



Arts Academy in the Woods

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Audition Requirements Packet

Dance
Drama
Guitar/Bass
Instrumental Music
Multimedia Arts
Visual Art
Vocal Music
Audition Assessment Form

DANCE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Nicole Hopkins, Dance Instructor
Dewarne Long, Dance Instructor

Nurturing educated dancers – Making Moving Art

A placement audition/ballet class is required for any student who wants to take a dance class at AAW or become a Dance Major at AAW. Placement audition classes may occur in the following ways;

1. Students who are able may schedule a ballet class within the current AAW School schedule and be evaluated by dance instructors. This would serve as their placement/audition. These classes last 50 minutes.
2. Students will attend a placement class on a school wide audition day.

What is an audition class?

On School wide audition day the Dance Placement Class will last 45-75 minutes. Students will be evaluated and observed by a ballet instructor and a modern or jazz instructor. The class will include a ballet barre and ballet center work. Often a class will include a modern or jazz combination or both. Students auditioning who have already been dancing on pointe for a year or longer are asked to bring their pointe shoes and may be requested to do some ballet pointe work at the end of the audition class. The audition classes may include all levels of dancers. If the numbers of students auditioning exceeds 18 the students will be divided by ability level.

Prospective Students are asked NOT to bring a prepared dance as an audition piece.

PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIO DURING THE AUDITION.

What to wear for auditions:

Females: *Black leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes. (Intermediate/advanced dancers may bring their pointe shoes) Hair should be up and off the face.

Males: *Black tights or Jazz Pants, white fitted T-shirt, black ballet shoes.

**This reflects the daily dress code requirement of the dance department.*

What to know about dance classes and placement at AAW

- Dancers provide their own leotards, shoes, tights, and dancewear.
- All dance majors are required to take Ballet every semester they are enrolled at AAW
- All dance majors are required to take one year of Modern dance
- Students who wish to take Jazz must be placed in Ballet II or higher. You must be enrolled in ballet in order to take Jazz.
- Once a student is placed at a Ballet level they remain at they level until the instructor recommends they progress to the next.
- AAW Dance Company – Placement Auditions for Company take place for current 9th-11th graders in March for the following year. The 2008-2009 AAW Dance Company will take place Monday's after school from 3:15-4:15 p.m. (Current company members must reauditon)
- All dance courses include a departmental wide-writing requirement as well as vocabulary testing, history and performance evaluations.

DRAMA AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Lucile Andersen, Drama Instructor

It is expected that all students who are apart of the Arts Academy theater department be committed, responsible and dedicated individuals. It is very imperative that these attributes are displayed on an everyday basis due to the ensemble element that exists in the theater. Although some aspects of theater are completed on an individual basis, such as analyzing a character and the memorization of lines, working as an ensemble and learning how to collaborate as a group are essential elements within the theater and are heavily emphasized in this program.

Students who are interested in auditioning for the program should have a genuine likeness for theater and want to learn about the art of acting, theater history, improvisational work and directing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTING AUDITIONS:

- Select a 1 min. monologue – (comedic or dramatic) form one of the following periods-Greek, Renaissance (Shakespeare's time), Restoration, Modern or Contemporary. Monologues from movies or TV shows are allowed.
- Monologue must be memorized.
- Provide in writing your theater experience. (Community plays, middle school plays, church productions etc.)
- Participate in simple improvisation.

After the audition, you will be notified by the office as to which acting class you will be placed in.

REMEMBER- You are showcasing your talent and want to do your best so.....

PREPARE! PREPARE! PREPARE!

GUITAR/BASS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Nathan Montgomery, Guitar Instructor

General requirements for All Prospective AAW Guitar/Bass Majors

1. Students should prepare **3 works** of varying styles. Make sure that the chosen works display as many techniques as possible. For example if the primary focus is on single note playing for one work then the other should include chord melodies. Although all music styles are welcome students are highly encouraged to prepare works from a jazz or classical perspective.
2. Students will be asked to perform the following scales from memory; **C major, A minor, E minor pentatonic, G major pentatonic, and Chromatic.**
3. Students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge of **open position chords** as well as **barre chords.**
4. Students should have a working knowledge of **key signatures, time signatures, note reading, and rhythmic values.** Students should demonstrate fluency in reading music from a staff for their respective instrument.
5. Students will be asked to sight read music from a five lined staff. Tablature is not considered to be sheet music.
6. Students will need a letter of recommendation from a school music teacher **or** from a private music instructor.
7. Students will need to bring their instrument, cable, picks, and any instructional materials currently studied. Amplification will be provided for the audition.
8. You can reach me through email with questions or concerns: info@nathanmontgomery.com

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Jonathan Boyd, Instrumental Instructor

General Requirements for **All** Prospective AAW Instrumental Majors

1. **Option One:** Student should prepare **2 short solo works or etudes**, or a one page excerpt from a longer work. Excerpts from band or orchestra pieces are fine, providing they demonstrate your ability. One piece should display student's **technical** ability, and the other should be lyrical, to display **tone** characteristics.

***Option Two:** Student prepares the pre-prepared sheets available from the Arts Academy office. All exercises on the sheets must be prepared.

PLUS

2. Students will play selected **scales** from memory at the audition, and **will be asked to sight read a 9th grade level piece**.
3. Students should have a working knowledge of key signatures, time signatures, note reading, and rhythmic values. **Student should demonstrate fluency in reading music from a staff.** Students will be given a short, written **theory examination** at the time of the audition. This will cover basic musicianship skills through 8th-9th grade level.
4. Students will need a **letter of recommendation** from a school music teacher **or** from a private music teacher.
5. **Students should arrive at auditions with all equipment needed and music prepared. Percussion instruments and pianos are the only instruments AAW provides for auditions.** Percussionists should supply their own sticks and mallets.
6. You may also consult Mr. Boyd directly to set up an audition time and **if you have any questions** about the audition at 586-294-0391. Auditions, with playing time and theory exam should last about fifteen minutes.

Thank you! Good luck!

Check list:

- 2 short works, one technical, one lyrical or Prepared sheets from AAW Office.
- Letter of Recommendation from band/orchestra director or private teacher
- Scales from memory in keys up to 3 flats for winds and 3 sharps for strings
- Sight read a 9th grade-level piece
- Theory proficiency exam

*Are you choosing Option Two under requirement Number 1? Contact the office for the pre-prepared sheets.

MULTIMEDIA ARTS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Audrey Mantey, Technology Arts Instructor

All prospective students:

Students are required to submit a portfolio of three pieces of photography or computer-generated graphics. This art will be reviewed by Multimedia Department faculty.

Work may be traditional photography, digital photography, or computer generated or modified graphics, computer animation, or web design.

Work must be matted with a 2” border on all sides. (If the mats are bought commercially, they may not be exactly 2 inches on all sides, that’s acceptable.)

Animations and web design can either be presented as printed/matted stills/screenshots, or can be saved to a CD-ROM. All work on a CD-ROM must be saved in a format that can be opened directly in Firefox or Internet Explorer.

Placement into Intermediate or Advanced Classes

Generally, incoming students will take Digital Imaging I. Students wishing to be placed in intermediate or advanced classes must submit 6 portfolio pieces prepared as described above, including 3 pieces generated in Photoshop, as well as photography work demonstrating the use of manual controls on the camera.

VISUAL ART AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Richard Jacobi, 2-D Art Instructor
Catherine Huntoon, 3-D Instructor

Please read *all* directions *carefully*!

All prospective students:

Students are required to submit a selection of three pieces of art. This art will be reviewed by Art Department faculty. Please include the following:

- 1) Self-portrait. Pencil, ink, or charcoal.
- 2) Still-life drawing. Pencil, colored pencil, ink, charcoal or pastel.
- 3) One other piece: drawing, painting, ceramics, or sculpture. Your choice of subject matter and materials.

*2 dimensional pieces (drawings, paintings) must be matted with white matte board, 2” border around all sides.

*3 dimensional pieces (ceramics, sculpture) may be brought in “as is”. If the piece is extremely large, a high-quality photograph may be used.

Freshmen:

All incoming freshmen will take 2D Art I or 3D Art I

Sophomores:

Incoming sophomores will also take level I art classes, even if they have had art at another school. Our art program is likely to be more rigorous than programs at most other schools. Even if they have had art at another school, they still may not be prepared for the level of work that we do in level II classes at AAW.

Exceptions to this policy may be allowed. If an incoming sophomore thinks that they belong in a level II art class, they must submit a portfolio (8-10 pieces of art) to the Visual Art Department for review prior to admission to level II classes. All 2D work must be matted and in a portfolio. Additionally, 2D portfolios for level II must include at least *two paintings*. Portfolios for students looking to enter 3D II must include a significant amount of 3D work.

Juniors and Seniors:

All incoming juniors and seniors must submit a portfolio (8-10 pieces of art) to the Visual Art Department for review prior to admission to level II, III, or IV classes. This applies to the Senior Project class as well. All 2D work must be matted and in a portfolio. Additionally, 2D portfolios for levels II, III, and IV must include at least *two paintings*. Portfolios for students looking to enter 3D II, III or IV must include a significant amount of 3D work.

VOCAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Matthew Brady, Vocal Music Instructor

As a member of the Arts Academy Choir program, you will be expected to be committed and dedicated to your choir ensemble, classmates, and teacher. The choir ensembles work daily to rehearse and to perfect music in preparation for a performance – whether it be at an assembly, a choir concert, or choir festival. Each member is expected to work to their personal best every day and to be open to new experiences. This is a professional and hard-working program and we hope that you will join us!

At the time of your vocal audition, you are REQUIRED to perform the following tasks:

- Students will be asked a series of questions in regards to their experience in vocal pitch.
- Sing a short series of warm ups with the director to show vocal range and tessitura.
- Sing a *memorized* solo piece that demonstrates the student's ability to sing in pitch, show engaged and energetic singing, and music reading ability. Students are expected to come prepared with music for an accompanist. A cappella singing is not accepted. *Example: Caro mio ben from the Italian Arias repertoire or She's Gone Away from Folk Songs for Singers, Volume 2.*
- Read a short sight-reading example that will be provided for you. This example will demonstrate the student's ability to read music notes and markings as well as their ability to use a sight reading system.
- Perform 16 counts of show choir dance to demonstrate coordination, stage presence, and dance ability. Students should choreograph their own 16 counts. Music is not required. *(Required only for students, grades 10-12, auditioning for Broadway Bound Show Choir.)*

Also at the time of your vocal audition, you will be asked *which* choir you are trying out for. Please read through the vocal program brochure to become familiar with the choral ensembles at the Academy and be prepared with any questions you may have. We also have choir recordings available to listen to on www.aawchoirs.blogspot.com, so take some time to listen!

If at any time prior to your vocal audition you should have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the vocal director.

Are you planning on majoring in Vocal Music? Please contact the office for a copy of the *Vocal Music Major Recommendations* and *Vocal Music Course Descriptions and Requirements*.

This is the form that will be used to assess students during the audition.

Arts Academy in the Woods Prospective Student: Audition Assessment Form

The purpose of this form is to assess the level of *artistic performance* of students wishing to attend Arts Academy in the Woods. This form will be used to assist placement of new students in an arts class that is appropriate for their current level of skill. Enrollment for students new to any art form is limited by class availability.

Student name _____

Date _____

Student grade as of this date (8, 9 10, etc.) _____

When does student wish to start at AAW? _____

Primary area of interest _____

Secondary area of interest _____

Teacher conducting audition: _____

Assessment:

Please rate student on a scale of 4 to 0. 4=excellent, 3=good, 2=fair, 1=poor, 0=0.

Did the student come prepared for the audition according to departmental requirements?

4 3 2 1 0

Please assess *skill* level of student relative to their current grade level.

4 3 2 1 0

Please assess student's *level of interest* in their *fine or performing art*.

4 3 2 1 0

Please select one of the two options below (check one):

Based on this assessment I recommend that the student be placed as follows:

(1st choice) _____

(2nd choice) _____

Based on this assessment the student is not prepared for the audition. It would be beneficial for the student to acquire additional knowledge and skill in their area of interest in order to adequately fulfill the audition requirements. The student will work on the following areas then contact the Main Office for another appointment.

Teacher signature _____ Date _____