

WELCOME FAMILIES

CAPA Literary Arts
Department



AGENDA

Program Overview

Sample Schedule

Program Highlights and Accomplishments

Application Requirements

Preparation for your Audition

What to Expect on Audition Day



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Literary
Arts
program,
7-year
Curricula

COURSE OF STUDY—GRADE 6—FOUNDATIONAL WRITING



Reading Like a Writer with an Emphasis on Grammar provides young literary artists with a strong foundation in the tools of writing, so that they can learn to read a variety of texts through the lens of a writer. Students will engage in reading, writing, and sharing exercises as well as learning essential proofreading skills.



Playing with Language provides young literary artists an exploration of how language is used across genres to create lively, detailed works of creative writing. Reading, writing and sharing work will be ongoing activities as students use creative word play to explore the options of language through imagination and creativity.



The Tools of Poetry exposes young literary artists to poetry and will build on the young writer's natural abilities of metaphor making and imaginative word play. Writing exercises will emphasize noticing the world through a poet's eye, image making, and experimenting with form.



The Tools of Fiction introduces young literary artists to fiction writing with an emphasis on narrative description, plot and character. Students engage in writing and revision, supported by readings that model elements of craft. All students develop speaking and feedback skills through classroom presentations. Independent reading is an ongoing expectation to deepen students' appreciation and understanding of the genre.

COURSE OF STUDY—GRADE

*Introduction
to Poetry*

*Refining the
Tools of
Fiction*

*Introduction
to
Playwriting*

*Experiments
in Writing*

COURSE OF STUDY—8TH GRADE

*Linking Poetry, Music, and the
Visual Arts*

From the Page to the Stage

*Stories of Real Life: Introduction to
Nonfiction*

Writing in the Community



HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Ninth grade

- Fiction 1
- Playwriting 1
- Journalism
- Poetry 1

Tenth grade

- Fiction 2
- Screenwriting 1
- Creative Nonfiction 1
- Poetry 2

Eleventh grade

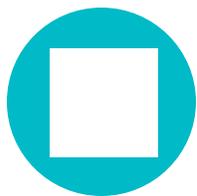
- Fiction 3
- Playwriting 2
- Creative Nonfiction 2
- Poetry 3

Twelfth grade

- Fiction 4
- Screenwriting 2
- Creative Nonfiction 3
- Poetry 4

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

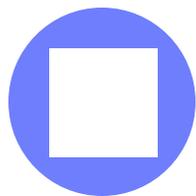
CAPA CREATIVE WRITERS ARE RECOGNIZED BOTH ON THE NATIONAL AND REGION LEVEL.



BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



SCHOLASTIC
PORTFOLIO AWARD IN
WRITING



SCHOLASTIC WRITING
AWARDS FOR FICTION,
POETRY, NONFICTION,
AND PLAYWRITING



CMU'S MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. WRITING
AWARDS



PITTSBURGH NEW
WORKS CHILDREN'S
FESTIVAL



THE CITY THEATRE'S
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS
FESTIVAL



COVETED SPOTS IN THE
RALPH MUNN CREATIVE
WRITING ANTHOLOGY,
INCLUDING FIRST PLACE
WINS



THE HEINZ
ENDOWMENT'S HIGH
SCHOOL WRITING
AWARDS.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Off-site Essay

Students must craft one short essay which answers all of the questions for your chosen art department as seen on the Magnet Office website. Submit your essay via the online application by the deadline (for 2026-27=Friday, February 13 @ 5 PM).

Remember: Essays have a strong introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. All essays must be typed using Times New Roman, 12 pt font, and should not include images

Please include a heading on this essay in the upper left-hand corner which includes:

Your name

Art department for which you are applying

Grade you will enter in 2026-27

WRITING PORTFOLIO

Students applying for the Literary Arts department should submit a writing portfolio which includes:

- **Neighborhood Essay**—maximum of 750 words, describe in vivid detail, the neighborhood you come from. Be sure to give your writing a creative title.
- **Free Choice of Creative Writing**—writing in any genre which represents you and your best work. One piece of prose (fiction or nonfiction) writing not for a school assignment, of 1-10 pages in length OR 2-3 poems with a minimum of 25-lines per poem.

Include a cover sheet with the portfolio which includes the student's name, date, and the titles of the creative work. The student's name should only appear on the cover sheet and not on the submitted work. Please note that student writing will not be returned. The portfolio deadline is the same day as the magnet application deadline. Missing segments means the application will not be considered for acceptance.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION...

Students should be prepared to engage in the following activities during the audition for the Literary Arts Department:

- To talk about yourself and your work and answer the question: why CAPA?
- Participate actively in the audition. We WANT you to talk. It is essential to talk during the audition.
- Reading the piece of writing you will share with the audition panel. Be familiar and comfortable with reading your writing (the one submitted with your application)
- To write a creative response to a prompt after reading and discussing a piece of literature.
- Ask questions!



**FIND JOY IN THE AUDITION PROCESS. THIS IS THE
CHANCE TO BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU CREATE!**

ANY QUESTIONS?

