

Did You Know?



Academy of Media Arts and Technology R.L. Turner High School

AMAT Director: Vince Cowdrey

Media Arts Instructor: Jason Wheeler



The Academy for Media Arts and Technology began in 1998 at R. L. Turner High School, offering high school students a chance to “major” in a technology related subject as they complete their college preparatory program. Courses are offered in four strands: **Media Arts, Computer Science, Business Applications, Digital Graphic Arts**. After an introductory course during the freshman year, students take a minimum of one course each year in a strand and participate in an internship in that area during senior year.

The goal of the program is to give students an opportunity to explore these areas of technology during high school. The studio production facility is state-of-the-art, and the instructors are first-rate. Students are encouraged to participate in social and enrichment activities throughout the year.

Students have many opportunities to develop advanced skills in these areas of technology and can participate in service-related activities such as productions for C-FB TV, audio and video production at district sporting events and special community projects.

How do students qualify to enter the AMAT program?

The C-FB ISD Academies begin taking student applications during the students' 8th grade year. The applications are evaluated based on previous academic performance and teacher recommendations. After a rigorous review by an AMAT council including instructors and administrators, students are selected to attend the academy based on said criteria.

What is the benefit for students to be in the academy?

The students gain knowledge in a particular field and get a head start on college by earning college credits. The students receive invaluable field experience through field trips and internships.

AMAT students learn by doing.

AMAT Projects and Activities:

- Media projects for C-FB ISD High School sports teams
- DVD shooting and production for theatre departments
- Technical assistance to District Fine Arts productions
- Produces video services for teacher training for C-FB ISD staff
- Produces daily announcements for RLT
- Produces video/DVD for Shattered Dreams
- Produces various videos for the community such as City of Farmers Branch, City of Carrollton and local Non-Profit organizations including **C-FB ISD Educational Foundation**
- Students attend several Tate Lecture Series Student Forum at SMU
- Design and print posters, certificates and documents for various school and community organizations.
- Tape and broadcast C-FB TV from the AMAT studio
- Tape and broadcast Senior Walks and Graduations for C-FB ISD
- Attend Sundance Film Festival

Internships

Students are encouraged to intern their senior year in the AMAT program. These are a few of the internship community partners that serve the AMAT interns.

- Dallas Cowboys Organization
- FOX Sports Southwest
- USA Radio Network
- Dallas Sound Lab/Mediatech Institute
- Alpha Graphics
- 89.7 Power FM
- The Studios at Las Colinas/Muller Entertainment
- Dallas Morning News
- Applied Data Sciences

Student Success...

The AMAT program has had an impact on many of the students. Some AMAT graduates have gone on to attend major universities including University of Southern California, Yale University, University of Texas at Austin, Southern Methodist University, University of North Texas, Texas A&M University, University of Missouri and many others.

Current student, John Gordon's film, "To the Ends of the Earth", was one of 12 films selected from over 5,000 entries to screen at the South by Southwest Film Festival. His film also screened at AFI Dallas and the Auburn University Film Festival where it won second place.

Minh Nguyen is a freshman this year at Yale University studying Architecture. She received close to a full ride to attend the university.

Neeka Parker and Kathryn Kidson were National Merit Scholars for RL Turner last year. Both graduated from the Academy for Media Arts and Technology.