



## **2018 – 2019 APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION (please read entire packet)**

(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 5, 2017, 6:00pm – 7:00pm; 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturday, December 16, 2017, 9:00am – 10:00am
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 6:00pm – 7:00pm; 7:00pm – 8:00pm

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, 2018 will be scheduled for an interview on February 6, 2018 or February 16, 2018. Applications received after that time, but no later than March 12, 2018, will be scheduled for interviews on the March 17, 2018 interview date. Any application received after the March 12, 2018 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 confirmations will be sent via Email **ONLY**. Please make sure you give us the email address you use on a regular basis. We are not responsible if you give us an email address that you do not use and you miss your interview date.

## **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.)

Students are permitted to interview for more than one art form.

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.

## 2. 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:**

#### Dramatic Arts

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.

#### Literary & Media Arts

Students who are interested in the Literary and Media Arts program should bring an original writing sample to share and discuss at the interview. Writing samples do not need to be typed or bound and can be of any format or length.

Possible writing samples include:

- poetry in any form (haiku, acrostic, lyric, narrative, or free verse)
- song lyrics
- graphic or regular novel outline/ sample
- comics
- short story
- drama
- fan fiction
- blogs
- writing prompt responses
- any school writing assignment

### **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. Also, students may be asked to sight-read a simple piece of music.

### **Visual Arts:**

Visual arts 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.

### **Instrumental Music**

Please arrive prepared to perform a 1-2 minute solo on your instrument. This solo can be from band or orchestra music or a method/lesson book and should showcase the student's abilities and skills. Students will also be asked to sight-read a simple musical passage during the interview. Please bring the sheet music for the prepared solo to the interview. With the exception of percussion and keyboard students, all students must bring their own instrument to play during the interview.

#### *Percussion students:*

Percussion students should prepare a brief solo on either snare drum or mallet percussion (bells, xylophone, etc.). A drum set will not be available during the interview. Students planning to play snare drum should bring their own drum sticks to the interview.

#### *Guitar students:*

In addition to the above requirements, guitar students may be asked to play 3-4 major or minor chords or scales during the interview.

#### *Keyboard students:*

Keyboard students should prepare a solo using both the right and left hands. Students should bring sheet music to read during the interview and should not play from memory. In addition to the above requirements, students may be asked to play 2-3 major scales during the interview.

### **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.

## **Secondary Art Course Description 2018 – 2019**

### **Instrumental Music – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

All secondary Instrumental Music students participate in both Music Fundamentals and Instrument Studies classes each class day. Students are expected to have their instrument, music folder, agenda planner, and pencils for every class meeting. Secondary Instrumental Music is a grade course, and students are expected to practice at home on a regular basis.

**Music Fundamentals:** During the first semester, students will explore a variety of music theory concepts including reading pitches on the staff, reading and notating rhythms, and identifying key signatures and major scales. During the second semester, students will focus on music history or world music, depending on the curriculum cycle. Students participate in a wide variety of music listening, composition and performance activities throughout the course.

**Instrument Studies:** Each individual student is at a very different place in their study of their instrument. For this reason, the Instrument Studies component of the secondary course is designed to be a balance of group instruction and individual practice time. Students will spend a portion of the class time working independently in their method books while the teacher provides feedback on an individual basis. At other times, the class will be ensemble-focused, and students will work together to prepare at least one piece for each of our major concert performances. Guitar students will take Instrument Studies class separately from the other students with a guitar instructor.

### **Theatre – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade secondary classes, the students will begin the year by reviewing theatre vocabulary and terminology, including stage directions/areas and the different types of stages followed by lessons on developing the actor's voice, breath control, articulation, and projection. Students will also explore improvisation, pantomime, clowning and choral speaking. Throughout the year, students will have various opportunities to showcase what they are learning through performances for their peers and members of the AACMS faculty.

### **Theatre – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade secondary classes, students will begin the year by reviewing theatre vocabulary and terminology, including stage directions/areas and the different types of stages, followed by a unit on developing the actor's voice where we will discuss things like breath control, articulation, and projection. Over the course of the year students will explore improvisation, character development, musical theatre, and the basics of audition protocol and how to prepare for auditions. Throughout the year, students will have various opportunities to showcase what they are learning through performances for their peers and members of the AACMS faculty.

## **Dance – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade secondary dance classes are designed to provide our students with a healthy and safe awareness of their body movements to support the various other art forms. Within a 6-day cycle, students will attend a modern dance class, integrating the techniques and styles of the different figures of the modern dance world. Musical theatre dance classes will also be explored, as students incorporate the characterization and vocal aspects with the movements that support our favorite musicals. Lastly, students will participate in a ballet dance class where terminology, body alignment, basic moves and combinations are taught to strengthen the dancer's technique.

## **Visual Arts – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Secondary visual arts students will pursue the same goals as the primary visual artists. Students will touch on a lot of different art history, movements, styles, techniques and concepts. Every lesson and project they will be working on includes researching, writing, explaining and exploring connections between different academic subjects/art forms. The students will explore many different types of media from ink pens to watercolor to plaster. They will have class critiques on their work, they will be able to explain their work with proper vocabulary, and they will study artists from the past and present.

## **Vocal Music – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Music Theory – We will be working on note names on the staff, and will study rhythms and eventually key signatures in music. We will also work on music listening – appreciating a variety of repertoire.

Choral Studies – We will be working on our concert music, which involves studying harmony and singing 2 different parts at the same time.

## **Vocal Music – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Study Hall – The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will have 20 minutes of study hall to complete homework or do silent activities.

Music Appreciation – We will be studying musicals. We will be learning the history and elements of musicals in general. We will have an in-depth study of one musical for each decade, up to the year 2000. Afterward, we will learn how to perform songs from various musicals.

Choral Studies – We will be working on our concert music, which involves studying harmony and singing 2 different parts at the same time.

*Figure Skaters in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades do not have the option of having a secondary art. All Figure Skaters will go to the rink every day.*

## **Additional Information**

### **Grade 5 Arts 2018 - 2019 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 2018-19:

- 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, basic computer skills
- Quarter 2 and 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 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 transported 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 2018-2019 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 busing 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 2018 – 2019

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
NO student will be scheduled for an interview without the required documents.

I. Student/Parent Information:

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

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 and 3rd choices.

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

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

Theatre: \_\_\_\_\_ Dramatic Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Literary Arts & Media Arts \_\_\_\_\_

Instrumental (please select one): Keyboarding: \_\_\_\_\_ Percussions: \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar: \_\_\_\_\_

Ensemble \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2017 – 2018

Shadow Date Requested [ ] Yes [ ] No (Students will shadow a student in the grade they will be enrolling. Requests must be made before Jan 31, 2018. Shadow dates are limited. First come first serve basis.)

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: \_\_\_\_\_