

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

Applicants will be invited to participate in an in person audition and will need to bring to their audition 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.

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form | 2026-27 School Year

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