

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form

Students will participate in three portions of a dance audition:

- **Group Technique Class:** Students will participate in a dance class consisting of ballet, modern dance and jazz dance techniques. Following the group technique portion, everyone will have a short break before beginning their solo.
- **Individual Solos:** Students will perform a pre-choreographed one-minute solo in a chosen style. Choreography should show artistic potential and not include movement from dance apps or social media platforms. This movement must be planned and prepared by the student before the audition takes place.
- **Interview:** Students will have a short interview immediately after their solo presentation.

Audition Attire:

Leotard and convertible tight, ballet shoes with elastic sewn and tie strings tucked in, barefoot for modern and jazz shoes for jazz. Long hair must be pulled back (bun preferred), no jewelry should be worn. Solid white t-shirt with black tights or form fitting shorts, ballet shoes with elastic sewn and tie strings tucked in, barefoot for modern and jazz shoes for jazz. Hair must be neatly secured from the face.

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Dance department page of pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:

Though we are efficient in our audition process, the complete audition can take up to 3 hours total.

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Audition Requirements by Art Form

Students should prepare **TWO** pieces of contrasting style not more than 5 minutes total. Fast/slow, classical/jazz for example. **TWO** scales of their choice. You may audition on one instrument only. Students should bring their own instrument. Percussion must bring their own mallets and sticks. Percussion instruments will be provided.

- Students will be asked to perform scales first. Then, their two pieces.
- Demonstrate the ability to read music.
- Will be asked “Why do you want to attend CAPA?”
- Students should ask if they can play multiple instruments during the ensembles.

Scoring:

Scoring will be on a 1-4-point basis in categories: Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, Interpretation, Scales.

Length of Audition:

The average audition will last 15–20 minutes.

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form

Part One: Writing Portfolio

Students applying for the Literary Arts department at Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12 should submit a writing portfolio that includes:

- **Neighborhood Stories:** As writers we are influenced by the neighborhood we grow up in. In fact, the first stories that many of us put to paper concern our own neighborhood. Draft a true story about a memorable event that happened in your neighborhood. The story should include intimate details that will help the reader see, hear, smell and feel what it is like to live, hang-out, or visit your neighborhood. Make sure that by the end of the story the reader understands why this event was important to and how it changed the way you think, feel and see your neighborhood and the people in it. This story should be no longer than 750 words.

The goal of this task is to help applicants see their neighborhood as a source of identity and therefore inspiration for further observation and investigation. To help students not take for granted the power that their environment exerts on them. Prior to writing this essay read Brian Doyle's *Imagining Foxes* to help understand the type of story that this prompts asks applicants to write. You may access this essay at <http://brevitymag.com/nonfiction/imagining-foxes>.

- **Free Choice of Creative Writing**

This writing may be in any genre that you feel represents you and your best work as a creative writer. This should be one genre of writing: 2–3 poems (25 lines minimum for each poem) or 1–10 pages in length of prose or dramatic writing that you wrote on your own, not for a school assignment.

Include a cover sheet with the portfolio that includes the student's name, date, and the titles of the creative work. The student's name should only be on the cover sheet—do not include a name on the actual pieces of writing. Writing will not be returned and writing portfolios must be submitted via the online application by the deadline for Pittsburgh CAPA applications.

Part Two: Audition for Invited Students

Based on faculty review of writing portfolios, only select applicants will be invited to attend an audition. Writing portfolios will be judged on mechanical and stylistic elements, originality and creativity, the ability to write to a prompt, and the ability to use figurative language and storytelling elements in writing. The incoming literary arts classes will be selected from students invited to attend the audition. Selected applicants will be notified about the audition in writing and should plan to attend the literary arts auditions. Invited applicants can expect more details at the time of invitation to the audition.

Students should be prepared to engage in the following activities during the audition for literary arts.

- Be prepared to talk about yourself and your work. Think why CAPA Literary Arts.
- Be engaged and an active participant in the audition. We want you to talk. It is essential to talk during the audition.
- Practice reading the piece of writing you will share with the audition panel. Be familiar and comfortable reading your writing. This piece of writing should be from your writing portfolio that you submitted with your application.
- Be prepared to write a creative response to a prompt after reading a prose piece and discussing it.
- Ask questions. Find joy in the process.

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Literary Arts department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:

2.5 hours

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form

Students auditioning for grades 6–8 should prepare the following:

- A portfolio of creative work containing three to four different items.
- A new creative project of the student's choice.
 - Design sketches of the project.
 - Photos demonstrating the construction process.
- Students will present their portfolio items and project, all of which must be brought to the audition.
- Students will also complete a design exercise that will be provided at the audition.

Students auditioning for grades 9–12 should prepare the following:

- A portfolio of creative work containing three to five different items.
- A model showing a scene from a play, movie, etc. and a prop from that scene.
 - Sketches of the set model.
 - Photos of the model making process.
 - Photos of the finished model.
- A full-scale prop from the same scene.
 - Sketches of the prop.
 - Photos of the prop building process.
 - Finished prop photos.
- Students will present the portfolio items, set model, and prop, all of which must be brought to the audition.
- Students will also complete a design exercise and measuring test that will be provided at the audition.

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Production Technology department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:

1–1.5 hours

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form

Theatre: Drama or Musical Theatre

Students auditioning for grades 6-8 should memorize a monologue (at least one minute in length) and be prepared to perform it. They can either choose a monologue from this list <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/5050> "Monologue Choices Middle School" or pick any monologue from a published play.

In addition to preparing a monologue, questions about the monologue and the play that it comes from are found here: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/5050> "Middle School Audition Written Work". This is to be filled out and brought to the audition.

The day will begin with a group warm up. Afterwards, students will work on a writing prompt while individuals are called in for a brief interview and to present their monologues for the faculty. They may be asked to work on the monologue with the faculty and try different approaches to the way it's performed. Students may be asked to do a cold reading from a provided script.

Students auditioning for grades 9-12 should memorize a monologue (at least one minute in length) from a published play and be prepared to perform it. They should also answer the questions about their chosen monologue on the worksheet posted here: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/5050> "High School Audition written work" and bring this to their audition.

Upon entering the audition room, the student will have a short interview with the panel where the student will discuss topics such as "Why you want to come to CAPA?", favorite subjects, prior experiences in theatre, outside classes, etc.

They will perform their monologue and may be asked to try something different with the monologue as well.

IN ADDITION TO THE MONOLOGUE, If they are interested in musical theatre, they are to prepare a song from musical theatre repertoire.

IN ADDITION TO THE MONOLOGUE, If they are interested in acting/drama, they are to prepare a 1 minute version of a fairytale in storytelling style. They are encouraged to have fun and make the story their own, using character voices, physical movement and their best storytelling efforts.

Scoring for students auditioning for grades 6-12:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide on the Theater department page at www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:

1 hour

Visual Arts

Part One: Online Artwork Submission (completed via the online magnet application)

Students applying for the Visual Arts Department at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 should submit the following three pieces from their art portfolio:

- A self-portrait in pencil done from observation (looking into a mirror) not from looking 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.

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

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Audition Requirements by Art Form

Part Two: In-person Audition

Applicants will be invited to participate in an in-person audition that includes a writing component, an on-site drawing component, and an interview/portfolio review. For this audition, they will need to bring a portfolio of artwork consisting of 10-15 pieces, which should include:

INCOMING 6-8

1. A self-portrait in pencil done from observation (looking into a mirror, not from a photograph).
2. A drawing done from observation – choose an object and draw it with pencil.
3. A painting in watercolor, acrylics, or oil paints. It may be done on paper, canvas, or Masonite board.
4. A three-dimensional work – a sculpture, ceramic work, or multi-media construction.
5. A project done in school under teacher direction.
6. A project done at home without adult input.

The remaining 4-9 pieces should be chosen to demonstrate the student's artistic interests and skills.

INCOMING 9 - 12

1. A detailed self-portrait drawn with pencil from observation, not a photograph.
2. 4 additional observational drawings - 2 in black and white with value (shading/grey scale), and 2 in color (colored pencil, marker, pastel):
3. A drawing of your hand.
4. A drawing of a view of your room.
5. A still life with a variety of objects including plants.
6. An outdoor environment.

4-10 additional artworks in other media: painting, photography, fiber arts, printmaking, ceramics, digital media, video, mixed media.

Students are highly encouraged to bring any sketchbooks they have completed and/or sketchbooks they are currently working on.

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

During the audition 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?
- What is your strongest piece? Why?
- What is your weakest piece? Why?
- What is your most recent piece?

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

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Audition Requirements by Art Form

Visual Arts (continued)

Questions might include (continued):

- 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?

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Visual Arts department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:

3 hours

Vocal Music

What to Expect:

On your audition day, you can expect a panel of at least three CAPA faculty members to listen to you sing. They look forward to hearing you, so relax and do your very best. In addition to requirements outlined below, the areas that we will be listening for are as follows:

- Presentation
- Breathing
- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Tone Quality
- Diction
- Intonation
- Dynamics

Middle School Audition Requirements (Incoming 6th–8th grade):

Students will sing one of the four songs: *Maybe* from *Annie*, *Edelweiss* from *The Sound of Music*, *My Favorite Things* from *The Sound of Music* or *Where Is Love* from *Oliver*. No other song is required, so the student should be well-prepared, and choose the song that best fits their voice.

In addition to the song selection, students will vocalize, match pitches played on the piano, echo various rhythm patterns, and be interviewed by the Vocal Department Faculty.

High School Audition Requirements (Incoming 9th –12th grade):

Students will be required to sing one of two songs: *Since I First Saw Your Face*, or *Ward the Pirate*. Students should choose the song that best fits their voice, and sing the song exactly as it is written.

The student will also be required to sing an additional piece of their choosing. The additional song can be in any style. Students will also perform pitch recognition exercises, complete a music theory assessment exam, and be interviewed by the Vocal Department Faculty. The music theory assessment does not count towards deciding whether or not the student will be recommended, but helps the staff with determining the student's background in the subject.

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Vocal department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.