

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

Things to Know About Applying and Auditioning

1. Information regarding Auditions, BPS School Applications and Open House & Audition dates for students wishing to apply to the Arts Academy can be found on the BPS district website at www.buffaloschools.org - under the link for *Schools and Admissions Process*.
2. Students must complete a High School Application or an Elementary School Application found under the link for *Admissions Process* which includes a Teacher Recommendation Form specifically for the Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts #192. The form should be completed by someone who can attest to the student's artistic ability.
3. Students must complete a Student Profile Form for the audition for grades 9-12 or grades 5-8 which can be found on the Arts Academy's website at www.buffaloartsacademy.org
4. Students must fulfill the requirements listed below for the art major area of his / her choice.
5. A copy of their previous school year's report card and current report card is required.
6. 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.**
7. Acceptance Rubric Scoring: the Audition accounts for **70%**, the student's Academic Standing accounts for **25%** and Teacher Recommendation accounts for **5%**.
8. **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 off of neck and out of face and eyes
 - **NO** t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, or street clothes
 - **NO** jewelry
 - Cell phones turned off during the audition class
- b. Students should not prepare a separate dance solo. Students are evaluated on their performance in an abbreviated ballet and modern technique class, as well as an improvisation section. These are led by our the dance instructors
- c. Students should come to the audition well rested, properly prepared and ready to fully participate in all sections of the audition 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 an essay 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 & Digital Media.
- d. Since most students do not have a working knowledge of media communications, a strong academic record, writing competency, positive letter of recommendation, as well as a good interview, are major factors for admission into this program.

Music

- a. Students may audition for either vocal or instrumental music. However, once accepted, music students in grade 5-8 will learn to sing and play an instrument.
 - b. Vocal & instrumental students should work with their music teacher to prepare their auditions.
 - c. On the day of your audition, in addition to your major requirements specific to your instrument/voice, you will be asked to identify both pitch and rhythmic notation examples. You will also hear several pitches on the piano and be asked to sing them on a generic syllable (i.e. *la*, *du*, or *ah*) to demonstrate aural skills.
 - d. If you do not have a music class/music teacher to assist you in preparing for your audition, please follow our audition prep YouTube videos. They feature specifics for every level of preparation. Bring your audition musical instrument with you if you are able.
-

INSTRUMENTAL – BAND

GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 2 major scales of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece from those provided for your specific instrument (see Website or contact BAVPA) You will be asked to play the piece in its entirety.

GRADES 7-9: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 3 major scales of your choice and a 1-octave chromatic scale beginning on the note of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece from those provided for your specific instrument (see Website or contact BAVPA) You will be asked to play the piece in its entirety.

GRADES 10-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 5 major scales of your choice and a 2-octave chromatic scale beginning on the note of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece from those provided for your specific instrument (see Website or contact BAVPA) You will be asked to play the piece in its entirety.

INSTRUMENTAL – ORCHESTRA

GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 1 major scale of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece or excerpt from a piece appropriate for your playing level.

GRADES 7-8: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 2 major scales of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece appropriate for your playing level.

GRADES 9-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- Scales – Prepare 3 major scales of your choice.
- Performance Piece – Choose one piece and one excerpt from a contrasting piece appropriate for your playing level.

INSTRUMENTAL – GUITAR

All of the guitar ensembles perform primarily as a classical guitar ensemble (similar to a string orchestra). Students are taught to perform using classical finger-style (p-i-m-a fingerings). You will also learn additional guitar specific components, such as reading TAB, performing singer-songwriter songs, performing electric guitar pieces, improvisation, and more. However, much emphasis is put on the students being able to fluently read and perform from standard notation. Email the guitar teacher at JTinkham@buffaloschools.org for audition materials & questions.

GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- “Ode to Joy” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms.
- All circled chords included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking.
- A small sight-reading excerpt.

GRADES 7-8: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- “Bouree in E-” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms (no repeats).
- All circled chords included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking.
- A small sight-reading excerpt.

GRADES 9-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:

- “Snowflight” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms. Use *p-i-m* for fingerings.
- All major/minor barre chords in any key/position included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking.
- A small sight-reading excerpt.

VOCAL

To prepare for your audition, memorize 1 - 2 pieces from the list below and arrive in business casual attire. Please have an additional selection prepared if you are asked to perform another song. Be ready to talk about yourself, your past musical experiences and your goals for the future. Give these ideas some thought.

Vocal Audition Repertoire List

- An Art song in English, Italian or German
- *Caro Mio Ben* (in Italian)
- *America the Beautiful* - (Entire 1st verse ending with “from sea to shining sea”)
- *Lift Every Voice and Sing* - (Entire 1st verse ending with “Til victory is won”)
- *Climb Every Mountain*
- *Amazing Grace* - (Entire 1st verse ending with “Blind but now I see”)
- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform one piece from the list.

GRADES 7-12: You will be *required* to perform two pieces from the list.

During your audition, you will:

- Perform a musical selection from the list (sung a cappella)
- Demonstrate aural skills via vocal exercises and pitch matching

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 1 – 3 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. Monologues may also be found online.
- 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 unless they are original characters
- b. Works that are traced or copied from another picture will also not be accepted.
- c. Students should bring sketchbooks if they use them.

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.

Major Area Requirements – Visual Arts (cont'd)

- d. The student should be prepared to draw a still-life during the audition.
Please bring a pencil.

Important Reminders -

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 **70%**, the student's Academic Standing accounts for **25%** and Teacher Recommendations account for **5%**.

Frequently Asked Question -

- * Can I change my major area in high school?
- *No.*
 - * Can I have music playing along with me for a vocal music audition?
- *No.*
 - * Do we need to bring our instrument with us for the instrumental music audition?
- *Yes, if you are able.*
 - * Do I need to have a dance routine prepared for a dance audition?
- *No.*
 - * Do I need to bring paperwork with me for the audition?
- *Paperwork can be submitted prior to the audition date or the day of the audition.*
 - * Does a parent or guardian need to accompany a student to the audition?
- *Yes, however parents are not allowed into the audition areas.*
 - * When and how will I know if I am accepted to the school?
- *You will be notified by a letter from the school and/or district in March (or sooner).*
-

- ** For more information, please contact the Arts Academy at (716) 816-4220 or check the school's website at www.buffaloartsacademy.org

Arts Academy Open House and Audition Dates! Enrollment for 2020-2021 school year

OPEN HOUSE – Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

Grades 9 - 12 Auditions
Saturday, October 19 and
Saturday, October 26, 2019
at 8:00 A.M.

Grades 5 - 8 Auditions
Saturday, November 2 and
Saturday, November 16, 2019
at 8:00 A.M.