Artistically Gifted and Talented Program

Orangeburg County School District Artistic Gifted and Talented Program:

(Aligned with III. Artistic of the SC Regulation 43-220)

The Orangeburg County Summer Arts Academy

The Orangeburg County Summer Arts Academy for Gifted and Talented students is a resource provided for students that attend school in Orangeburg County School District. The Arts Academy sponsors an intense and exciting four-week summer program.

The four-week summer session is designed to serve 125 students in the areas of visual arts, drama, dance, and vocal and instrumental music.
The program is financed by state funds for gifted and talented education.

Eligible Candidates

125 artistically gifted and talented students in grades four through eleven from Orangeburg County School District, Calhoun County School District and Felton Laboratory Charter School, are eligible to be potential candidates for the five-week summer program.

The Selection Process

The selection process begins during the first semester of each school year. Potential candidates are nominated by teachers and/or parents.

Three screenings are held. The first screening is done at the school level before winter break. The second screening is conducted on the district level in February. Final auditions, usually held in March, are designed to select the students that will participate in the five-week Summer Arts Academy. Requirements for the screening process include performance, improvising, sight-reading, portfolio presentation/ impromptu drawing (depending on the visual art area) and a personal interview. (*Rating sheets are displayed below.)*

The Four Week Summer Session

Students will spend five weeks of intense study in their arts area. The program includes class work, performances, guest artists, field trips, unique events, and participation in the Academy Showcase at the end of the five-week session.

The Staff

The staff is made up of professional artists, outstanding teachers, and a Summer Arts Academy Lead teacher. The staff members create the curriculum, teach

classes, direct, conduct, and provide any other duties that will provide students with rigorous experiences.

Selected Candidates
The summer session is usually held from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Students chosen for the program must make a commitment to attend all five weeks. On the last day of the summer session, a culminating activity featuring all students who participated in the summer session will be presented.

GOALS
Provide artistically gifted and talented students concentrated experiences in their art areas.

- Give students an opportunity to learn how all the arts areas are related.
- Provide opportunities for students to meet professional artists, travel to places that will enhance their individual talents and interests.
- Develop career awareness of all the arts areas.
- Develop communication skills in the arts.
- Provide opportunities for artistically gifted and talented students to share, communicate, and fraternize with other students with similar talents and interest.
- Present a culminating activity to the community that highlights young artists in Orangeburg and Calhoun counties.

As a result of participation in this program, we want our students to leave with these enhanced qualities.

INTEGRITY - the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

SELF DIRECTED - or guided by oneself, especially as an independent agent:

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE - is when someone can think about a situation as it relates to the rest of the world.

PERSEVERENCE - persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

WORK ETHIC- the principle that demanding work is intrinsically virtuous or worthy of reward.

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS - are the behaviors and tactics a person uses to interact with others effectively

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ARTISTICALLY GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

Parent/Teacher/Student Nomination Form and Rating Sheets

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers and Students:

Orangeburg County Schools Visual and Performing Arts Department will begin its selection process to identify students from grades 4-11 for participation in the Summer Arts Academy. This program is designed for students artistically gifted and talented in music, dance, theater, and/or visual arts. Typical characteristics of students who will be enrolled in this program are:

- interested in drama, music, dance, and/or visual art.
- initiate unique ideas and responses.
- sensitive to their environment.
- observe the unusual (that which may be overlooked by others).
- willing to try new activities.
- follow through in work that initially excites them.

To participate in the Summer Arts Academy, students must be nominated and then undergo a three-round screening process (school-level, district-level and final screening). Your child's art or music teacher will notify him/her of when the first round will take place. Because you can observe special interests, skills, and qualities of your child in a non-school setting and if you believe that your child possesses the special characteristics listed above, please complete this nomination form.

Should your child successfully complete the audition process and enroll in the program, parents/guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from classes each day, if district transportation is not provided. Details regarding dates, location and time of the program will be shared with parents and students who qualify. All forms must be completed and returned to your child's MUSIC OR ART TEACHER (or to the designated person at their school).

Thank you,

Johnnie Smith
OCSD Coordinator of Fine Arts, P.E. and Health Education
6030 Slab Landing Road
Cope, South Carolina 29038
Office - 803 -534-8081

SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY
PARENT – TEACHER - STUDENT NOMINIATION FORM

Nomination Window:

October 26, 2026 - November 20, 2026

Complete this QR code **or** fill out and return this form.



Student Nominated by: _____Parent _____Self _____Teacher

Student's Name: _____ Shirt Size: _____

Current Grade Level: _____ School's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Telephone ( )_____ Other Contact# ( ) _____

Area of Interest: (Please check the ONE area)

_____Visual Arts

_____Dance

_____ Drama

_____ Vocal

_____ Instrument; which instrument? _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE OF CONSENT FOR SON/DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUDITION PROCESS

_____ _____

(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE) *(DATE)*