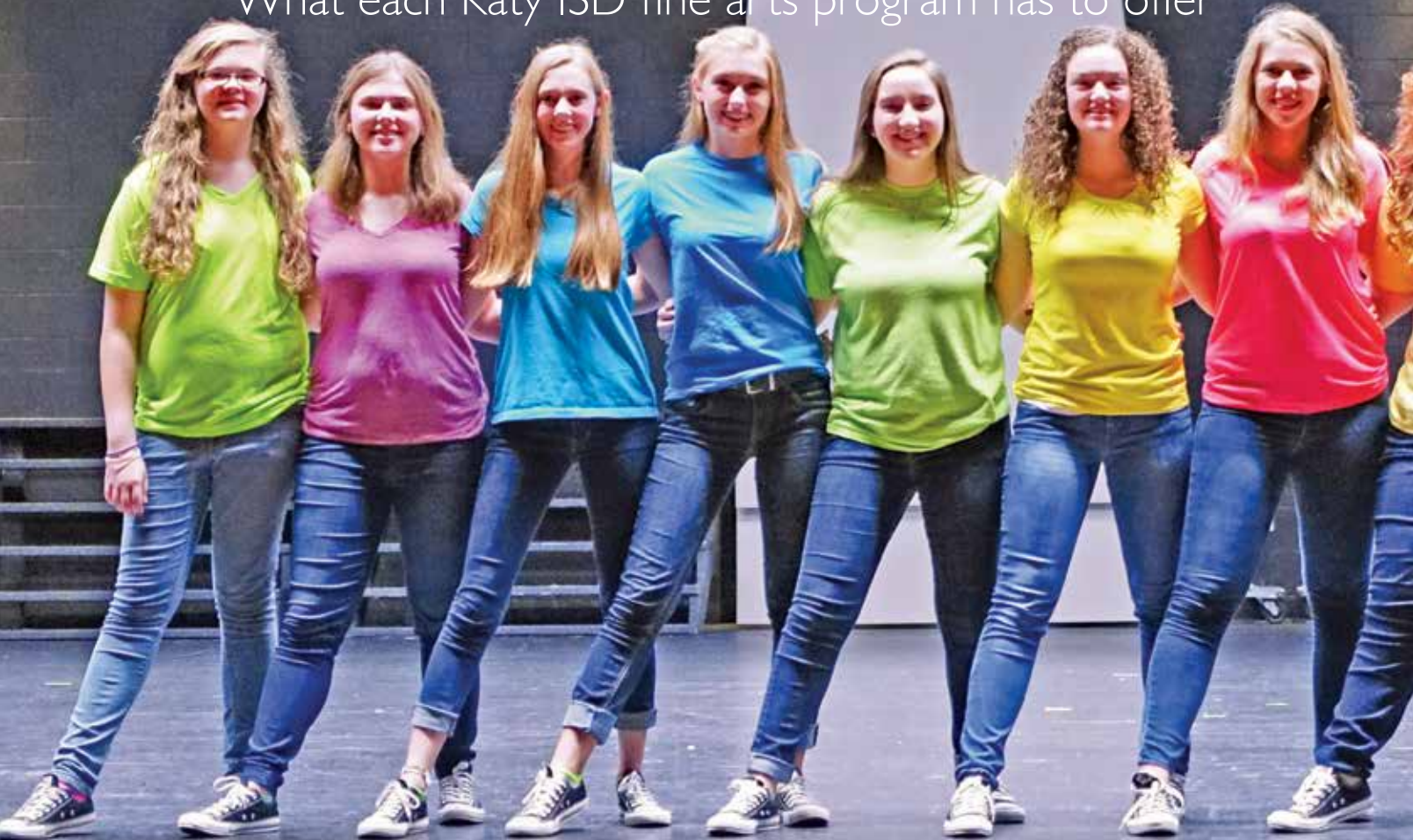


# The Power of

What each Katy ISD fine arts program has to offer



Cinco Ranch High School Bravo show choir

With over 300 teachers and approximately 55,000 students in Katy ISD, the fine arts have a noteworthy presence worth celebrating. Between award winning artists, marching bands, dance teams, choir programs, or theatre departments, each Katy ISD school offers students what they need to be artistically successful.

## Art Visual Creators

Young Katy ISD artists produce stunningly impressive artwork. At the Visual Art Scholastic event, 26 Katy ISD students received state recognition for their work, and four won the coveted Gold Seal of Excellence award. Art students from Katy ISD also compete throughout the year

in many art shows including the World Series of Dog Shows and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Competition. At these shows, students are eligible to win cash prizes, college scholarships, and educational grants in addition to the prestige of winning art competitions.

## Orchestra Composing the Classics

The Katy ISD Orchestra programs are exceptionally talented. The Seven Lakes High School Symphony Orchestra was named the state Honor Full Orchestra for 2016 by the Texas Music Educators Association. Orchestra director Desiree Overree says, "This is the highest honor in the state of Texas for a musical group. We are the first Katy

Written by Lacey Kupfer Wulf

# the Arts



Seven Lakes High School Band



Taylor High School Pacesetters



Cinco Ranch High School Orchestra



high school campus to be bestowed with this honor. We are so proud to represent Katy and Katy ISD.' The full orchestra combines three orchestra and band ensembles and requires extra weekly practices to prepare for competition. Also, during even numbered years, Seven Lakes High School presents a Masterworks concert.

## Band The Sound of Friday Night Lights

Providing entertainment on and off the football field in Katy ISD requires many extra hours of time and effort. Tompkins High School director Stephen Bond, starts planning for the marching band productions almost

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a year in advance. Band students dedicate roughly three and a half weeks of their summer to rehearsals, and eight hours per week during the year. Bond says, "In band, students learn how to work together in a large team where they are not only responsible for their own performance but are also given the opportunity to positively influence the performance of their fellow band members." That time and commitment pays off. Katy ISD football games would not be the same without their award-winning marching bands.

### Choir The Voices of Katy

In choir, students learn the components of music, such as rhythm, pitch, and note-reading, but that's not all. "They learn how to be successful as an individual and team member," says Ruben Alcalá, choir director at Mayde Creek High School. During his first year at Mayde Creek, Alcalá and top choir Kantori received sweepstakes at UIL for concert choir and sight-reading contests for the first time in five years. In the past, Katy ISD high schools have performed musicals like *Suessical the Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. This year Mayde Creek plans to perform *Chicago* the first week of February.

### Dance Inspiring Movement

Katy ISD dance teams don't just entertain football fans. They are fierce competitors who push to win in their own field. Out of the approximately 200 teams that competed nationally, the Taylor High School Pacesetters dance team won the national championship at the 2013 Marching Auxiliaries National Dance and Auxiliary Championship. Also, the Seven Lakes Sapphires have been named the Crowd Pleasers Showcase Champion teams at the state or grand championship level for the last several years.

### Theatre Visual Storytellers

In addition to making a strong contribution to the musical productions of Katy ISD schools, the Katy ISD theatre departments produce impressive works of drama. In 2013, two out of the six students in the entire Houston area chosen to have their original plays performed at the Alley Theatre were Katy ISD students, one from Katy High School and the other from Mayde Creek High School.

Former executive director of fine arts for Katy ISD, Bob Bryant, says, "Fine arts are important for everybody. They make us more civil as a society. They make us better people." The students who participate in the fine arts programs in Katy ISD learn from the best and take their best to the community, Overree adds. "We are so blessed to be in Katy, where fine arts are supported not only by the administration but also by the community." **KM**

*LACEY KUPFER WULF cherishes her high school memories of participating in jazz and classical choirs, and the school musical.*

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