

Middle School PVA 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.
- During the on-site audition you will create a drawing of a still life from observation. 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. Create a self-portrait from observation. The composition should be realistic and rendered in graphite/pencil.
 2. Create a drawing/painting that focuses on the 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.
- Please complete the artworks on separate pieces of paper and place in a folder. A folded piece of 12"x 18" paper can serve as a portfolio/folder.
- Artworks should be no larger than 9" x 12."
- Label the back of each artwork with your name, school, and the number of the visual exercise.
- 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.

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

Visual Arts Applicants must score at least an average score of 6 on their audition (including on-site audition, portfolio, and interview) to be eligible for this program.

Questions?

Contact:

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

Matt Beall, PVA Middle School Teacher Specialist at mcbeall@aacps.org or 410-263-0270