

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.

Stage Design and Production Program Audition Instructions

The audition interview will consist of four parts

1. A brief **written response**
2. A short **drawing** done on site at the school
3. **Home project**
4. An **interview** with a review of previous work that the student has brought to show

Written Response

Applicants will write a brief paragraph in response to a question.

Drawing Exercise

Applicants will be asked to do a short drawing exercise to evaluate visual skills. All materials will be provided. The drawing will be of a small object. Students will have five minutes to complete the drawing.

Home Project (bring this with you to the audition)

Choose a fairy tale, folk tale, traditional story, or fable. (*Suggested possible stories: Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel, Br'er Rabbit, John Henry, Tortoise & Hare, Ali Babba, Princess & the Pea, Robin Hood, Noah and the Flood, Anansi the Spider.*)

Imagine you are presenting this story as a play for an audience. (Try to imagine it differently than a movie or TV show that you might have seen). Do **ONE** of the following and bring it with you to the interview:

- Make a drawing or painting color of how the set for this play would appear
- Make a model of how the set would appear
- Make a drawing or painting in color of how two of the main characters would appear

The Interview

Applicants should be prepared to discuss:

1. Your background and interest in the following areas:
 - Costumes
 - Set Design and Construction
 - Scene Painting
 - Stage Lighting
 - Sound Production and Engineering
 - Stage Management
 - Film/Video Production
2. Any related skills such as: carpentry, sewing, painting, electronics, musical engineering, handicrafts, photography
3. Be prepared to answer the question, "Why do you want to train in this program?"

Presentation of Past Work

The school is aware that students in the 8th and 9th grades are not likely to have had extensive experience in stage or film/video production. Applications should bring with them examples of their past work such as:

- Drawings or photographs of scenery, props, costumes, or puppets on which the student has worked
- Production/prompt books or cue sheets from a show
- Craft projects
- Tech Ed Projects
- Planning drawings for a project
- A few examples of your best art work
- Examples of sewing
- Short video samples (We will be able to review no more than 2 minutes of video.)

Letters of Verification

Applicants may bring letters from teachers, directors, or supervisors that verify and describe their experience in producing the performing arts.

Students will be evaluated based on motivation, enthusiasm, the quality of previous work, and on how students have used the opportunities available to them.