

## Academy for the Fine Arts Audition Packet

Thanks for your interest in the AFA! We look forward to reading your application and seeing your audition. Please read through this packet carefully and note the important dates provided. If you have any questions, please contact [jonathan.kurtz@fcps.org](mailto:jonathan.kurtz@fcps.org) or 240-236-8352

### Application Process

1. Visit [www.fcpsartsacademy.org](http://www.fcpsartsacademy.org) and complete the AFA application and digital submission by **January 17th**. If you are not a current FCPS student, contact Jonathan Kurtz to receive an alternate application.
2. Ensure that you have taken or are registered for your Fine Arts Credit. We prefer to see your fine arts credit in the area you are applying for. If you believe you have a special circumstance where that is not possible (e.g. that course is not offered at your school), please let us know and we will handle that on a case by case basis.
3. Follow up with the references you listed in the application to make sure they received a reference form from us.
4. PREPARE your digital submission material now. Read through the appropriate section below to determine what is required of you. Have your videos or portfolio ready to submit by Jan 13th. Click the link below to see the requirements for your area:

[Dance](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Music](#)

2D/3D [Visual Art](#)

[Digital Art \(Photography/Computer Graphics\)](#)

[Musical Theatre](#)

5. Due to the increased number of applications we are receiving, we will screen your digital submissions by Jan 28th and then decide whether or not to move forward with a face-to-face audition. If we decide to move forward, we will contact you to select your in-person interview date/time. We will also contact you if we decide not to move your application further in the process.
6. In Person audition days will be:

Academy for the Fine Arts Audition Packet 2024-2025

- a. **Saturday Feb 10th** (Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Art (students who have completed their level 1 course))
- b. **Saturday Feb 24th** (Music and Musical Theatre. Overflow auditions from other areas)

# 2D/3D Visual Art Audition Requirements

## **Part 1: Digital Submission**

- Compile your portfolio into a Google Slides or Powerpoint Presentation
  - Click [here](#) to see portfolio requirements
  - If you are in an art class in the spring semester, note that you have a later audition date available to give you more time to compile your portfolio.
- Post a link to your Google Slides or upload your PowerPoint in the AFA Application
- Submit your application
- AFA staff will review your application and portfolio and will let you know within a few weeks if you have been selected to move on to Part 2, the Group Portfolio Review Session

## **Part 2: Group Portfolio Review Session**

- Bring the pieces from your portfolio on the day of your portfolio review.
- Participate in a 60-90 minute group portfolio review at TJ High.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your work, describe techniques and inspiration, and possibly show some items from your sketchbook.
- You will also get the opportunity to see the work of other applicants and learn from each other.
- Be prepared to share your background, who you are as an artist, and why you want to join the Academy.

## **Digital Art (Photography/Computer Graphics)**

### **Part 1: Digital Submission**

- Compile your portfolio into a Google Slides or Powerpoint Presentation that meets the following requirements:
  - Contains at least 10-15 works. This can be all photography, all computer graphics, or a combination of both. . Please keep the items in the portfolio under 20 total. Items should reflect projects done in and outside of school and should be recent work. The projects can be any subject matter and should reflect your best work.
  - Demonstrates a variety of subjects/techniques (consider subjects like people, architecture, landscapes...etc, Consider techniques like motion, blurring, use of shutter speed, variety in angles...etc)
  - Include information about which software programs you are already familiar with and your levels of experience in each one (i.e. Adobe)
  - If you are in an art class in the spring semester, note that you have a later audition date available to give you more time to compile your portfolio.
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- Submit your application
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## **Dance Audition Requirements**

### **Part 1: Digital Submission**

- Upload a choreographed and rehearsed solo adhering to the following guidelines:
  - One to three minutes in length
  - Any dance style that you are passionate about
  - Choose a style that will best demonstrate your ability and talent
  - May be newly created or previously performed
  - May be self-created or choreographed by someone else
  - No costume required but dress in dance clothes so that we can see your body
- Video specifications:
  - Make sure that you have good lighting and sound.
  - Keep your entire body in the shot. Don't use close-ups where only some of the body is shown.
  - Film in a location where you have enough space. It is OK to film outdoors.
  - You may upload previously recorded videos from performances. HOWEVER, your video should be a solo and NOT you performing with other dancers.
- AFA staff will review your application and video submission within a few weeks of submission and will contact you to let you know if you will be moving on to Part 2, the In-Person Audition.

### **Part 2: In-Person Audition**

9:00-11:30AM (You may be released earlier than this depending on your interview time)

- Dance Class
  - Students will participate in a group audition class that consists of basic ballet exercises as well as movement phrases in contemporary and jazz.
  - Phrases will include adagio and allegro movement as well as floorwork and combinations across the floor.
  - Students may also be asked to demonstrate specific advanced dance skills including leaps and turns
- Interview
  - To become better acquainted with the student, a brief interview will be conducted after the group class.
  - Students should be prepared to discuss why they wish to join the Academy, any dance experience, and how they can contribute to the AFA Dance program.

- We will spend our time getting to know you and determining if the Academy is a good fit for you!

### **Required Dress for In-person Audition**

- Leotard in any style (Male presenting may wear a tank top or close-fitting t-shirt.)
- Convertible tights-to be worn over feet for ballet or rolled up to the ankle for modern (Male presenting may wear shorts.)
- Ballet slippers or pointe shoes ballet portion
- Bare feet, jazz shoes or dance paws for jazz/contemporary portion
- Hair should be nice, neat and away from the face and neck
- Jewelry, gum, or warm-up clothing is not permitted during the audition

The student should bring the following items with them to the dance part of the audition:

- Proper attire
- A bottle of water

Click [here](#) to view the Dance Audition Rubric

## Music Audition Requirements

### Part 1: Digital Submissions

- Prepare two performance videos that are at least 60 seconds a piece. These videos should feature you on your strongest instrument. You may feature two different instruments (e.g. voice, then piano) if desired. If you want to combine your videos into one file, that is fine.
- At least one piece should be standard literature. Consider selecting pieces from the [Maryland State List of solos](#), or any other state or contest list. For pianists, this is a [great list to look over](#).
- The second piece may be more current, popular, or an original work.
- The two pieces should contrast each other
  - One fast and one slow
  - One lyrical and one rhythmic
  - Vocalists consider a piece in another language
- Consider professionalism when filming. Dress nicely and make the background as nice as possible. This is not a make or break concept, but make your setting look as nice as possible.
- Once videos are prepared, paste links at the end of the AFA Application.
- AFA staff will review your application and will contact you within a few weeks to let you know if you will be moving on to Part 2, the In Person Interview.

### Part 2: In Person Interview and Sight Reading

- Participate in a 10-15 minute interview on audition day. During this time you will:
  - Discuss your past experience, who you are as an artist, and why you want to join the AFA.
  - Sight read or sight sing (vocalists only) a short excerpt of music
  - Sight read a short rhythmic passage
  - Vocalists: Vocalize and/or sing a portion of the audition selection
- We will spend our time getting to know you and determining if the Academy is a good fit for you!
- Optional: you may take a placement exam to test out of Theory Level I.

# Theatre Audition Requirements

## Part 1: Digital Submissions

- Select two monologues from the [audition packet on our website](#).
- Record videos of your monologue performances.
- Paste a shareable link to your videos at the end of your AFA Application.  
Consider uploading to your Google Drive and providing shareable links. You can also upload to Youtube
- Submit your application
- AFA staff will review your application and videos and will let you know within a few weeks if you will move forward to Part 2, the Interview.

## Video Specifications:

- Make sure that you have good lighting and sound.
- Be sure that the video captures you from the waist up.
- Don't use close-ups where only some of the body is shown.
- Film in a location where you have enough space.
- It is OK to film outdoors.
- Here is an example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDhszbGqBmk>

## Part 2: Interview

- Participate in a 15 minute interview on audition day at TJ High.
- Be prepared to share your theatre background, who you are as an artist, and why you want to join the Academy.
- Keep your monologues memorized as notes will be given and you will be asked to re-perform segments from your monologues
- We will spend our time getting to know you and determining if the Academy is a good fit for you!



# Musical Theatre Audition Requirements

## Part 1: Digital Submission

- Record ONE 32 Bar (or 1 minute) vocal solo from any Broadway produced musical.
  - This needs to be with music accompaniment. **This MAY NOT be sung Acapella.** This can be found on Youtube, MP3, or Karaoke Tracks
- Record one monologue from the approved [monologue list](#).
- **Video Specifications:**
  - Make sure that you have good lighting and sound.
  - Be sure that the video captures you from the waist up.
  - Don't use close-ups where only some of the body is shown.
  - Film in a location where you have enough space.
  - It is OK to film outdoors.
  - Here is an example video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDhszbGqBmk>
- Once you have made your recordings, paste links to your recordings at the end of the AFA Application.
- AFA staff will review your application and videos and will let you know within a few weeks if you will move forward to Part 2, the In-Person audition.

## Part 2: In-Person Audition

- You will learn a Broadway style dance combination and perform it live on the stage.
- Please keep your monologue and song fresh in your mind as you will be asked to perform segments during your interview.
- We will spend our time getting to know you via an interview to determine if the Academy is a good fit for you!