

# Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

## Things to Know About Applying and Auditioning

1. Students must complete an Arts Academy Audition Application for the 2024-2025 School Year for grades 9-12 or grades 5-8 which can be found on the Arts Academy's website at [www.buffaloartsacademy.org](http://www.buffaloartsacademy.org)
  2. After submitting an Application, the student will be entered into an on-line Schoology Audition Course to submit materials and information prior to their In-Person Audition, if needed, depending on the artistic area for which they are auditioning.
  3. Students must complete a BPS High School Application or an Elementary School Application found under the link for *Admissions & Registration* on the Buffalo School District's website at [www.buffaloschools.org](http://www.buffaloschools.org) which includes a Teacher Recommendation Form specifically for the Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts #192. The form should be completed by someone who can attest to the student's artistic ability.
  4. Students must fulfill the requirements listed below for the art major area of their choice.
  5. A copy of their previous school year's report card and current report card is required.
  6. Students must display a commitment to their art major and understand that each department requires time invested in rehearsals, practicing, performances, and shows after regular school hours. **\*\*\* Students will participate in afterschool or evening performances and must stay from the beginning of the show to the end of the production.**
  7. Acceptance Rubric Scoring: the Audition accounts for **70%**, the student's Academic Standing accounts for **25%** and Teacher Recommendation accounts for **5%**.
  8. **NOTE**: Acceptance is based on successful completion of your current grade and having met all areas of criteria for the audition process.
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## Major Area Requirements

### **Dance** (*Classical Ballet and Modern Dance*)

Requirements for both our elementary/junior high programs and our high school program are very similar in nature.

Students do **not** have to prepare a separate dance solo for the audition. If the student has a solo prepared from a recital or performance event and would like to share it with the dance faculty they may do so at the conclusion of the audition.

Students are evaluated on their performance in an abbreviated classical ballet and modern technique class, as well as an improvisation section. The caliber and skill level being taught at the audition will be more advanced for our high school students.

Each applicant will also be asked a series of questions at the beginning and end of the audition.

The auditions are led and evaluated by our dance faculty.

*Students should report on time to the audition; come well rested, properly prepared and ready to fully participate in all sections of the audition class. Failure to participate in all sections will have a negative impact on your audition.*

It is recommended that students have a light breakfast and are well rested.

Students are required to be dressed in proper dance attire. In order to evaluate the dancer it is vital to see their form. Socks will not be allowed during the modern portion of the audition.

**Female Attire:**

- Leotard and tights (without feet)
- Hair pulled back neatly off of neck and out of face and eyes
- **NO** t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, or street clothes
- *If you do not own a leotard and tights, please wear snug fitting black leggings and a form fitting tank top.*

**Male Attire:**

- Form fitting black or white tank/t-shirt
- Form fitting compression pants/shorts

**Please do not bring into the audition room:**

- Jewelry or things of value, electronic devices...
- Cell phones must be turned off during the audition class

\* Accompanying parents/guardians will not be allowed to watch the audition. Auditioning students will be escorted to the dance studio while parents/guardians will remain in the cafeteria.

**In order for your application to be complete and to be officially accepted:**

- **Students must have a physician's clearance stating their ability to fully participate without physical restriction in every aspect of our dance curriculum.**
- **Student Placement School Applications completed and submitted.**
  - please be reminded, there are 2 different application forms from our Admissions & Registration Department - Elementary 5-8, or High School
  - 5 - 8 elementary Teacher Evaluation & Recommendation forms, which consists of 3 pages, numbered 6, 7, & 8,
  - 9 - 12 high school form which consists of 3 pages numbered 3, 4, & 5
- **Student report cards**
  - Final 2023 report card
  - 2023-2024 1st quarter progress report
  - 2023 -2024 1st quarter report card

**If you have any specific questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to the department.**

**Nicole Jones**

[nrjones@buffaloschools.org](mailto:nrjones@buffaloschools.org)

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## **Media Communications** (Grades 9 – 12 only)

1. Students will write a short piece based on a creative-writing prompt. The student will be requested to read aloud what they have written while being recorded to demonstrate their on-screen presence.
  2. Students will take a short get-to-know-you survey.
  3. Students will watch a 3-minute video and answer a short series of questions relating to the short video.
  4. Students will be interviewed (on-camera)
    - a. Tell us about your hobbies & what interests /inspires you?
    - b. What attracts you to this major?
    - c. What is your creative process?
    - d. What are you most interested in: writing, video production, audio production, (and Why?)
  5. A strong academic record, competency in storytelling/writing, general curiosity, and a strong interview are all factors for admission into this program.
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## **Music**

1. Students may audition for either vocal or instrumental music. However, once accepted, music students in grade 5-8 will learn to sing and play an instrument.
2. Vocal & instrumental students should work with their music teacher to prepare their music auditions.
3. On the day of your audition, in addition to your major requirements specific to your instrument/voice, you will be asked to identify both pitch and rhythmic notation examples. You will also hear several pitches on the piano and be asked to sing them on a generic syllable (i.e. *la*, *du*, or *ah*) to demonstrate aural skills.
4. If you do not have a music class/music teacher to assist you in preparing for your audition, please follow our audition prep YouTube videos. They feature specifics for every level of preparation.
  - \* Bring your audition musical instrument with you if you are able.

**If you have any questions regarding audition materials and requirements, please contact us:**

Band: [TBuckley@buffaloschools.org](mailto:TBuckley@buffaloschools.org) or [AHughes@buffaloschools.org](mailto:AHughes@buffaloschools.org)

Guitar: [JTinkham@buffaloschools.org](mailto:JTinkham@buffaloschools.org)

Orchestra: [AVafai@buffaloschools.org](mailto:AVafai@buffaloschools.org)

Vocal: [JKnight@buffaloschools.org](mailto:JKnight@buffaloschools.org) or [LStephan@buffaloschools.org](mailto:LStephan@buffaloschools.org)

## **INSTRUMENTAL - BAND**

### **GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose two short pieces or one solo piece appropriate for your playing level. (It is recommended you ask your music teacher to help you choose your audition music)
- PERCUSSION:
  - Choose one piece of music appropriate for your playing level
  - If you play drum-set, demonstrate at least 1 style of playing

### **GRADES 7-9: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose one solo piece of music appropriate for your playing level.
- PERCUSSION:
  - Choose one piece of music appropriate for your playing level
  - If you play drum-set, demonstrate at least 2 styles (i.e. Latin, Swing, etc.)

### **GRADES 10-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose one piece of music that shows us your very best playing. (It is recommended you ask your music teacher to help you choose your audition music)
- PERCUSSION:
  - Choose one piece of music appropriate for your playing level
  - If you play drum-set, demonstrate at least 3 styles (i.e. Latin, Swing, etc.)

## **INSTRUMENTAL - GUITAR**

All of the guitar ensembles perform primarily as a classical guitar ensemble (similar to a string orchestra). Students are taught to perform using classical finger-style (p-i-m-a fingerings). You will also learn additional guitar specific components, such as reading TAB, performing singer-songwriter songs, performing electric guitar pieces, improvisation, and more. However, much emphasis is put on the students being able to fluently read and perform from standard notation.

### **GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- “Ode to Joy” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms.
- All circled chords included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking.

### **GRADES 7-9: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- “Bouree in E-” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms (no repeats).
- All circled chords included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking.

**GRADES 10-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- “Snowflight” with a steady tempo and correct rhythms. *Use p-i-m for fingerings.*
- All major/minor barre chords in any key/position included in the audition materials (see Website or contact BAVPA).
- Demonstrate use of finger picking (pima) and regular picking

**INSTRUMENTAL - ORCHESTRA**

**GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose one piece or excerpt from a piece appropriate for your playing level.

**GRADES 7-9: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose one piece from a piece appropriate for your playing level.

**GRADES 10-12: You will be *required* to perform the following:**

- Performance Piece – Choose one piece and one excerpt from a contrasting piece appropriate for your playing level.

**VOCAL**

**GRADES 5-6: You will be *required* to perform 2 pieces:**

- Performance Piece - Perform a **piece of your choice** at an appropriate singing level and in an appropriate range that best showcases your voice **and** a piece from the list below.

**Vocal Audition Repertoire List:**

- *Happy Birthday*
- 1 verse of a Disney song OR a song from a musical

**GRADES 7-12: You will be *required* to perform 2 pieces:**

- Performance Piece - Perform a **piece of your choice** at an appropriate singing level and in an appropriate range that best showcases your voice **and** a piece from the list below.

**Vocal Audition Repertoire List:**

- *Lift Every Voice and Sing* -  
(Entire 1st verse ending with “Til victory is won”)
  - *Amazing Grace* (Entire 1st verse ending with “Blind but now I see”)
  - *The Star-Spangled Banner*
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## **Technical Theatre & Maintenance** (Grade 9 – 12 I.E.P. Students only)

1. Students must write an essay, in advance, answering the questions below. The essay will be submitted at the audition/interview. It is preferable that the essay is typed, although it is not required.

Be prepared to discuss your essay at the interview.

### *Technical Theatre & Maintenance Essay*

- Name:
  - Age:
  - Current Grade
1. Give the title of a play, a movie, or a live stage production that you have seen that stands out in your mind.
  2. Describe in detail some of the scenery, props, or special effects that were used to make the performance realistic or memorable.
  3. Discuss any personal hobbies or activities that you enjoy.
  4. Write a description of something you have constructed or built. Include photographs if you have them.
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## **Theatre Arts**

1. Students must perform a memorized 1 – 3 minute monologue. A monologue is a long speech spoken by one character in a play and reveals thoughts and feelings. The monologue is chosen by the student and is memorized prior to the audition. Bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, as well as the Public Library are sources for monologues. Orator's speeches, essays, and poems are not allowed. At least one copy of the Monologue must be brought to the audition. Monologues may also be found online.
  2. The monologue will be performed for two instructors and will not be delivered in front of a large audience.
  3. Costumes or props are not necessary or required.
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## **Visual Arts**

1. Students must bring a portfolio of artwork to the auditions even after they have submitted on Schoology. They may bring more than the required 10 works if they have additional work they would like to show us. Suggestions of what to include in your portfolio can be found at our school website:  
<https://www.buffaloartsacademy.org/admissions-process>
  2. Students should also bring their sketchbooks if they use them.
  3. Digital artwork is welcome, however it should not comprise the entire portfolio, and needs to be accompanied by time-lapse of the student working
  4. On the day of the audition students will do a still-life drawing that will become a permanent part of their audition materials
  5. On the day of the audition, students will speak with one of our art teachers about their portfolio and overall interest and experiences with art
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## **Important Reminders -**

**Report Cards:** A copy of their previous school year's report card and their current report card is required from the student.

**Acceptance Rubric Scoring:** the Audition accounts for **70%**, the student's Academic Standing accounts for **25%** and Teacher Recommendations account for **5%**.

**NOTE:** Acceptance is based on successful completion of your current grade and having met all areas of criteria for the audition process.

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## **Frequently Asked Question -**

- \* Can I change my major area in high school?  
- *No.*
- \* Can I have music playing along with me for a vocal music audition?  
- *No.*
- \* Do we need to bring our instrument with us for the instrumental music audition?  
- *Yes, if you are able.*
- \* Do I need to have a dance routine prepared for a dance audition?  
- *No.*
- \* Do I need to bring paperwork with me for the audition?  
- *Paperwork can be submitted prior to the audition date or the day of the audition.*
- \* Does a parent or guardian need to accompany a student to the audition?  
- *Yes, however parents are not allowed into the audition areas.*
- \* When and how will I know if I am accepted to the school?  
- *You will be notified by a letter from the school and/or district in March (or sooner).*

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\*\* For more information, please contact the Arts Academy at (716) 816-4220 or check the school's website at [www.buffaloartsacademy.org](http://www.buffaloartsacademy.org)

### Arts Academy Open House and Audition Dates! Enrollment for 2024-2025 school year

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**OPEN HOUSE** – Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

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**Grades 9 - 12 Auditions**  
Saturday, October 14 and  
Saturday, October 21, 2023  
at 8:00 A.M.

**Grades 5 - 8 Auditions**  
Saturday, November 4 and  
Saturday, November 18, 2023  
at 8:00 A.M.

Arts Academy Audition Applications can be submitted on-line at  
[www.buffaloartsacademy.org](http://www.buffaloartsacademy.org)