

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

Things to Know About Applying and Auditioning

1. Dates for Open Auditions and interviews for students wishing to apply to the Arts Academy are listed in the District Calendar for the Buffalo Public Schools.
2. Students must bring two letters of recommendation to the audition. One letter should be from someone who can attest to his/her artistic ability. One letter should be completed by an English or Math instructor who can attest to his/her academic ability.
3. Students must fulfill the requirements listed below for the art major area of his/her choice.
4. A copy of their previous school year's report card and current report card is required.
5. Students must display a commitment to their art major and understand that each department requires time invested in rehearsals, practicing, performances, and shows after regular school hours. *** **Students will participate in afterschool or evening performances and must stay from the beginning of the show to the end of the production.**
6. **NOTE:** Acceptance is based on successful completion of your current grade and having met all areas of criteria for the audition process.

Major Area Requirements

Dance

- a. Students must be prepared to dance in proper dance attire:
 - Leotard and tights (without feet)
 - Hair pulled back neatly
 - **NO** t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, or other such clothing
 - **NO** jewelry
- b. Students should not prepare a separate dance solo. Students are judged upon their performance in a technique class that is led by a dance instructor.
- c. Students should be well rested and prepared to participate with full energy in class.
- d. It is recommended that students have a light breakfast.
- e. **To be officially accepted, students must have a physician's clearance stating their ability to fully participate without physical restriction in every aspect of the Dance curriculum.**

Media Communications (Grades 9 – 12 only)

- a. Students will be expected to write a report about a current news event at the interview. Each student will write about the same assigned topic.
- b. The student will be requested to read aloud what he/she has written, while being videotaped.
- c. Students should possess a strong interest in developing skills in Journalism.
- d. Since most students do not have a working knowledge of communication arts, a strong academic record, positive letters of recommendation, as well as a good interview, are major factors for admission into this program.

Music

- a. Instrumental students must bring their instrument to the audition. Students should work with their music teacher to prepare their audition.
- b. Students may audition for either vocal or instrumental music. However, once accepted, music students in grades 5 – 8 will learn to sing and play an instrument.
- c. The student should either play or sing a 3 – 4 minute prepared written composition.
- d. No taped or pre-recorded music is allowed.
- e. The student should bring the sheet music of the prepared composition for the interviewer to follow.

Major Area Requirements (cont'd)

Technical Theatre & Maintenance (I.E.P. Students only)

- a. Students must write an essay, in advance, answering the questions below. The essay will be submitted at the audition/interview. It is preferable that the essay is typed, although it is not required. Be prepared to discuss your essay at the interview.

Technical Theatre & Maintenance Essay

- Name:
 - Age:
 - Current Grade
1. Give the title of a play, a movie, or a live stage production that you have seen that stands out in your mind.
 2. Describe in detail some of the scenery, props, or special effects that were used to make the performance realistic or memorable.
 3. Discuss any personal hobbies or activities that you enjoy.
 4. Write a description of something you have constructed or built. Include photographs if you have them.

Theatre Arts

- a. Students must perform a memorized 2 – 4 minute monologue. A monologue is a long speech spoken by one character in a play and reveals thoughts and feelings. The monologue is chosen by the student and is memorized prior to the audition. Bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, Borders, Walden Books, as well as the Public Library are sources for monologues. Orator's speeches, essays, and poems are not allowed. At least one copy of the monologue must be brought to the audition.
- b. The monologue will be performed for two instructors and will not be delivered in front of a large audience.
- c. Costumes or props are not necessary or required.

Visual Arts

- a. The student must bring a portfolio with a minimum of 10 works of art to the audition. Subjects such as cartoon characters, superheroes, and athletes should not be included. Works that are traced or copied from another picture will also not be accepted.

Suggestions for Portfolio Items:

- Object Drawings: Simple, descriptive works picturing household objects – a cluttered table at the end of a meal, a floral arrangement, a lamp, etc.
 - Portraits: A work in any medium (crayons, paint, pen, pencil, etc.) showing yourself, a friend, a pet, members of your family, or even a group of people.
 - Imaginative Works: Any fantasy or dreamlike world in any medium. The idea should be original and not borrowed from anyone or anything.
 - Abstract or Non-Objective Works: A work in any medium which is about art elements only, such as an exploration of lines and shapes, or colors and textures.
 - Drawing from Life: A favorite spot at home, a view from the window (such as across the street), a backyard, rooftops, etc.
 - 3 – Dimensional Media: Weavings, ceramics (no molds), stitching, sculpture, and collage are highly encouraged.
- b. The student should be prepared to draw a still-life during the audition. Please bring a pencil.

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Report Cards: A copy of their previous school year's report card and their current report card is required from the student.

Acceptance Rubric Scoring: the Audition accounts for **60%**, the student's Academic Standing accounts for **30%** and two Letters of Recommendations account for **10%**.

Things to Know About Your Recommendation Letters

1. Students must bring at least two [**2**] letters of recommendations.
2. One letter must be completed by an English or Math instructor who is familiar with the student's academic abilities.
3. One letter must be completed by someone who is familiar with the student's artistic skills and personal characteristics. (e.g. Choir Director, Dance Instructor, Visual Art Teacher).
4. Presentation of a **typed** letter or *word document* is preferred.
5. Information in the letters should include, but is not limited to, the following aspects.
 - a. Specify **how long they have known the student** and **in what capacity**.
 - b. Specify the art major area for which the student will be auditioning.
 - b. How would you rate the student in terms of academic skills and potential?
 - c. Does the student have any special qualities, talents, or proficiencies?
 - d. How is the Arts Academy appropriate for the future of the student's education?
 - e. The writer should include in the letter:
 - Name, Date, Title (if appropriate), Phone #, and Signature.
6. The recommendation letters may be used for college or scholarship applications and will become part of the students file at the Arts Academy.

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7. Recommendation letters may be mailed or faxed to the following address:

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

Attention: Admissions

450 Masten Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209

Fax: (716) 888-7136

** For more information, please contact the Arts Academy at (716) 816-4220 **

Arts Academy Open House and Audition Dates!

Enrollment for 2017-2018 school year

OPEN HOUSE – Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Grades 9 - 12 Auditions

Saturday, October 15 and
Saturday, October 22, 2016
at 8:00 A.M.

Grades 5 - 8 Auditions

Saturday, October 29 and
Saturday, November 5, 2016
at 8:00 A.M.