

Middle School PVA Dance Auditions



General Information

- All students interested in PVA must complete an online application at aacps.org/magnet
- All students who are applying for the PVA dance program will be required to complete an onsite dance audition. Please make sure to sign up for an audition date and time when you complete your magnet application.
- An interview of three questions is required and scored along with the dance movement series learned and performed at the audition.
- All students expressing an interest in dance in the PVA Magnet Program are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of whether or not they have had formal or informal training.

Specific Aspects of the Dance Audition

Prior to the audition date, students must learn and rehearse the Prepared Adagio Center Phrase via video link provided <https://youtu.be/fxqzn0Zsg9o>

At the audition, students will learn and perform a traveling across the floor phrase.

Students are required to perform a prepared 60 second solo at the audition. Students have the option of learning the Prepared Solo Choreography via video link <https://youtu.be/fxqzn0Zsg9o> OR preparing their own solo in any dance style that they feel showcases their strengths as a dancer.

- On the day of the audition, girls should wear a leotard and tights or tight fitting athletic clothing. Boys should wear black athletic pants and a white t-shirt. Dance shoes are not required, but if you feel more comfortable dancing in them for your solo, you may bring them. Hair should be pulled back and secured neatly so that it does not get in the way of the movement.
 - Students will answer three interview questions, perform a series of movement phrases in small groups, and perform their prepared solos one at a time for adjudicators.
 - The movement phrases are described below and will be assessed based on the criteria listed in the following prompts:
 1. ****Prepared Adagio Center Phrase:** By watching the pre-recorded instructional dance video, students will learn a slow, controlled phrase of movement including the ability to balance on one leg with the other leg extended into the air. This will be performed for adjudicators in small groups.
- **Note:** This center adagio phrase will not be retaught the day of the audition. Students must prepare by memorizing the phrase and applying corrections for details in the movement prior to attending the audition.
2. **Across the Floor:** In the audition, students will learn a traveling phrase of movement that includes jumps and full body coordination. This will be performed in groups of 2-3 moving from one side of the room to the other.

3. **Prepared Solo:** Students will perform 60 seconds of a prepared solo to perform one at a time for the adjudicators. Students may use music on an unlocked electronic device or CD. It is recommended that you do not rely on internet connection to download music and bring a back-up. The solo may be in any style but should reflect your individual strengths as a dancer and showcase why you would make an excellent PVA dancer. This solo may be the Prepared Solo Choreography (see link above). If choosing to perform the Prepared Solo Choreography music will be provided.

Scoring Criteria

You will be scored on the following criteria for each phrase of movement.

- **Ability to Pick up Choreography:** Able to grasp and reproduce 80-100% of movement material learned prior to and during the audition. Preparation for audition is executed by learning 1 phrase prior to the audition and solo preparation.
- **Body Alignment:** Consistently able to demonstrate the ability to stand in various positions while maintaining a vertical spine and proper rotation of the legs.
- **Balance and Control:** Consistently able to demonstrate stability through the transfer of weight and by engaging abdominal muscles.
- **Performance Quality (Dynamics and Energy):** Consistently able to approach movement phrases with energy, rhythm and embodied stage presence.
- **Professionalism:** Fully engaged in audition process including performing, watching and learning.

Dance Applicants must score at least an average score of 6 on their audition (including the prepared adagio center phrase, across the floor, prepared solo, 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 practice the prepared phrases with PVA staff, ask questions, and hear more about the audition process.
- Practice the specific techniques that will be a part of the audition mentioned above with confidence, energy, and embodied stage presence.
- Practice the Prepared Adagio Center Phrase as well as your solo for teachers at your school to ensure that the solo is the right length, you are able to get the music to work, and get feedback on the performance.
- 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