

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

September 2016

Dear Parent and Student:

Baltimore School for the Arts will be holding auditions in dance, instrumental music, vocal, theatre, stage design and production, and visual arts for current 8th and 9th grade students from January 23-26, 2017, for admission in September 2018. A student may audition in one or two art areas.

Information to help you prepare for the audition is attached. **Students are selected based solely on the audition and interview process. Baltimore School for the Arts does not consider recommendations or student records, nor are student records or recommendations consulted.**

The only information required for an audition is a completed and signed application. **Completed applications must be returned to Baltimore School for the Arts by Wednesday, November 22, 2016. FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. We are unable to confirm receipt of your application by phone or email. A post card will be mailed the first week of December acknowledging receipt of your application. You may send applications by certified mail if you need an immediate receipt.**

All appointment letters will be mailed by the last week of December 2016. If your child has not received an appointment letter by January 4, 2017, please call 443.642.5167 between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm. Please do not leave messages on the school's answering system concerning auditions.

Non-Baltimore City residents who are accepted for admission must pay tuition. Tuition is set by the Baltimore City Board of Education. Tuition for the current 2016-2017 school year is \$6,510 per year. Tuition is subject to change.

Your envelope containing only the application should be addressed as follows:

**Baltimore School for the Arts
c/o Lisa Peels
712 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201**

All letters of acceptance or non-acceptance will be mailed by February 20, 2017.

DANCE AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

How must I prepare for the dance audition?

Applicants must prepare and rehearse a solo dance in any style, between 1-1/2 and 2 minutes. The importance of rehearsing your solo cannot be overstated. A CD or music file downloaded on an MP3, IPOD, or phone must be used. There is no internet access in the studios, so **music on the internet can't be accessed**. Music on a DVD is not accepted. If a CD is used, have only the music for the audition on the CD or use a commercial CD that we can stop at the appropriate time.

What will I do during the dance audition?

1. **Dance Audition Registration:** When called, applicants will register and each student will change into his or her audition class attire and be given an identifying audition number.
2. **A Brief Dance Movement Class:** Applicants will be directed by a BSA instructor in a brief dance movement class. Previous dance training is not necessary to follow the instructor's directions.
3. **Student Solo:** After the class, each student will perform a solo dance in any style between 1-1/2 and 2 minutes. The music for the solo dance must be instrumental music only, no vocals or lyrics. The music is provided by the applicant. Movie themes provide a good source of instrumental music.
4. **The whole audition process may take up to three hours.**

What must I wear for the dance audition?

For Girls: leotard and light-colored dance tights

For Boys: dark dance tights

Tight-fitting, mid-thigh shorts (spandex or lycra) and a **close fitting tee shirt** are accepted for both boys and girls. Ballet slippers or socks should be worn. **No pointe shoes. Loose fitting clothing such as sweatpants should not be worn. Legs must be clearly visible. Girls' hair should be securely pinned back off the face and neck. No jewelry is to be worn.**

What factors are considered by the dance judges?

Flexibility, coordination, presentation, musicality, and the ability to follow the directions and demonstrations during the class and the solo presentation will be the factors considered for acceptance. **Should the judges decide that it is not necessary to see the entire solo, they will stop the applicant.** This means they have observed enough to make a judgment and is not an indication of acceptance or non-acceptance.

Is previous dance training necessary to be accepted?

The dance jury considers the **dance potential** of each applicant. Previous training or the lack of training is **not** a determining factor in acceptance to the program.

What happens if you are late for the audition?

Latecomers will not be admitted for the dance audition.