

Lancaster County School District

**APPLICATION FOR ANDREW JACKSON MIDDLE
FINE ARTS FOCUS SCHOOL**

6865 Kershaw-Camden Highway, Kershaw, SC 29067 803-475-6021/283-1970

Circle Grade Next Year (2023-2024): 6 7 8

Please type or print. Students may apply in a maximum of 2 arts areas, using 2 separate applications.

Legal Name of Student: _____ Birth Date: _____
First Middle Last Month/Day/Year

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female Present School: _____

Resident: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Business Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Attach proof of residency such as a light bill, water bill, or phone bill

Indicate area of application

- A. _____ Chorus
- B. _____ Dance
- C. _____ Band
- D. _____ Theater Arts
- E. _____ Visual Arts

Indicate your preference in audition date

and times. Please list 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.

April 19th

_____ 4:00pm
_____ 4:30pm
_____ 5:00pm
_____ 5:30pm
_____ 6:00pm

April 20th

_____ 4:00pm
_____ 4:30pm
_____ 5:00pm
_____ 5:30pm
_____ 6:00pm

We will make every effort to make your audition time as close to your first choice as possible.

Please list and describe all of your experiences in the arts area in which you are applying. Include any experiences which you regard as creative and which you can relate to the arts area of your application.

The student must complete this section by hand only.

Upon receipt of application, additional information about the auditions, portfolios, and/or requirements in your specific area will be mailed to you.

**** ATTENTION ****

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE APPLICATION PROCESS!!

EACH APPLICATION MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

(Check off when completed)

- _____ 1. Completed application form
- _____ 2. Copy of first semester report card
- _____ 3. Three (3) completed evaluation forms. The forms are provided in the application packet. Each form **must be sealed in a separate envelope with evaluator's signature across the seal.** Each Evaluation Form must have a letter of recommendation to be completed in the appropriate section. **The evaluator must be someone other than a relative. At least (2) of your evaluations should be from your core teachers. THE EVALUATIONS MUST BE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, IF THEY ARE UNSEALED YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
- _____ 4. All five (5) items must be turned in together by the deadline date. We will not process separate items.
- _____ 5. If you are applying for a second arts area, you must complete item #1-4 in a separate Envelope for the second arts area.
- _____ 6. Proof of residency. **This is a must for everyone.**

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! YOUR CHILD WILL NOT GET AN AUDITION NOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TURN IN A PORTFOLIO IF THE APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE OR PAST THE DEADLINE!

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND RELATED INFORMATION

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must:

- Be a resident of Lancaster County and submit proof of residency. **This is a must for everyone.**
- Complete an official Andrew Jackson Middle School Fine Arts Focus School application form
- Submit a copy of the first semester report card. Students must have a passing average at the time of application and be promoted to the next grade level at the conclusion of the regular school year.
- Submit the three attached Evaluation Forms. An arts teacher who is familiar with your interest in the arts, must complete one of the forms. Each completed form must be sealed in an envelope and signed across the seal by the evaluator. All Evaluation Forms must have a letter of recommendation in the appropriate section on the back. The evaluator must be someone other than a relative. At least two (2) of the forms should be filled out by your core teachers.
- During auditions, accommodations will be provided as required for students with disabilities. Requests for accommodations must be made in writing at the time of application.
- An applicant may apply for up to two of the arts areas. **A completed application packet will be required for each art area.** For audition scheduling purposes, application packets for both areas must be submitted at the same time
- Postmark or deliver your complete application packet to Andrew Jackson Middle Fine Arts Focus School, 6865 Kershaw-Camden Highway, Kershaw, SC 29067, **by March 23, 2023, NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Yearly focus bus availability is subject to change based on district transportation plan

Applicants will be mailed specific audition and/or portfolio information including the date, time, place and other requirements. General information about each art area can be found in this packet.

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

An expert in each art area will evaluate students and place them in one of four categories based on their talent and potential. These categories are: *Exemplary*, *Strong*, *Acceptable*, and *Minimal*. Students categorized as *Exemplary* will be accepted before students categorized as *Strong*. Students categorized as *Strong* will be accepted before students categorized as *Acceptable*. Students categorized as having *Minimal* talent and potential will not be accepted. AJMS Fine Arts teacher consensus will be used to select students within categories if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of openings. **Transfer students from Heath Springs Elementary and Kershaw Elementary are counted as out of area students.**

AUDITION DATES

Audition dates and times will be assigned and mailed to applicants. We suggest that you start getting ready for an audition now.

VISUAL ART

Visual Arts applicants must bring their artwork portfolio with them for review at the audition. **DO NOT SEND ARTWORK AHEAD OF TIME.** The portfolio is to consist of six (6) examples of original artwork:

- 3 of the 6 works must have been made at home
- 3 of the 6 works should be from school (completed under your art teacher's instruction)
- 1 of the 6 must be three dimensional (ex. Sculpture) **DO NOT BRING THE ACTUAL SCULPTURE WITH YOU TO THE AUDITION. ONLY BRING PHOTOS OF THE SCULPTURE WITH YOU.**
- Copyrighted Art is NOT acceptable, this includes cartoon characters, movies, TV, etc. (Characters designed by the student are acceptable.
- The portfolio should include work done with a variety of media (i.e. colored pencil, pastel, paint, clay, etc.) and should show the students skill in art.
- Artwork completed from private art lessons (or a studio outside of school) can only be brought in as extra examples

During the audition applicants will:

- complete an art based activity
- be asked basic background questions

THEATRE

The theatre audition will include the following:

- A memorized short monologue (A choice of monologues will be provided. You may choose one)
- Each applicant will be asked basic background theatre knowledge, experience & interest questions
- Monologues are included with the application so that you can start preparing right away.

CHORUS

The chorus audition will include the following:

- Each student will warm up and down with the piano to check range
- Each student will sing a prior prepared verse from "America, the Beautiful"
- Each student will sing a prior prepared hymn or folk song of their choice
- Each student will repeat short tonal and rhythmical sequences
- A short line of music will be given to each student for the purpose of elementary level sight-reading
- Following the singing audition, each student will have a short interview

DANCE AUDITIONS

Specific and Final Screening:

- Students should come to the dance audition in tights and leotards or leggings, sports bra, form fitting t-shirt
- Students need to wear soft-soled shoes such as ballet, tennis, half soles, jazz shoes, or socks

The movement specialists will prepare the warm-up combinations and improvisations prior to the auditions and should be certain to include different movements within each task for specific and final auditions.

TASK ONE: WARM-UP AND ACROSS THE FLOOR COMBINATION

(a drum beat is suggested for this task)

For this warm-up activity, the movement specialists will demonstrate several movement combinations to determine if the student can follow directions. Each student will also be judged on coordination and body alignment.

TASK TWO: PRESENTATION

Individual original movement composition to music of choice

(Be careful to display dance movements and not lyric hand signs)

(The student should bring to the audition his/her own music on a flash drive or phone with connector)

The student should be prepared to give a 1 to 1 ½ minute creative movement presentation. Judges will be looking for difficulty of movement and creativity, as well as dance technique, musicality and performance. (Is it something learned in a dance school or made up by the student?) Look for the student's confidence level. (Does the student seem to enjoy what he/she is doing or does he/she seem scared or timid?) Is the overall effect pleasing? Does the dancer use all of the body parts? Does he/she make good use of the space around them?

BAND

The band audition will include the following:

- Students must prepare a song of their choice on any instrument of their choice. (ie. Recorder, piano, drums, etc.)
- Basic music reading test – pitches and rhythms
- Assessment of listening skills (same/different, higher/lower, louder/softer)
- Following the audition, each student will have a short interview

MONOLOGUE #1

(Jerri works in Mr. Reilly's bakery. Mr. Reilly just caught Jerri pigging out on the baked goods.)

Jerri: Okay, I know I ate some cheesecake and a double chocolate peanut butter cookie and a lemon tart. But I can explain that, Mr. Reilly. You see, customers come into your bakery every day. And no matter what they're considering buying, they ask me if it's good. And when I say yes – like you told me to – they still always ask, "Have you tried it?" Now I could lie and say yes, but it goes against my nature. Plus, I'm a terrible liar. But when I say no, they have second thoughts. Sometimes they leave right away – walk out without buying anything. And that's awful business. So I figured, if I taste one of everything then I could really say yes! Don't you see? I'm not eating up your profits, I'm increasing them.

(Pause)

Fired?! You've got to be kidding? That's the thanks I get for helping your business. Fine. Oh, by the way? Your lemon tarts are awful!

MONOLOGUE #2

(After being caught in the middle of a food fight on the last day of school, Jamie faces the school disciplinarian.)

Jamie: It's the last day of school! What's the big deal? Nobody eats it anyway. It's cafeteria food, It's not like it's Burger King. Besides, it happened in third period and fourth period and nobody got in trouble then! I didn't even start it – it was self-defense! Somebody smacked me in the eye with a hot dog – I had to retaliate. I only rifled three Tater Tots. That's it! And two of them missed! But Gordan went ahead and waled me anyway, with a big bran muffin. With nuts! Right in the neck! See the welt? I almost choked! I could sue the school for millions! Not to mention malnutrition.

(Pause)

In school suspension? You've got to be kidding.

(Pause)

Do I get lunch with that?

MONOLOGUE #3

(Lee and Dean are best friends. Lee has always admired Dean because he is so smart. Dean has just won 1st runner-up at the science fair. Lee is thrilled; Dean is not.)

Lee: Congratulations, Mr. 1st Runner-up of the state science fair! Can I have your autograph now, before you're building missiles or saving the world?

(Pause)

What's wrong?

(Pause)

Wait a minute – whoa. Are you telling me that you're bummed because you didn't get first place? Dean, you got to be kidding me. Do you realize how many contestants there were? That what you achieved is incredible? Ya know, you're my best friend but I have to tell you that you are the most selfish person I've ever known. All you can see is what you don't have – the little tiny things – instead of realizing how many gifts you do have. There are people who would love to be in your shoes. I would love to be in your shoes. I'd give anything to have just one of your talents. To be noticed and honored. To feel special. Just once. Ya know Dean, you're so smart, that you can't see how stupid you are.

ANDREW JACKSON MIDDLE FINE ARTS FOCUS SCHOOL
EVALUATION FORM #1

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Applicant Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The individual listed above is applying for admission to Andrew Jackson Middle Fine Arts Focus School in the area of _____

Completion of this form is required for consideration of admission. The Evaluator should return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with a signature across the seal. Completed applications must be **postmarked by March 23, 2023.**

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity? ☐ Principal ☐ Counselor ☐ Teacher: Subject _____
☐ Other: _____

Personal Qualities: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Responsibility	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooperation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Enthusiasm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Artistic Traits: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Talent/Potential	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Technique	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Use the Space on the back of this page for additional comments.

Evaluator's Name _____

Evaluator's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please fold this Evaluation Form, seal it in an envelope, and write your name across the seal to maintain confidentiality. Return the envelope to the applicant for placement in the application packet.

Letter of Recommendations: (This section must be completed)

ANDREW JACKSON MIDDLE FINE ARTS FOCUS SCHOOL
EVALUATION FORM #2

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Applicant Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The individual listed above is applying for admission to Andrew Jackson Middle Fine Arts Focus School in the area of _____

Completion of this form is required for consideration of admission. The Evaluator should return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with a signature across the seal. Completed applications must be **postmarked by March 23, 2023.**

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity? ☐ Principal ☐ Counselor ☐ Teacher: Subject _____
☐ Other: _____

Personal Qualities: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Responsibility	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooperation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Enthusiasm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Artistic Traits: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Talent/Potential	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Technique	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Use the Space on the back of this page for additional comments.

Evaluator's Name _____

Evaluator's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please fold this Evaluation Form, seal it in an envelope, and write your name across the seal to maintain confidentiality. Return the envelope to the applicant for placement in the application packet.

Letter of Recommendations: (This section must be completed)

ANDREW JACKSON MIDDLE FINE ARTS FOCUS SCHOOL
EVALUATION FORM #3

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Applicant Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The individual listed above is applying for admission to Andrew Jackson Middle Fine Arts Focus School in the area of _____

Completion of this form is required for consideration of admission. The Evaluator should return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with a signature across the seal. Completed applications must be **postmarked by March 23, 2023.**

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity? ☐ Principal ☐ Counselor ☐ Teacher: Subject _____
☐ Other: _____

Personal Qualities: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Responsibility	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self-discipline	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooperation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Enthusiasm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Motivation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Artistic Traits: (Please check one in each category)

	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak	N/A
Talent/Potential	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Technique	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Use the Space on the back of this page for additional comments.

Evaluator's Name _____

Evaluator's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please fold this Evaluation Form, seal it in an envelope, and write your name across the seal to maintain confidentiality. Return the envelope to the applicant for placement in the application packet.

Letter of Recommendations: (This section must be completed)