



## **2017 – 2018 APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

(Required for all prospective candidates)

Thank you for your interest in the Arts Academy Charter Middle School. The Arts Academy Charter School is a free, comprehensive, public middle school (grades 5-8) in the Lehigh Valley, featuring intensive daily training in Theatre, Music, Dance, Figure Skating, and Visual Arts.

### **Beginning Process**

All parents and students are welcome to visit us at one of our open houses scheduled for

- Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 6:00pm – 6:45pm; 7:00pm – 7:45pm
- Saturday, December 17, 2016, 9:00am – 10:30am
- Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 6:00pm – 6:45pm; 7:00pm – 7:45pm

Each session will begin promptly with a presentation and then a tour. Doors will close 10 minutes after presentation begins. Please check our website before attending for any date/time changes.

When applying for enrollment, you have the option of picking up an application packet at any one of our open houses, or you may download an application from our website.

### **Application Process**

Interviews will be scheduled only **AFTER** we have received the following documentation:

#### **Charter School Student Application**

and **copies** of the following (**must** be sent with application)

- **Proof of residency (only one of the following: utility bill, mortgage statement, or lease agreement)**
- **Birth Certificate (copy)**
- **Current Report Card**

*\*No student will be scheduled for an interview unless application packet is complete.*

All students must list their Art interests by order of preference (1, 2, and 3). Students will be scheduled for an interview based on the first of their choices as well as availability. If there are no openings available in your child's first choice, he/she may be offered a spot in his/her 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.

All applicants who submit a complete application no later than January 30, 2017 will be scheduled for an interview on February 2, 2017 or February 17, 2017. Applications received after that time, but no later than March 14, 2017 will be scheduled for interviews on the March 18, 2017 interview date. Any application received after the March 14, 2017 interviews will be placed on the waitlist. Waitlist applicants will receive an interview **only** if/when a spot becomes available.

Interview dates and times will be scheduled by the Arts Academy. Please make arrangements to attend at the time you are given. Interview dates will be limited. Reschedules will only be made on the dates interviews are held.

### **Interview Process**

#### **Please allow at least 45 minutes for the entire interview process.**

The prospective student will meet with staff for an interview of approximately 15 minutes in length. The student will be asked to describe his or her interest in one or more artistic area. While a prepared interview presentation is requested, due to the age of the students, even a simple presentation of one or more art forms may suffice. The essential element we seek is a passion for the arts on the part of the student.

The parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to accompany their child during the interview process.

The parents of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be escorted to the waiting rooms to continue the interview process.

Students will be evaluated on a 10 point matrix. A student's level of interest and enthusiasm for the arts will be noted. The points will only be used in the event that we are over-enrolled in a particular grade or artistic area.

Each student interviewing is required to provide the Interviewer with a 1-2 minute talent demonstration (variety of methods accepted including portfolio, video, live, etc.)

The interview will consist of the following steps:

#### **1. Discussion of artistic background and/or interest.**

Applicants who have completed the Interview will receive a letter in the mail indicating enrollment status. Letters will be sent out the first week of April. Students will receive one of the three notifications: Accepted, Waitlisted or Not Accepted. Response is required only from those declining acceptance.

## **Artistic Interview**

Please read below the requirements for each Art Focus.

### **Dance**

Please arrive prepared to perform a 1-2 minute solo. You will have the opportunity to change into dance clothing prior to your solo. Ladies and gentlemen must wear form-fitting dance or athletic clothing, secure hair off of the face, remove all dangly jewelry, and may dance barefoot or wear dance shoes. Your 1-2 minute solo may be in the style of your choice, and either taught to you by another dancer or teacher, or self-choreographed. Our sound system will support a C.D. or an iPod (we currently do not have the capability to connect the new generation of iPods). After the dancer performs his/her solo, there will be an interview with a member of the Dance and Academic faculty.

### **Theatre**

Students must perform a 1-2 minute performance. A brief monologue is recommended. The monologue may or may not include dancing and/or singing. A resume and portfolio will be accepted. What's important is that students be prepared to show their skills.

### **Instrumental Music**

Please arrive prepared to perform a 1-2 minute solo. Be prepared to perform a song from your lesson book that you have most recently mastered. Also be ready to sight-read a simple piece of music.

### **Vocal Music**

Please arrive prepared to perform a 1-2 minute solo. Be prepared to sing a song of your choice. Bring extra copies for an accompanist *or* an accompaniment CD/mp3 player. Be ready to sight-read a simple piece of music.

### **Visual Arts**

Visual art hopefuls are asked to bring any work that they have completed within the last year. We are mostly looking for work created on their time rather than in school. Work can include anything from doodles in sketchbooks to digital animations.

### **Figure Skating**

Figure Skating students will be scheduled for their academic review on the date/time scheduled. All academic reviews will be held at the Arts Academy Charter School.

Students will then be contacted by the Figure Skating Coach to schedule an art interview which will be held at the rink.

## **Additional Information**

### **Grade 5 Arts 2017 2018 School Year**

As we described to you in Open Houses and Registration, we have been in the process of revising our curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> grade with an eye to afford each 5<sup>th</sup> grader a chance to experience as many art forms as possible, and to incorporate the overall curriculum with “STEAM” concepts. STEAM-- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math --is an outgrowth of the STEM (adding “arts”) movement, which seeks to use a blended approach to learning and thinking, utilizing the fact that science, math and technology are enhanced by artistic thought, and the two worlds are not opposites.

To this end, we have sent staff members for training and we have been developing new curriculum, while adjusting the scheduling choices for our students. Here is a succinct description of the grade 5 Arts curriculum as it works in our 6-day cycle for 2017-18:

- Days 1 & 4: Production Arts (team-taught STEAM-based project studies)
- Days 2 & 5: General Music & General Visual Arts for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Days 3 & 6: Arts workshops

#### **Production Arts**

- Quarter 1 based in Native American studies, blending arts
- Quarter 2 and 3: English language grammar/Pirates of Grammar Island Production
- Quarter 4: tba-under construction

**General Music 5** – Covers basic concepts including singing, reading notated music, music listening, etc.

**General Visual Arts 5** – Introduction to art history and art concepts. Projects will investigate the Principles of design and elements of art.

**Arts Workshops** – meet one of the cycle days for 2 periods (*unless otherwise noted*)

1. Band
2. Creative Dramatics
3. Figure Skating (*can be taken for both workshops*)
4. Guitar
5. Jazz Dance
6. Modern Dance
7. Orchestra
8. Visual Arts
9. Vocal Music

Fifth grade students will be assigned to workshops in accordance with the information gathered on applications and registrations, consistent with interview findings.

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will study two (2) art forms. Students need only to audition for one (1) art form. Choice of second art will be discussed during the audition. The only exception will apply to students in the Figure Skating program. These students will be bused to the rink on a daily basis.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will primarily pursue one (1) art form.

### **Shadowing**

We will have select dates already reserved for shadowing. Shadow dates are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited. If you are unable to attend during a scheduled date, please note we are not able to schedule additional days.

### **Tours**

Tours are held during our open houses.

### **Transportation**

Arts Academy Charter School has worked diligently with surrounding school districts to ensure that those who are obligated to provide transportation will do so for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

Any school district boundary within ten miles of AACCS's front door obligates the sending district to transport all district students to AACCS. School Districts that bus to AACCS are: Allentown, Bethlehem, Catasauqua, Easton, East Penn, Nazareth, Northampton, Palisades, Parkland, Quakertown, Salisbury, Saucon Valley, Southern Lehigh, Whitehall, and Wilson Boro (Northampton Co.)

There is transportation for students living in the Pocono, Stroudsburg, Pleasant Valley, Bangor areas for a minimal fee.

Families that reside outside of our bussing districts must provide transportation to and from AACCS each day.

### **Lunch Program**

Arts Academy offers healthy lunches daily. Arts Academy participates in a Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Applications are available upon request and are available online at [www.arts-cs.org](http://www.arts-cs.org) or [Compass](#). Lunch menus are sent home with students one month prior to the ordering month (ex.: October menus are distributed in September). They are also available online at [www.arts-cs.org](http://www.arts-cs.org). The menus are due back to school by the 15th of the month. If the 15th falls on a weekend, then order is due the first day back to school after the 15th.

For additional information regarding the interview process, please contact [admissions@arts-cs.org](mailto:admissions@arts-cs.org) or visit our website at [www.arts-cs.org](http://www.arts-cs.org).

Please submit all applications to:  
Arts Academy Charter School  
Attn: Amy Reid  
1610 E Emmaus Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18103



ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION
SCHOOL YEAR 2017 – 2018

Grade Entering: \_\_\_\_\_

Each completed application must be submitted with COPIES of the following:

- 1. Proof of Residency (utility bill, lease or mortgage) 2. Most Recent Report Card 3. Birth Certificate

I. Student/Parent Information:

Child's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County in which you reside: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Areas of Interest

Indicate three (3) areas of interest in order starting with most interest/experience. 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices.

Assignments to Arts area(s) will be clarified upon acceptance.

Dance: \_\_\_\_\_ Figure Skating: \_\_\_\_\_ Vocal Music \_\_\_\_\_

Theatre: \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Art: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrumental \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

III. School District /Former School Information:

Public School \_\_\_\_\_ Private School \_\_\_\_\_ Charter School \_\_\_\_\_ Home School \_\_\_\_\_ Cyber School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of current school attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School year 2016 – 2017

Shadow Date Requested [ ] Yes [ ] No (Students will shadow a student in the grade they will be enrolling)

By signing this document, I verify that I am the parent/guardian of the student above, that I have read and understand the application/enrollment process and that I will provide the necessary documents needed to the Arts Academy Charter School. I also state that I am aware that this application does not guarantee my child's enrollment in AACCS.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Shadow Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Audition Scheduled: [ ] Yes [ ] No Audition date: \_\_\_\_\_ Audition Time: \_\_\_\_\_