Visual Arts

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.

Artwork is uploaded within the online application. 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 if 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. An artwork completed in school under teacher direction.
6. An artwork completed at home without adult input.

The remaining 4-9 pieces should be chosen to demonstrate the student's artistic interests and skills.

Sketchbooks (completed or in progress) are highly encouraged.

INCOMING 9 - 12

1. A detailed self-portrait drawn with pencil from observation, not a photograph.
2. Four additional observational drawings – TWO in black and white with shading/value and TWO in color (colored pencil, marker, or pastel). Include each subject below:
   - Your hand
   - A view of your room
   - A still life with various objects, including plants
   - An outdoor environment

4-10 additional artworks in other media, such as painting, photography, fiber arts, printmaking, ceramics, digital media, video, mixed media.

Sketchbooks (completed or in progress) are highly encouraged. Select current, original work that represents your best efforts; include preliminary drawings when available.

Note: The three online submissions are listed separately from the 10–15-piece portfolio brought to the audition; artwork may overlap between the two.

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Visual Arts (continued)

Part Three: In-person Portfolio Discussion & Interview

Be prepared to talk with Visual Arts faculty about your artwork, creative process, interests, and reasons for applying to CAPA.

RESOURCES

The following resources offer helpful guidance:

- **How to Create an Excellent Observational Drawing: 11 Tips for High School Art Students**
- **How to Make an Observational Drawing — Tutorial**
- **CAPA Audition Overview Information for Visual Arts**

If you are unable to access the links via this document, please visit the Visual Arts page of the CAPA website at https://www.pghschools.org/about/enrollment/capa-registration/capa-visual-arts to access the links directly.

Scoring:
Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Visual Arts department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:
3 hours