



VISUAL ARTS

# AGENDA

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- Program Highlights and Accomplishments
- Application Requirements
- Preparing for the Audition
- What do Expect on Audition Day





## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### **Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 Visual Arts Program**

The Visual Arts Program at CAPA 6-12 is a sequential program of studio inquiry. CAPA students hone their skills and broaden their understanding of the creative process with classes in printmaking, ceramics, digital media, painting, drawing, textiles, art history and sculpture. CAPA students work in a state-of-the-art facility and are taught by leading specialists in their area.

These instructors are working artists in the truest sense of the word – they create, they exhibit, they jury and they mentor the creative process. Under the direction of these top artists/instructors CAPA students develop informed, aesthetically aware minds and capable hands that fill their ever-evolving portfolios.

With a love of art and a commitment to achievement, CAPA students have opportunities to pursue their passion that are unavailable virtually any place else. Only at CAPA can a student spend up to three hours a day in their art form. They progress through increasingly advanced course work while working to create new and personal realities through their work. Students reflect on the creative process and decision-making aspects of their own work while relating their art to artistic accomplishments throughout history.

Research and personal goal setting dictate much of the artistic inquiry both at CAPA and within the unique partnerships we maintain throughout the region's premier arts resources. Such partnerships include the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, the Society for Contemporary Craft, Air (Artist Image Resource), the Andy Warhol Museum, Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie-Mellon University and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

# SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE

## Middle School

Middle school students have two hours of visual art instruction every morning.

Their courses include:

- Ceramics
- Visual Art Disciplines
- Visual Art Techniques
- Concept Studio

## High School

High school students have three hours of visual art instruction every afternoon.

Their courses include:

- Digital Media
- Art History
- Textiles
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Painting





## AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### DEPARTMENTAL ACCOLADES

Our students regularly receive awards from art competitions that include The Regional and National Scholastics Competition and the MCG Invitational Exhibition.

University and college admissions include: Rhode Island School of Design, Maryland Institute College of Art, School of the Art Institute of Design, The Cooper Union, to name a few.

# APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

The online magnet application for students to be considered for admission for the 2023-24 school year will open on November 1, 2022. Families of students who do not currently attend a Pittsburgh Public School can begin completing the enrollment process now, to obtain credentials to log in to Home Access Center (HAC) to complete the online application. **The deadline will be December 9, 2022.**

## **Audition Workshops:**

Visual Arts: November 5 and 19, 8–10am

Choose a Saturday in November and come to learn about what the audition in Visual Arts at CAPA is all about.

Interested applicants need not attend both workshops. No sign up is needed.

Plan on arriving no later than 7:50 and plan on pick up at 10am sharp.

## **Process and Requirements:**

[CAPA Essay Prompts & Audition Process Overview](#)

[CAPA Audition Requirements by Art Form](#)

[Guidance Authorization \(one per applicant\)](#)

[How to request a guidance authorization for applicants](#)

[How to complete a guidance authorization for counselors](#)

[Artistic Recommendation Form \(one per art form\)](#)

[How to request an artistic recommendation for applicants](#)

[How to complete an artistic recommendation for recommenders](#)

# VISUAL ART APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

## **Part One: Online Artwork Submission**

Students applying for the Visual Arts Department at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 should submit the following three pieces from their art portfolio when they fill out the application online:

- A self-portrait in pencil done from observation (looking into a mirror) not at a photograph.
- A drawing done from observation. Choose an object and draw it with pencil.
- A two- or three-dimensional piece that demonstrates the student's artistic interests and skills.

Any student that is not able to complete the online submission may contact the magnet office for assistance. *Part One: Online Artwork Submission is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged.*

## **Part Two: In-person Audition**

Applicants will be invited to participate in an in-person audition and will need to bring to their audition a portfolio of up to 10 original artworks that includes:

- A self-portrait in pencil done from observation (looking into a mirror) not at a photograph.
- A drawing done from observation-choose an object and draw it with pencil.
- A painting in watercolor, acrylics or oil paints. It may be done on paper, canvas or Masonite board.
- A project done at home without adult input.
- The remaining 2-6 pieces should be chosen to demonstrate the student's artistic interests and skills. Cartoons and Anime should not constitute the majority of the artwork in the portfolio. Artistic work should, instead, show an emphasis on ORIGINAL observational drawings (drawing from life) and creativity/inventiveness.

# PREPARING FOR THE AUDITION

- When applying to the Visual Arts program prospective students will be asked to demonstrate skill and commitment in three ways:
  - **1. An interview**
  - **2. A writing component**
  - **3. A review of a portfolio of your work**



# THE INTERVIEW

During an interview it is important to remember:

- Poise and appearance count.
- Attitude is important: show respect to teachers and other students.
- Convey your commitment to the visual arts
- Listen closely and try to provide answers that directly address the questions you are asked.
- The interview will most likely be in the form of a conversation.
- You may be asked about your background, experience, knowledge and interest in the visual arts.

Questions might include:

- Why did you choose to audition for this school?
- How did you decide what to include in your portfolio?
- Which art museums or galleries have you visited recently?
- In the future, how do you plan to use the art education you receive here?
- Why do you want to come to CAPA 9-12?
- What is your strongest piece? Why?
- What is your weakest piece? Why?
- What is your most recent piece?
- Please explain the process behind this piece/pick a piece.
- What is your favorite medium to work with?
- Where do you get your inspiration?
- Who is your favorite artist and why?
- Are any of these pieces NOT a school assignment or something you did on your own?
- Do you want to have an art-related career when you grow up?
- What are your post-CAPA career plans?
- How are you going to contribute to CAPA?

# THE WRITING COMPONENT

## 9-12 Applicants

You will be asked to compare two works of art and to answer a series of questions concerning the artworks.

Your writing will be evaluated based on the content of your writing as well as the level of literacy. For example:

- Is the essay rich in art vocabulary?
- Does the student clearly articulate meaning of work?
- Does the student write clearly and enthusiastically about art making processes?
- Does the student correctly follow directions and format?

## 6-8 Applicants

You will be asked to answer a series of questions about yourself, your interests and your relationship to visual art in the form of a questionnaire.

Your writing will be evaluated based on the content of your writing as well as the level of literacy. For example:

- Correctly followed directions and format
- All answers are in complete sentences with correct spelling and proper grammar
- Clearly expressed and articulated your ideas in each of your answers
- Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to art and your art education
- Demonstrated sophisticated thinking and communication skills
- Made appropriate references to art making processes

# THE PORTFOLIO REVIEW

The visual arts portfolio is a critical part of the audition process for students applying to a specialized art program. A well thought-out portfolio shows your strengths and potential for an advanced level of work. It is an opportunity to display your best efforts. Individual schools may vary slightly in their requirements.

## **Powerpoint Presentation of your Artwork:**

- A neat and attractive presentation is extremely important because it tells the reviewing committee that you have taken care of your work and that you are proud of it.
- The photographs of your artwork should be well-light and in focus.

# THE PORTFOLIO REVIEW

## **Content**

As you assemble your portfolio, carefully select the works that you feel represent your best efforts. Consider the following:

- Select current artwork (work completed within the year)
- Include sketchbooks and preliminary drawings
- Do not include work done in the style of a famous artist or copies
- Most of the work should be done from observation but you may include some work done from imagination or memory
- Cartooning should be limited to a minimum or not included at all
- The selections should demonstrate your understanding of composition and the following principles of design:
  - Unity
  - Balance/repetition
  - Variety
  - Emphasis
  - Proportion
  - Rhythm
  - Scale
  - Figure-ground relationship

# THE PORTFOLIO REVIEW

The portfolio review will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Has all required art
- Observation pieces are advanced.
- Exceptional use of the elements and principles of art
- Demonstrates high level of control of chosen media and craftsmanship
- Communicates clear personal meaning/style
- Work is highly creative and original
- Consistently advanced across a variety of media
- Has clear examples of the required portfolio pieces

## WHAT TO EXPECT ON AUDITION DAY

- You should arrive 15 minutes before the start of the auditions.
- A team of arts instructors will conduct interviews and portfolio reviews with each applicant.
- You will receive a writing prompt that you will need to do during your audition.
- You will do an on-site drawing from observation.
- The audition will most likely last three hours total.





Any

Questions