

High School Visual Arts Auditions



General Information

- All students interested in PVA must complete an online application at aacps.org/magnet
- All students interested in PVA must sign up for an audition appointment. This can be done within the online application.
- A portfolio of artwork is required, you will bring it with you on the day of your audition.
- An interview of three questions is required and scored along with the portfolio and on-site drawing. For one of the questions you will be asked to choose a piece from your portfolio to discuss.
- During the on-site audition, you will be asked to create a self-portrait from observation in a mirror. No materials are needed for the on-site drawing audition.
- All students expressing an interest in visual arts in the PVA Magnet Program are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of whether or not they have had formal or informal training.

Portfolio Requirements

- Each student applying to the Visual Arts Magnet Program is required to submit a portfolio of three pieces of artwork. Each piece in the portfolio will be assessed based on the criteria listed in the following prompts:
 1. Draw a still life from observation. Choose objects for your still life that are personally meaningful to you. Consider size, texture, and arrangement of the objects when designing the still-life composition. The drawing should be completed in graphite/pencil.
 2. Create a drawing/painting of an environment. The subject you choose may consist of an outdoor or indoor setting. The composition should be in any color media (chalk pastel, oil pastel, colored pencil, watercolor, acrylic or tempera, etc.)
 3. Select an additional piece of your choice in any media (drawing, painting, photography, digital media, or sculpture) that best represents your work as an artist. If you wish to include a sculpture in your portfolio, please photograph the artwork.
- Artworks created for prompts 1 and 2 should be no larger than 9"x12."
- Artwork submitted for prompt 3 should be no larger than 18"x24" and unframed (if necessary, you may submit a color photograph of the artwork with the original media and dimensions labeled on the back.
- Please complete the artworks on separate pieces of paper and bring them in a portfolio or folder. A large folded paper can serve as a portfolio/folder.

- Artworks should be done in the media stated in the prompts. Artworks done using digital media need to be printed out. If you wish to submit a sculpture or 3D piece, please photograph the artwork and label the print with the media and dimensions. If needed, art materials may be borrowed from your school's art teacher.
- **Label the back of each artwork with your name, school, and the prompt.**
- Scoring criteria is based on the specific prompts, be sure to follow subject and media requirements.

Scoring Criteria

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

- **Composition:** Well-balanced composition that effectively engages the space provided. A focal point is evident and it pulls in the viewer's attention.
- **Proportion:** Size and spatial relationships cohesive and appropriate to the design
- **Use of Media:** Demonstration of skills with media, techniques and processes. Manipulation of the materials successfully conveys mood, atmosphere, or style
- **Creative Expression:** Creative approach to the design. The artwork is daring with a strong sense of personal expression of ideas and meaning.
- **Following portfolio guidelines:** Creatively expanded upon the prompts while following directions.

High School Visual Arts Applicants must score at least an average score of 7 on their audition (including on-site audition, portfolio, and interview) to be eligible for this program.

Possible Ways to Prepare for the Audition

- Attend a PVA Information Night to hear more about the program and audition process and see the PVA schools
- Attend a PVA Audition Prep Night where you can get feedback on your portfolio pieces from PVA staff, ask questions about the prompts, and hear more about the audition process.
- Speak to an art teacher at your school about your portfolio pieces, ask questions about the drawing prompts.
- See your Guidance Counselor for assistance with the application process or getting more information about the program.
- Practice drawing from observation to prepare for the on-site drawing aspect of the audition.
- Contact the PVA Office with any specific questions you may have.

Want to sign up for an Audition Prep Night? Want more information on PVA?

Visit our website at: aacps.org/PVA

Questions?

Contact:

Jennifer Jerrell, PVA Teacher Specialist at jjerrell@aacps.org or 443-534-5875