

2026 Audition / Portfolio Review Information

Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology

(Applicants may adjudicate in only one focus area. Please keep this sheet for reference.)

SPECIFIC FOCUS AREA REQUIREMENTS

DANCE (2.5 hours in groups)

- Auditions will be held in a dance class format. Students will take a jazz warm-up, ballet and modern center movement combinations, and respond to improvisational movement prompts.
- Bring two photographs (4X6 or 5X7) of yourself in dance attire, one posed in first arabesque and one of your head and shoulders. Photographs will remain with adjudicators. These do not need to be professional photos.
- All students should wear audition attire. This may include leotard and tights or fitted T-shirt and fitted leggings. Wear no jewelry. Hair should be pulled away from the face and secured.
- Appropriate footwear includes any of the following: ballet slippers, jazz shoes, socks. Be prepared to dance barefoot for part of the audition. Specialized footwear (pointe shoes, tap shoes, flamenco shoes, etc.) may be worn when performing the optional solo.
- A brief individual interview will follow the audition class.
- [Optional] Prepare a 90-second solo in any dance style. Bring your music on an MP3 device (preferred) such as a cell phone or tablet; CD format is also acceptable. Sound equipment will be provided.

Dance applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Physicality (strength, flexibility, muscular endurance, coordination)

Artistry (fully embodies movement, accurately performs aesthetic elements of given movement combinations and differentiates between various movement styles, movement is rich in texture)

Technique (able to accurately perform movement vocabulary, musicality, efficient alignment in static and dynamic movement, articulate embodiment, effective use of space when traveling, groundedness/weight sensing)

Creative Application (Committed to movement being performed, Uses spontaneous, genuine movement, Explores new movement concepts, Inventive, Kinesthetically aware)

Verbal Skills (Clearly articulates commitment to the study of dance. Clearly articulates personal artistic goals. Uses effective verbal skills to discuss dance-related ideas.)

LITERARY ARTS (30 minutes)

- Students should create a portfolio consisting of 3-5 examples of their highest quality original creative writing in any of the following genres: poetry, fiction (short story, novella, novel), creative nonfiction (no research papers, book reports, informative essays, etc.), song lyrics, or a play/screenplay/monologue. Any questions about acceptable writing genres can be addressed to LitArts@args.us.
- We would like to see between 5 and 20 pages of creative writing.
- Due to the nature of the portfolio review, only a maximum of 20 pages can be reviewed. Students may include a summary for excerpts from longer work.
- The writing may be from different genres (ex. two poems, one short story and one play) or from one genre (ex. three poems or three short stories).
- The work should be typed and should not have peer or teacher comments.
- Please do not include graphics or decorative elements. Black words on a white background are ideal.
- The work should be the student's original writing.
- Artificial intelligence such as Chat GPT should not be used in the creation of the portfolio.
- At least 48 hours in advance of the assigned adjudication date, students should email their portfolio to LitArts@args.us. The portfolio may be shared as an attachment (Word, PDF, etc.), or pasted into the body of the email. PLEASE NOTE: Some school systems use email addresses that do not allow communication outside of the school system, which may require use of an alternate or parent/guardian email for communications.
- Students will receive a reply to acknowledge receipt of the portfolio.
- On the day of adjudication, the student should bring two printed portfolios and submit them to the registration desk upon arrival.
- The portfolios will not be returned.
- Please staple together the contents of the portfolio.
- Do NOT use folders or binders.
- On-site writing may be required.

Literary Arts applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Thought Process/Critical Thinking (Understands the vital connection between reading & writing. Reads often. Enjoys discussion of reading. Exhibits a knowledgeable / informed interest in literary arts / creative writing. Exhibits self-reflexivity and maturity.)

Motivation / Drive / Professionalism (Exhibits a dedication to craft. Verbalizes / expresses a passion for writing. Expresses a specific interest in ARGS. Understands the rigor of the ARGS program. Presents the portfolio in a professional manner, meeting all guidelines.)

Writing Process (Shows complexity of thought in regard to writing. Understands and/or utilizes a revision process. Reveals an openness to a workshop setting. Understands own work (portfolio pieces). Grasps grammar and mechanics appropriate to genre.)

Literary Technique (Strives for / achieves metaphor / simile. Uses original symbolism and/or imagery. Uses varied/complex syntax. Exhibits awareness of audience and purpose. Leaves impact/impression on reader.)

Creativity / Originality / Thought Process (Exhibits creativity in subject matter. Exhibits creativity in style. Devises original ideas. Chooses appropriate pieces for the portfolio that express depth of thought and purpose. Uses logical progression of ideas.)

MUSICAL ARTS

For all parents, guardians and counselors: All Adjudication Materials are posted online. Please note you must be signed onto your browser with a **NON-school account to access the audition materials on the website**. Most middle school web accounts limit access to data files not in their domain. Adults with questions should email music@args.us.

Visit: (in your browser, search "ARGS Musical Arts". The Admissions page is on a tab marked "Admissions" and has all Adjudication details for music. (<https://sites.google.com/args.us/instrumentalandvocalmusic/admissions>) for more details in each music area.

Please note:

- Applicants should choose only their strongest Musical Arts focus area strand (choose from instrumental, vocal, piano, or music technology).
- ARGS provides instruments on site for piano, harp and percussion. All other applicants must bring their own instrument to the audition.
- Accepted band students (woodwind, brass, percussion) will attend a pre-season music camp, usually held the week before school opens.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, Percussion, Guitar, Harp (15 minutes)

- Perform the provided required selection from the appropriate instrumental adjudication folder under "Auditions" for your instrument.
- Perform one selection of your choosing that showcases your best musical ability and preferred playing style. Limit 3 minutes.
 - Provide two (2) copies of sheet music for the adjudicators.
 - Provide your own accompaniment if needed.
- Perform scales, technical exercises, or chord progressions specified for your instrument (see link above)
- Demonstrate sight-reading ability.
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Instrumental Music applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Selection of appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics.)

Technique (Posture, Tone quality. Intonation. Rhythm/Time.)

Scales (Correct notes. Steady tempo. Tone quality. Articulation.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (Correct notes. Correct rhythms. Steady tempo. Theory Pre-test.)

Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Appreciates the importance of musical preparation. Projects poise and maturity. Honors ensemble experience.)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - Piano (15 minutes)

- Select and perform a selection from the suggested repertoire for piano (see the Piano Adjudication Materials folder under "Auditions")
- Perform from memory a second selection of your choosing of intermediate to advanced difficulty that showcases your best musical ability and preferred playing style. Limit 3 minutes.
 - Provide two (2) copies of sheet music for each selection for the adjudicators.
- Perform the following major [scales](#) (see link online), one from each fingering group (1, 2, and 3), hands together with accurate fingering, two (2) octaves up and down in a steady tempo: Suggested D-flat major, F major, C major
- Demonstrate sight-reading ability, hands together
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Piano applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Selection of appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics. Memorization.)

Technique (Posture. Hand position. Tone quality. Facility.)

Scales (Accuracy. Fingering. Steady tempo. Articulation.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (Correct notes, Correct rhythms, Steady tempo, Theory Pre-test)

Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Has an established practice routine. Projects poise and maturity. Demonstrates accomplished musicianship. Accompaniment experience.)

VOCAL MUSIC (15 minutes)

- Select and perform one selection from the required repertoire selections in the Vocal Adjudication Materials folder under "Auditions"). Follow the links online to access public domain sheet music and accompaniment MP3 files.
- Select and perform from memory an additional contrasting song of your choice that showcases your best musical ability. Provide two (2) copies of sheet music for this selection for the adjudicators. Provide live or recorded accompaniment as needed.
- Demonstrate poise and presence by introducing yourself and your selections, naming song titles and composers.
- Sing unaccompanied major and natural minor scales, one octave up and down and ending with a tonic triad, and starting from a given pitch in your singing range. Play the MP3 under "Vocal Adjudication Materials" to hear examples.
- Demonstrate vocal range, pitch matching, and sight-reading ability.
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Vocal Music applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Vocal appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics. Memorization.)

Technique (Singing posture. Tone quality. Intonation. Diction.)

Scales (Ear training – accurately matches pitches as played by instructor. Demonstrates vocal range.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (**Correct notes. Correct rhythms. Steady tempo. Theory Pre-test.**)

Overall Assessment (**Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Appreciates the importance of musical preparation. Projects poise and maturity. Demonstrates ensemble experience.**)

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (20 minutes) This focus area is designed for the student who is interested in recording, live sound, music business, and some aspects of music production.

- Complete an online resume of related skills, which could include:
 - a. A list of DAW and other audio software programs and apps with which the applicant has prior experience
 - b. A musical composition
 - c. Tracking, producing, editing, mixing, mastering
 - d. Outlining musical training and experience
- Upload a digital portfolio of audio and/or video work and projects an applicant has already completed related to music technology, which could include:
 - a. Piece of music you recorded, composed, and/or performed.
 - b. This should highlight the applicant's skills in music/music tech.
- Applicants who play an instrument or sing should also prepare the required piece for that instrument or voice - see *Instrumental or Vocal Music*.
- Applicants will be asked to submit a digital version of their portfolio (and prepared piece on their instrument) prior to the audition date. A google drive link and further instructions on how to upload your portfolio will be sent via email and will be from music@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled time.
- Demonstrate interest, skills, experience, creative mind
- Interview with adjudicators to present and discuss portfolio
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment and an in-person lesson/demonstration of sound system component assembly.

Music Tech applicants will be evaluated in the following areas:

Quality of Work/Portfolio - includes Performing Audition (if applicable) (10 points)

Resume (software applications & experience) (5 points)

Applied Skills (Prior knowledge of music and/or music technology - will include a lesson/demonstration & Theory pre-test) (5 points)

Overall Assessment (5 points) - Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Projects poise and maturity. Enthusiasm for learning basic piano keyboard skills and participation in an ARGS ensemble.

TECHNOLOGY (60 minutes)

- Student should be prepared to discuss interest, prior experiences, and future goals with technology experts.
- Portfolio to be brought with student should include a project that illustrates the student's knowledge of technology, engineering, or computer programming.
- Must bring backup of all files, included on a flash drive and/or accessible through the internet.
- If demonstrating an executable file, students must bring their own laptops.
- Students should be prepared to discuss their portfolio including details about the content and any processes used to create it.
- Math / Technology Assessment (30 minute test in addition to interview.)

Technology applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Knowledge of Engineering and/or Computer Science (Ability to describe the research / problem solving process. Understands the Engineering Process. Has genuine inclination for Engineering or Computer Science.)

Mathematics and Science (Expresses strong self-efficacy in math and science. Expresses positive attitudes toward math and science. Understands the importance of math and science in engineering and computer science.)

Communication Skills (Ability to communicate coherently & logically. Ability to think on one's feet and be comfortable in oral and written presentation. Comfortable in receiving critique or constructive criticism. Comfortable working in groups.)

Project or Presentation (Ability to clearly explain the project/presentation and adequately answer questions. Ability to identify and reflect on setbacks during the creation of the project/presentation. Was the project/presentation student's idea. Student based/made project.)

Math Assessment (Test score)

THEATRE ARTS

THEATRE TRACK (2 hours in groups)

- Audition will include improvisational theatre games, taught on-site.
- Applicants should dress so that they can comfortably move and stretch. Wear athletic shoes or shoes that grip the floor (or bring some to change into for the improvisation portion).
- Applicants are required to prepare two memorized monologues totaling 1 ½ (one and one-half) minutes (90 seconds).
- Monologue should be chosen from published works and should be text that is spoken by one character to another.
- You may edit the two monologues to fit into the 90 seconds however you prefer (45/45, 40/50, 30/60, etc.)
- Monologue must be appropriate, and its performance must show the applicant's vocal skills (projection, diction, expression), and physicality (stance, gestures)
- You can find your own monologue, or select from this source: [Monologues \(Male:Female\) Freshmen Juries 2025-26.pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10LkNRcnaj4wNng5_KCIFxzwz8RoAuwCk/view?usp=sharing)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/10LkNRcnaj4wNng5_KCIFxzwz8RoAuwCk/view?usp=sharing



- Applicants are not to use foreign dialects or wear costumes. Properties are not allowed.
- Applicants will be asked to record and upload your monologues on video. A google drive link and further instructions on how to upload your video will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled time.

Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Vocal Skills: Projection is good and relative to the space. Speech is appropriately articulate. Voice shows skillful variation of pitch, dynamics, and tone. Vocal nuance enhances the material.

Physicality: Gestures enhance and are motivated by the text. Facial expressions enhance and are motivated by the text. Stance is grounded or movement is motivated. Actor has an overall command of physicality.

Execution: Chosen monologues are suitable. Focus is maintained throughout piece. Timing (pace, beats, transitions, etc.) enhance the piece. Piece is rehearsed and presented with skill. Inner emotional life is evident.

Adjustments: Open to criticism. Responsive to adjustments.

Improvisation: Works collaboratively. Ideas are spontaneous. Ideas are engaging/interesting/unique.

TECHNICAL THEATRE TRACK (2 hours in groups)

- *Technical Theatre* applicants (those applying for the study of costumes, lighting, or scenery) will be required to participate in all the above activities except the monologue. In its place, the applicants must present and defend a technical theatre portfolio that shows evidence of completed technical models, or samples of work completed for a stage production or this adjudication. Materials do not have to have been used in support of an actual production, but the applicant should be prepared to discuss and defend the work for its appropriateness to the stage production the work is intended to support.
- Applicants will be asked to submit a digital version of their portfolio prior to the audition date. A google drive link and further instructions on how to upload your portfolio will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled time.

Technical Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following four areas:

Improvisation: Works collaboratively. Ideas are spontaneous. Ideas are engaging/interesting/unique.

Presentation and Communication Skills: Ability to communicate coherently & logically. Originality of ideas. Ability to think on one's feet and be comfortable in orally presenting material. Comfortable in receiving critique or constructive criticism. Presents portfolio in a professional manner.

Quality of Work: Attention to Detail. Objective is clearly met through work. Use of materials: Designs – Lines and colors are complementary and/or enhances work.

Overall Assessment: Articulate about work during interview. Professional portfolio presentation. Demonstrates a passion for Theatre. Comfortable in receiving critique.

MUSICAL THEATRE TRACK (2.5 hours in groups)

- Audition will include improvisational theatre games, taught on-site.
- Applicants should dress so that they can comfortably move and stretch.
- For the dance performance, applicants will be taught a dance sequence as a group. No previous dance training is required.
- Applicants should wear athletic shoes or shoes that grip the floor. Dance shoes are recommended but not required.
- For the vocal performance, prepare one song, memorized, no longer than 1 minute. The song can be from any genre other than spoken word (e.g., Broadway, gospel, jazz, folk, etc.).
- Bring either an audio accompaniment (MP3 audio file without vocals) or piano sheet music for the live accompanist. A pianist will be available to play for those with sheet music, though you may bring your own personal

- accompanist if desired. Make sure the sheet music is in the right key.
- No selections may be sung a cappella.

For the acting performance, prepare one monologue, no longer than 45 seconds.

- Monologue should be chosen from published works and should be text that is spoken by one character to another.
- Monologue must be appropriate, and its performance must show the applicant's vocal skills (projection, diction, expression), and physicality (stance, gestures)
- Applicants are not to use foreign dialects or wear costumes. Properties are not allowed.
- You can find your own monologue, or select from this source: [Monologues \(Male:Female\) Freshmen Juries 2025-26.pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10LkNRcnaj4wNng5_KCIFxzwz8RoAuwCk/view?usp=sharing)
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/10LkNRcnaj4wNng5_KCIFxzwz8RoAuwCk/view?usp=sharing



- Applicants are not to use foreign dialects or wear costumes. Properties are not allowed.
- Students will be scored for dancing, singing, and acting.
- Applicants will be asked to record and upload your song on video. A google drive link and further instructions on how to upload your video will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled time.

Musical Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Vocal Quality: Music selection appropriate for voice. Rhythm and pitch of tune are accurate. Tone quality is musical and consistent. Diction enhances the piece. Vocal interpolations enhance the piece. Can accurately sing back a series of pitches.

Vocal Performance: Focus is maintained throughout the piece. Stance is grounded or movement is motivated. Singer conveys text or character with expression and physicality.

Movement Skills: Uses space effectively. Demonstrates good coordination. Executes movement in time with music. Connected to style or mood.

Monologue: Chosen monologue is suitable. Focus is maintained throughout the piece. Piece is rehearsed, and presented with skill. Timing (pace, beats, transitions, etc.) enhance the piece. Inner emotional life is evident. Responsive to adjustments.

Improvisation: Works collaboratively. Ideas are spontaneous. Ideas are engaging/interesting/unique.

VISUAL ARTS (25 minutes)

- Applicants will be required to draw (10 minutes) on-site, from observation, a still-life study as part of their adjudication.
- Students must bring a portfolio of 10-15 pieces of their most recent artwork- and should include both finished pieces and sketchbooks. Of the 10 -15 artworks, 3 pieces must meet the following criteria: one drawing must be of a corner of an interior room, the 2nd drawing must include a still-life arrangement that includes three (3) kitchen objects, and the 3rd drawing must include a personal object.
- Artwork may be 2-dimensional (drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, computer art, etc.) or 3-dimensional (sculpture, mobiles, crafts, architectural models, ceramics, fashion, etc.). Artworks may have made in art class, a summer exploration program, or on one's own. Artwork too large to bring to site can be presented in photographs, or on a digital device.
- Drawings from observation are preferred, rather from images on the Internet or from photographs. Examples include: still-life studies, landscapes, portraits, or interior scenes. Drawings done in a cartoon/ anime/ manga style or as a game character development are permitted but limited to three (3) artworks.
- Select work that demonstrates originality, creativity, and skill in the use of materials and techniques, ideas/ content, subject matter, consistency, and craftsmanship.
- A simple portfolio case made of two pieces of stiff cardboard, held together with tape or twine is adequate. Pieces of plain blank paper can be used to separate the works. Include your name, address, telephone number, grade, and current school written in clearly printed block letters on the outside of the portfolio. Label any photographs to identify those that are digital or processed by a commercial lab or those self-processed in a darkroom.

Visual Arts applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Technique / Skills (Design cohesiveness. Proficiency in skills. Variety of media techniques. Sketchbook / Idea development. Craftsmanship.)

Artistic Vision (Originality in approach. Openness to experimentation. Curiosity. Creative composition. Individual expression.)

Drawing Exercise (Ability to create composition. Consistency with shown portfolio. Understanding of underlying forms. Interpretation of prompt. Line quality and control.)

Content / Theme (Appropriate subject matter. Clarity of ideas / intent. Historical / personal context. Cross-disciplinary connections. Depth of exploration.)

Overall Assessment (Articulate about work during interview. Professional portfolio presentation. Demonstrates a passion for art. Comfortable in receiving critique. General knowledge of visual arts.)