



# Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

THE AVPA IS FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN VISUAL AND/OR PERFORMING ARTS AND ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ART-RELATED FIELDS.

Students choose their AVPA strand: Performing, Visual, or Mixed (Performing & Visual).

## How to APPLY for the AVPA

- Go to [clarenceschools.org](http://clarenceschools.org) → Schools → High School → Academies → Arts Academy → Application
- Fill out short form
- Application due date is 2/13/26

See Mr. Merlihan (performing) or Ms. Giglia (visual) with any questions.

## Program Requirements:

Grade Level	Art/Music Credits (1/2 year courses = .5 credit)	Extracurricular Committments	Seminars (Guest Speakers)	Arts Awareness (2 of these will be field trips)
10th	1	2	2	4
11th	2	2	2	4
12th	2	2	2	4 + Senior Practicum

Students must also maintain a professional practice by showing artwork or performing outside of school.

## Professional Practice

### Visual Arts:

Students must show their respective work outside of the school building one time per academic calendar year and maintain a continuing presence on social media and/or a website.

### Performing Arts:

Students will perform either an ECMEA All-County or an NYSSMA All-State solo audition once per academic year.

## Courses

**9th** - enroll in 1 full credit

**10th** - enroll in 1 full credit

**11th** - enroll in 2 full credits

**12th** - enroll in 2 full credits

## **Visual Arts Courses**

Studio Art  
Creative Crafts I (.5)  
Creative Crafts II (.5)  
Ceramics (.5)  
Drawing & Painting I  
Drawing & Painting II  
AP Drawing  
Photography I (.5)  
Photography II (.5)  
Digital Drawing & Illustration (.5)  
Digital Animation (.5)

## **Performing Arts Courses**

Concert Band  
Symphonic Band  
Wind Ensemble  
Concert Orchestra  
Symphonic Orchestra  
Mixed Chorus  
Treble Chorus  
Chorale  
AP Music Theory  
Vocal Jazz  
Unified Music (.5)  
Acting & Directing (.5)  
Writing for the Stage & Screen (.5)

## **Extracurricular Commitments**

**AVPA members must be an active participant in any 2 of these below during 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Art Partners	Jazz Ensemble
National Art Honor Society	Vocal Jazz
Yearbook Club	Marching Band
Stage Crew	Pit Orchestra
Makeup Crew	Fall Play (audition)
Costume Crew	Musical (audition)

## **Seminars**

**Academy students will attend two yearly seminars/ organizational meetings to be held in the spring and fall.** The seminar will feature visiting professionals working in the visual and performing arts, showcasing their respective careers and expertise.

Students will create a write-up after listening to the guest speaker and will submit it to Schoology.

## **Arts Awareness**

**AVPA members must complete 4 arts awareness experiences each year (2 per semester).** A one-page reflection about the experience will be submitted to Schoology. Students will go on a field trip each semester, which will each count as an Arts Awareness.

### Examples:

- Buffalo AKG Art Museum
- Burchfield Penney Art Museum
- College Art Exhibition Opening
- Music is Art Festival
- Comic Convention
- Orchestra Concert at Kleinhans
- Live Band Performance
- Musical at Shea's
- Buffalo Stringworks Concert

## **Senior Practicum**

**Seniors in the academy will present their artwork or perform in the recital at the annual Clarence High School Celebration of the Arts Showcase.** Certificates and graduation stoles will be presented.