

Center for the Arts

Program Descriptions

2009-2010

The Center for the Arts provides an exciting opportunity for artistically talented high school students of Lee County. Once selected, students will become part of an artistic environment designed to develop their talents to the highest possible level while fostering an appreciation and love of the arts which will serve them well in the pursuit of the next step in their educational training and chosen careers.

Admission to the Center for the Arts program is by audition only. In addition to the Center for the Arts application, a zone school application **must** also be completed according to the published timeline. Should a student be accepted into the arts program following the audition, that student will be released from the school assigned by Student Assignment in order to attend the Center for the Arts. All students enrolling in the Center for the Arts must complete **four semesters** in the program to be considered for a waiver should they choose to leave the arts program. (School District of Lee County Administrative Regulation 1.63)

Dance

Students concentrating in dance will complete an intensive course of study in choreography, performance, ballet, modern, and other dance techniques. In addition to providing instructional opportunities within the full spectrum of recognized dance styles, the program places a strong emphasis upon artistic quality, aesthetics, and career preparation. Regular association with practicing professionals as well as multidisciplinary programming with other departments will be an important aspect of the dance department's curriculum. It is the goal of the dance department to provide all of its students with a wide range of quality opportunities and experiences that will allow them to prepare for advanced study, professional growth, and personal fulfillment.

~Audition Requirements~

Each student will participate in a live group audition that will include the following:

- a dance class including exercises and combinations in a variety of dance styles (details will be specified at the audition site)
- a one-minute prepared selection (or excerpt) of the student's own choosing (an accompaniment tape or CD is to be provided by the student)

Audition Dress Code

Females are to wear a leotard and tights or a unitard. Hair is to be secured in a ponytail, bun, French braid, or off-the-neck hairstyle. Feet can be bare. Ballet shoes and jazz shoes are preferred for the appropriate sections of the class.

Males are to wear gym shorts and a plain T-shirt, or a unitard. Feet can be bare. Ballet shoes and jazz shoes are preferred for the appropriate sections of the class. Hair is to be secured away from the face.

Music

Students within the music department will have the opportunity to select a concentration in the area of instrumental or vocal music. Based upon the selection and the specific talent area of the student, a stimulating course of study will be designed to develop this talent to its highest possible level. In addition to classes in all fundamental musical areas, each student will participate in a wide array of ensemble and individual performance experiences.

~Audition Requirements~

Vocal

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- sight-reading of a short selection presented at the audition
- a major scale sung on a neutral syllable, *solfeggio*, or numbers a cappella, evaluated for accuracy
- a rhythmic sight-reading exercise evaluated for rhythmic accuracy
- a melodic sight-reading exercise, evaluated for melodic accuracy
- a tonal memory exercise evaluated by the number of remembered pitches sung

Each student will perform from memory two contrasting songs representing the student's current level. Live accompaniment is suggested, as no accompanist will be provided. A recorded accompaniment is acceptable as long as it contains no vocalist singing the student's part. A cappella performances are unacceptable for the audition.

Woodwind, Brass, Strings

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- sight-reading of a short selection presented at the audition
- 12 major scales and arpeggios, as many as known from memory, at a tempo, range and style representing the student's current level
- a prepared solo or etude(s) to include both a slow lyrical section and a fast technical section appropriate to the student's current ability level. Excerpts from "full ensemble" literature are inappropriate. Accompaniment is neither required nor recommended.

Percussion

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- sight-reading of a short selection presented at the audition
- 12 major scales and arpeggios, as many as known from memory, at a tempo, range and style representing the student's current level
- prepared selections to include one mallet (xylophone, marimba, or bells) exercise, one snare drum exercise, and one timpani exercise. Proficiency in snare drum rudiments must be demonstrated. Students are prohibited from auditioning on drum set. Background in timpani is recommended. Sight-reading will include both snare and mallets. Student will provide sticks, mallet, and a snare drum.

Media Arts

The media arts program is based upon developing each student's artistic creativity in electronic communications. Media students create productions using computers, video and film cameras, editors, and a studio. Students learn the basic elements of video, film, and audio production and become familiar with computer applications progressing into advanced 3-D graphics, animation, multimedia, and cinema production. Students learn in a state of the art multimedia facility containing professional cameras, computers, editors, software, and CD-ROM authoring equipment and software. By graduation, media students will have a CD-ROM portfolio including audio, video, film, and graphic samples of their work, as well as the training and experience necessary to enter an advanced media arts program or to embark upon a career in media arts.

~Audition Requirements~

Each applicant will participate in a three-hour studio and laboratory exercise. During this time, applicants will receive a video production and computer graphics lesson and then create a video and graphic based upon the skills taught in the lesson. Each student should bring to the audition a VHS demo-tape and/or digital portfolio of 5 computer graphics. Electronic graphics must be saved in a JPEG, PICT, or TIFF format to floppy disk or CD. Videotapes MUST be NTSC VHS tapes recorded at STANDARD play speed. These should be clearly labeled with the student's name and school, and should include samples of the following:

- a presentation in which the student played a production or talent role (camera, director, graphics, audio, reporter, writer, actor, etc.)
- a news, school, or arts related event
- computer graphics used in a multimedia production (Applicants who have no access to the equipment required to produce a demo tape may contact the Center for the Arts Media Department to make alternative arrangements.)

Visual Arts

The visual arts program at the Center for the Arts will concentrate upon the optimum development of each student's artistic skills and techniques. Through immersion in a state of the art environment, contact with successful practicing artists, and training by a highly skilled staff, students will become strong visual communicators, creative thinkers, and resourceful problem solvers. The opportunity to exhibit as well as to participate in multidisciplinary arts projects will assist students in the development of a global perspective regarding the interrelationship of visual arts to other arts and to our society. Guidance in the compilation of personal portfolios and marketing skills will contribute to the prospects for successful pursuit of the next phase of each student's education and/or chosen career.

~Audition Requirements~

Each applicant will be required to participate in a three-hour studio class. During this class, each student will be observed creating several works of art.

Applicants are asked to bring their personal portfolios with them to the class. Each item in the portfolio is to be labeled on the back, and the portfolio is to include the following:

- five (5) to ten (10) selections showing a variety of subjects, media, and techniques of the student's most current and best work
- a working journal or sketchbook which is currently being used by the student (if available)

Portfolios will be taken home by the student following the class.

Theatre Arts

Students selecting a concentration in the theatre arts will have the opportunity to obtain intensive training in acting, directing, design, and technical theatre. The course of study will include opportunities in acting, voice and diction, mime and movement, improvisation, directing and playwriting, stage make-up, theatre technology, theatre history, vocal techniques, dance, musical theatre and other classes. Students' talents will be polished and displayed in live play and musical theatre productions, some of which will be interdisciplinary efforts with other departments. The quality and visibility of the talent and artistry produced by students in this program will serve them well in the pursuit of the next phase of their formal education or professional training.

~Audition Requirements~

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- Prepare two (2) contrasting monologues. Monologues must be memorized. Choices might include one comic and one dramatic piece or one classical and one contemporary piece. Monologues must be chosen from published plays. Scripts from movies are unacceptable. Maximum monologue time is a total of three minutes for both pieces. Check your material carefully to ensure that you meet this time limit.
- Students who wish to demonstrate their vocal ability may sing a solo selection of up to 16 measures from a published musical for the theatre in addition to the two (2) required monologues. Accompaniment may be live, CD, or I-pod. Recorded accompaniment is only acceptable as long as it contains no vocalist singing the applicant's part. A cappella performances are unacceptable at this audition.
- Students will be asked to participate in a cold reading exercise .
- Students may be asked to answer a few questions about themselves, e.g. hobbies, activities.
- Students will take a general knowledge exam on the basics of theatre arts.

Applicants are expected to arrive at the beginning of the audition time block to sign in and complete paperwork. All students will be taken into the audition room as a group. Parents and guardians will NOT be allowed in the audition room. Applicant's will participate in a group warm-up and take a pre-test lasting approximately 20 minutes. Applicants will then audition individually, after which the students will be asked to participate in a small group cold reading. Once the applicant has completed all of these elements, they are free to leave.

Audition Attire

Students are to dress as they would for a professional audition but be able to move freely. Flat, closed-toe shoes that cover the entire foot are suggested. Students wearing sandals, flip-flops or other inappropriate footwear will NOT be permitted to audition. Hair is to be secured away from the face. Ladies are asked to please NOT wear skirts or dresses.

*** Applicants should bring a current headshot and resume (if applicable/available) to their audition. (This is by no means a requirement but simply a helpful tool.)