

## Band

The Honors Band is at the top of the award winning Lanier band program. Students in the Honors Band are not only accomplished musicians but also diligent students. The Lanier band program placed more students into the All City Band than any other middle school or high school in Houston ISD. The Lanier Band program also involves Polka Band and Jazz Band. In addition, they collaborate with orchestra members to form the Lanier Symphony Orchestra, which is ranked as one of the top Middle School Symphony Orchestras in the state of Texas. There is a class for all levels of students in band, even for students with no previous experience. Please contact Ali Jackson at [AJACKS17@houstonisd.org](mailto:AJACKS17@houstonisd.org) for more information or to schedule an audition.

## Choir

The Lanier Concert Girls Choir, our program's top treble choir, is by audition only and limited to 25 singers. In total, Lanier has 6 performing choirs in 6th through 8th grades. Lanier choirs have received consistent sweepstakes awards at UIL Contest and Sight-Reading as well as Best in Class at Alamo Showcase of Music, Splashtown Choral Festival and Katy ISD 6th Grade Festival. They have also served as demonstration choirs at University of Houston's Kodaly Institute and performed on Houston Chamber Choir's "Sing the Future" Invitational. There is a place for all singers no matter the experience level! Our goals are to learn the language of music and have fun doing it. Work hard, sing hard, play hard. Please contact Kimberly Tobola at [KTOBOLA@houstonisd.org](mailto:KTOBOLA@houstonisd.org) for more information or to schedule an audition.

## Dance

The dance program has won a long list of awards. These include Texas State Champions, Regional Super Sweepstakes, and HISD Middle School Dance Champions. The dance program offers a variety of classes suited to a child's performance level, including beginners, and is under the direction of Suzy Wolfe, Kelsey Joseph, and Bryan Paule. There are no auditions necessary for incoming sixth graders. Please contact Suzy Wolfe at [SWOLFE1@houstonisd.org](mailto:SWOLFE1@houstonisd.org) for more information.

## Debate

The Lanier Debate Team has won the National Championship for nine years in a row. In addition, Lanier was recognized as a Debate School of Excellence, Speech School of Excellence, and Overall School of Excellence at the NJFL National Tournament. Sixth graders in Lanier Debate are the building blocks for the program. Some of them will rotate through the debate class throughout the year, but ALL of them are invited to attend the afterschool debate club which meets Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30. All incoming 6th graders are also able to register for the 6th grade debate camp, July 30 - August 2. Please contact Franz Hill at [FHILL1@houstonisd.org](mailto:FHILL1@houstonisd.org) for more information because space is limited!

## Drama

The Lanier Drama Department offers a variety of theatre classes for students at Sidney Lanier Middle School. Students have the opportunity to join what has become a rich tradition in theatre production. Lanier Drama is coming off of back to back 2nd place wins at HISD UIL One-Act District Competition. In 2011 and 2012, Lanier received many acting awards including Best Crew, Best Actress, and Best Actor. Lanier Drama also won First place at the 2011 Texas Renaissance Festival. Join us in May for *Employees Must Wash Hands Before Murder*, which is a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Play. For tickets or more information about the drama program, please contact Markos Hernandez: [MHERNA54@houstonisd.org](mailto:MHERNA54@houstonisd.org).

## Leadership

Lanier Leadership/GSG program is a program that teaches character education, tolerance of all, and promotes understanding and caring among all races, religions, clusters, orientations and socio-economic groups. The Leadership Program has been at Lanier since 2000. Its' goal is to empower students to make decisions and present lessons that promote cooperation and care of the students of Lanier, the school community, the city and state that we live in as well as the whole planet that we live on. The students learn lessons about time-management, making good decisions, study habits, hate crimes, bullying, and anti-drug lessons, as well as other issues that middle school students face. For more information, please contact Mike Giroir at: [MGIROIR@houstonisd.org](mailto:MGIROIR@houstonisd.org).

## Orchestra

Lanier's orchestra program ranks as one of the top programs in the state of Texas, and has been a finalist in the Texas Honor Orchestra Competition. In addition, the orchestra has consistently won superior ratings at the annual UIL contest for the past 20 years. Members of the top group combine together with the Lanier band to form the Lanier Symphony Orchestra. This group was a commended winner in the 2012 National Mark of Excellence competition. There is a class for all levels of students in orchestra, even if for students with no previous experience. Please contact Laurette McDonald at [LMCDONA3@houstonisd.org](mailto:LMCDONA3@houstonisd.org) for more information or to schedule an audition.

## Robotics

Lanier offers a three-year sequence of robotics courses. Using the *Simple & Powered Machines* curriculum, 6th grade students learn & apply the fundamentals of design (simple machines, mechanisms, & structures) for one semester. Seventh & eighth graders enrolled in the year-long Introduction to Robotics follow the *Carnegie Mellon Robotics Engineering vol. 1* curriculum that teaches design & programming with the LEGO Mindstorm NXT robot kits. Advanced Robotics is a year-long class which applies & extends what the students learned in the introductory course. The first semester is based on the First LEGO League annual challenge; the second semester offers students the opportunity not only to work through volume 2 of the *Carnegie Mellon Robotics Engineering* curriculum. All levels of learners are welcome to try out for the school's competitive robotics teams which meet throughout the school year & participate in a variety of competitions (FLL, Games Robots Play, etc.). For more information, please contact Paulette Bogert: [PBOGERT@houstonisd.org](mailto:PBOGERT@houstonisd.org).

## Visual and Media Arts

Painting, sculpture, drawing and visual storytelling are practiced in environments that promote creativity, communication and open mindedness. Students develop skills and gain knowledge of key terms and concepts through exploration and practice of the elements and principles of art. All students are encouraged to participate in art exhibits in the greater Lanier community. For more information about visual arts, contact Michael Kirby at [MKIRBY@houstonisd.org](mailto:MKIRBY@houstonisd.org). For information about Media Arts, please contact Gary Keese at [GKEESE@houstonisd.org](mailto:GKEESE@houstonisd.org).