Pittsburgh CAPA 6−12 Audition Process | 2027-28 School Year

Essay

Applicants to Pittsburgh CAPA are required to submit an essay along with their application. Students should respond to the following questions by crafting one short essay that answers all of the questions for their chosen art department. Essays should be submitted via the online application by the deadline for first-round auditions. Remember that essays have a strong introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion that leaves the reader with a thought or idea to ponder. Please include a heading on this essay in the upper left-hand corner that includes: your name, art department applying to, and the grade you will enter in the 2027–28 school year. All essays should be typed using 12 pt. font and should not include any images. Students applying for one art form should submit one essay. Students applying for two art forms should submit two essays – one for each art form.

A. Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12 is a community of artists in dance, literary arts, piano, production technology, theater, visual arts, vocal and instrumental music. Why do YOU want to be an artist?

B. Choose your area of interest and answer the following specific questions within your essay:

- **Dance:**
  Applicants to grades 6-8: What dance genres have you studied and with whom? How long have you studied dance? What area of dance most interests you and why? Where do you see yourself with dance in the next 3 years?
  Applicants to grades 9-12: What dance genres have you studied and with whom? How long have you studied dance? What area of dance most interests you and why? Describe a work, project, performance, or creative experience that has been significant to you in your chosen art form. What ideas or intentions guided your approach, what challenges did you encounter, and how did the experience influence your understanding of your work?
- **Instrumental Music:** Describe your experience with music so far. How did you first become interested in playing an instrument, and what experiences have shaped your musical journey? Share what playing an instrument means to you and where you see yourself as a musician in the future.
- **Literary Arts:** Describe a book, poem, play or other piece of writing that has influenced you or made you think differently about writing. How does the piece you chose connect to the type of writer you hope to become? What do you think it will take to get there?
- **Piano:** Who or what is your inspiration for playing the piano? How do you see yourself using your piano skills in the future?
- **Production Technology:** What experiences have you had with plays, music, or dance? Think about a performance you participated in or attended. What was the most interesting part of it?
- **Theatre:**
  Applicants to grades 6-8: Why do you want to study theater at CAPA? What do you hope to contribute to a community of students who share your interest in theater, and what would you like to learn from being part of the CAPA theater community? What do you imagine your CAPA theater experience would be like?

  Applicants to grades 9-12: Why is theater important to you? Share any previous experiences you've had with theater. While we celebrate performing at CAPA, the majority of the time is spent training as a theater artist. What skills do you hope to develop through advanced training at CAPA, and how do you envision using your theater skills and knowledge in the future?

- **Visual Arts:**

  Applicants to grades 6-8: Artists often find inspiration in the world around them, from everyday experiences and personal interests to things they imagine or questions they want to explore. Describe something that has inspired you to create art or that you would like to explore through art. How would you approach turning that idea into an artwork, and what skills, materials, or techniques would you like to learn at CAPA?

  Applicants to grades 9-12 for Visual Art: Artists develop their work by exploring ideas, experimenting with materials and processes, and making intentional creative decisions. Describe an idea, subject, or question that you find compelling and would like to investigate through your artwork. Discuss how you might approach developing this idea visually, what challenges or new approaches you might encounter, and how studying visual art at CAPA could help you expand your artistic practice.

  Applicants to grade 9 for Cinema and Media Arts: Films, videos, photographs, and digital media have the ability to communicate ideas, tell stories, and shape how we understand the world. Think of a film, video, photograph, or other media experience that made a lasting impression on you. What made it effective or memorable? If you were given the opportunity to create your own film or media project, what story, idea, or subject would you want to explore, and how might you use images, sound, editing, or other creative tools to communicate it?

- **Vocal Music:**

  Applicants to grades 6-8: Why do you want to study Vocal Music at CAPA? What do you hope to contribute to a community of students who share your interest in the arts, and what would you like to learn from being part of that community?

  Applicants to grades 9-12: Why do you want to study Vocal Music at CAPA? What do you hope to contribute to a community of students who share your interest in the arts, and what would you like to learn from being part of that community? Please tell us in detail if you have any career aspirations to pursue music professionally.

Please Note

Students may audition for no more than two art departments. When applying to more than one art department, students must submit separate essays for each art form, and obtain separate artistic recommendations for each art form. For general questions or concerns regarding the audition requirements or application process, please contact the specific art chair listed below. All general inquiries about the application process can be sent to capaapplication@pghschools.org or the magnet office at the magnet office at magnetoffice@pghschools.org.

Auditions
Art departments plan to conduct auditions for qualifying applicants on Saturday, January 30 and on Saturday, February 6, 2027. Students will receive confirmation via an Audition Ticket. Audition tickets will arrive via e-mail to the e-mail address provided on the online magnet application. Audition requirements can be found online at www.pghschools.org/caparegistration and rubrics are available for review under each department's website.

Notification Process
Following the audition, all applicants will receive notification of their status for admission to Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12 in writing via e- mail from the magnet office. Applicants may be accepted, denied admission, or placed on a waiting list. Students placed on the waiting list will be notified if space becomes available. Waiting lists for the 2027–28 school year are maintained through the beginning of the new school year (mid-September). Students who are not accepted by that time may reapply during the next application period.

Dance Telephone: 412.529.6100 E-mail: emorton1@pghschools.org	**Production Technology** Telephone: 412.529.6135 E-mail: pdeleone1@pghschools.org
Instrumental Music Telephone: 412.529.6100 E-mail: aabadilla1@pghschools.org	**Theatre** Telephone: 412.529.6121 E-mail: mfuller1@pghschools.org
Literary Arts Telephone: 412.529.6100 E-mail: ebosser1@pghschools.org	**Visual Arts** Telephone: 412.529.6129 E-mail: spultz2@pghschools.org
Piano Telephone: 412.529.6100 E-mail: jkurutz1@pghschools.org & afink1@pghschools.org	**Vocal Music** Telephone: 412.529.6100 E-mail: jkendeall1@pghschools.org

Pittsburgh Public Schools

Para asistencia con este documento en español, por favor llame a la línea nueve al 412-529-6463 y seleccione la opción #1.
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Чтобы получить помощь по этому документу на русском языке, пожалуйста позвоните в линию 412-529-6463 и нажмите #8.

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