

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form

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 Two: In-person Audition for Invited Students

Based on faculty review of artwork portfolios, only select applicants will be invited to attend an audition.

Visual art portfolios will be evaluated based on technical skill and artistic style, originality and creativity, the ability to respond to a given prompt, and the effective use of visual storytelling and expressive elements in the artwork. The incoming visual arts classes will be selected from students invited to attend the portfolio review. Selected applicants will be notified in writing and should plan to participate in the visual arts audition. Invited applicants will 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. *Students are highly encouraged to bring any sketchbooks they have completed and/or sketchbooks they are currently working on.*

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.*

Audition requirements continue on the next page.

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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?
- 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