



General Information

High School Piano Auditions

- All students interested in Apex Arts must complete an online application [here](#).
- All applicants must complete an audition to be considered for the program.
- Audition appointments will be automatically scheduled by the application system. Please plan accordingly.
- All applicants must pass the auditions and meet academic requirements to be eligible for the lottery.
- All students expressing interest in Apex Arts are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of previous training or experience level.
- Students should be warmed-up and ready to perform at the start of their audition appointment.
- All students expressing an interest in the Apex Arts Magnet Program are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of whether they have had formal or informal training.

Piano Audition Components

A Piano audition consists of:

- Scale performance:
 - A one octave chromatic scale.
 - A one octave major scale chosen from the keys of C Major, G Major, or D Major.
 - Scales must be memorized.
- The **prepared selection** as posted on Apex Arts website (www.aacps.org/apexarts) **-OR-** a student-selected work of less than 3 minutes. ****Written music must be provided for the audition judge.**
- Melodic sight-reading
- Rhythmic sight-reading

Current 9th Grade Students Only - Theory Assessment

Current 9th grade applicants will take a short music theory assessment as part of their audition day. This theory assessment will measure the following skills and knowledge:

- Note identification on the treble and bass clefs up to one leger line, including accidentals.
- Identification of notes on the piano keyboard up to one leger line, including accidentals.
- Identification of chords on the piano keyboard (Major, minor, Augmented, diminished, Dominant 7, minor 7, Half-diminished 7, Diminished 7)

Scoring Criteria

You will be scored on the following criteria for each task:

- **Prepared selection (as published at www.aacps.org/apexarts):**
 - Melodic and rhythmic accuracy
 - Tempo
 - Tone (beauty, blend, control)
 - Balance (harmonic parts, melodic line)
 - Technique (articulation, facility)
 - Interpretation (expression, phrasing, style)
- **Scales:**
 - Memorization
 - Accuracy
 - Tone
 - Tempo/pulse
- **Melodic sight-reading:**
 - Note accuracy
 - Rhythmic accuracy
 - Tempo/pulse
 - Tone (beauty, blend, control)
- **Rhythmic sight-reading (may clap hands or tap on lap):**
 - Rhythmic accuracy
 - Tempo/pulse

High school applicants must score at least an average score of 7 on their audition AND meet academic requirements to be eligible for this program.

Recommendations for Preparation

- Visit www.aacps.org/apexarts for more information about Info Sessions, Workshops, applications, and auditions.

- See your school counselor for assistance with the application or for more details about the academic requirements.
- Speak to a music teacher at your school about your prepared piece, scales, and sight-reading preparation.
- Rehearse regularly leading up to the audition to build confidence.
- Come prepared to discuss your interest in the Music program.
- Contact Mr. Dembowski, Apex Arts Music Chair at pdembowski@aacps.org with any specific questions you may have.
- *Si necesita una explicación en español de los requisitos, llame a José al 410 533 4815*