

Language B — *Spanish*

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Grady's *Language B Spanish* classes introduce students to the cultures of the contemporary Spanish speaking world, as they develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. In *Spanish I*, students will learn common ways to greet people, ask for and provide personal information, and talk about their likes, pastimes and descriptions of their school day. A heavy emphasis is placed on oral and written practice in present and past tenses. In *Spanish for Native Speakers*, bilingual students will have the unique opportunity to explore new cultures, content and vocabulary through exposure to a wide variety of Hispanic literature. Students in this class are expected to create and maintain a portfolio of writing, reading comprehension materials and research projects.



Technology

Amy Railsback, *Instructor* • arailsba@houstonisd.org
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Grady's Technology curriculum teaches students to follow a process called the *Design Cycle*, which helps them answer questions that have real-world connections. Students learn basic computing skills and keyboarding techniques, while becoming proficient with Microsoft Office applications. Activities include the creation of word processing documents, spreadsheets, graphs and presentations. Our online textbook materials are tied directly to students' core foundation curriculum, providing interdisciplinary support for those subjects. Students should expect to complete at least two IB projects each semester, while improving on their basic computer skills throughout the year.



Core Enrichment Team

Fine Arts • Language B • Technology

Fine Arts — Music

Leif Hall, Director of Bands

lhall8@houstonisd.org • www.GradyBand.org

The Music Department at Grady is comprised of three levels of band classes, a general music class focused on *World Music Drumming*, and a *Jazz Studies* enrichment class. Grady Middle School Bands are comprised of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, and no prior music experience is necessary to join.

Students can learn to play an instrument in Beginning Band and continue their studies in Intermediate Band, Advanced Band and Jazz Studies. Grady Bands perform a number of concerts throughout the school year, both during and after school. *World Music Drumming*



is open to all students interested in learning music in a hands-on, interactive classroom setting. The class is one semester in length and covers topics on music performance, listening, composition and improvisation. No prior music experience is necessary to be in this class.

Fine Arts — Theatre Arts

Tal Gribbins, Theatre Arts Director

cgribbin@houstonisd.org • www.GradyTheatre.com

Grady Theatre is a conservatory-style training program offering students a rigorous combination of acting, voice and movement — balanced with theatre history and literature, design, and film study that is unique among middle and high schools. Our goal is to produce well-rounded theatre pre-professionals who are capable of entering the exciting worlds of acting, directing, design and theatre education. In addition to their academic pursuits, students gain valuable real-world experience through workshops with

industry professionals, and performances in Grady's *Mainstage* and *GatorLab™ Studio* theatres. Past productions have included the world premiere of Fernando Dovalina's bilingual *Bonita y el Chupacabras* (Beauty and the Beast); a modern version of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, set to an alternative rock soundtrack; the Southwest premiere of the gripping *Snapshot* anthology by Craig Wright, et al; and the moving Holocaust drama *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* by Celeste Raspanti.



Fine Arts — Visual Arts

Courtney Adams, Instructor

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The Visual Arts Program at Grady is based on the structure of building a solid foundation for middle school students under the Texas Art Curriculum. With a background in animation, Mr. Adams integrates a variety of mediums within the classroom environment, including but not limited to drawing, painting, animation pre-production and illustration. Visual Arts is also designed to assist students in creating an art portfolio, which is needed in order to apply to some art departments at the high school level.

