

## 2021-22 School Profile Baltimore School for the Arts

**The School:** The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) is an urban public high school established in 1980 to create opportunities for talented students who aspire to careers in the arts. BSA offers pre-professional training in dance, film, music, theater, stage design and production, and the visual arts, along with a rigorous college preparatory academic program. BSA was designed to meet the need for in-depth training at an early age.

BSA has been recognized as one of the top five public arts high schools in the country, and is consistently ranked the top public high school in Baltimore City by *U.S. News & World Report*.

**Admissions & Program of Study:** Students are admitted to BSA solely on the basis of an audition or portfolio review to one of six major areas of study: dance, film, music, theater, stage design and production, or visual arts. The program of study includes a curriculum of college-preparatory academics and intensive arts training. Participating in an extended school day – 8:15 am to 4:15 pm – students spend half of each day, four or five periods, in academic study and half of each day, four or five periods, in an art discipline.

**Student Body:** In 2021, approximately 90% of BSA's students come from Baltimore City and 10% from the seven counties surrounding Baltimore and from the District of Columbia. In 2021, 53% of students are African American, 38% are white, 6% are Latino, 2% are Asian, and 2% represent other races. About 25% of our students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. In addition, 30% of the class of 2022 will be first-generation college students. The diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and racial mix of students is a special quality of the school.

**Enrollment:** In 2021-22, Baltimore School for the Arts has an enrollment of roughly 430 students in grades 9 to 12. There are 98 seniors in the class of 2022. The average academic class size is 25 students.

**Faculty:** There are about 40 full-time and 90 part-time faculty members who together provide rigorous training in the arts and academic programs. The core of the arts faculty is composed of distinguished professional actors, dancers, filmmakers, musicians, and visual artists who teach at the school on a part-time basis, providing a critical link between the BSA students and the professional arts world.

**Curriculum & Requirements:** A minimum of 21 credits is required by the state of Maryland for graduation. In order to be eligible for a Baltimore School for the Arts diploma, a student must meet the annual requirements of the specific arts department and complete the following academic courses:

- 4 credits in English
- 4 credits in Mathematics
- 3 credits in Science
- 3 credits in Social Studies
- 1/2 credit in Health
- 2 credits in a foreign language
- 1/2 credit in Health
- 1/2 credit in Phys. Ed.
- 1 credit in Technology

The academic program includes honors-level courses in English, Spanish, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, World History, and U.S. History. AP classes in American Government, English Composition, English Literature, Calculus, Spanish Language & Culture, Seminar, and Research are also offered. Each arts department has an intensive pre-professional program designed to give the student a broad-based background. Courses include Music Theory, Music Literature, and Art History. Students in Music Theory and Art History are prepared for the AP exams.

**Grading\*:** A 100-point, 4.0 unweighted, and 5.0 weighted scale is used with a passing grade of 60. Weighted: AP = +1.50, Honors = +1.0

The academic grade scale is as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A+:</b> 97-100, 4.0</li> <li>● <b>A:</b> 93-96, 4.0</li> <li>● <b>A-:</b> 90-92, 4.0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>B+:</b> 87-89, 3.0</li> <li>● <b>B:</b> 83-86, 3.0</li> <li>● <b>B-:</b> 80-82, 3.0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>C+:</b> 77-79, 2.0</li> <li>● <b>C:</b> 73-76, 2.0</li> <li>● <b>C-:</b> 70-72, 2.0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>D+:</b> 67-69, 1.0</li> <li>● <b>D:</b> 63-66, 1.0</li> <li>● <b>D-:</b> 60-62, 1.0</li> <li>● <b>F:</b> below 60, 0.0</li> </ul>
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The arts grade scale:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A+/A/A-:</b> consistently exceeds expectations</li> <li>● <b>B+/B/B-:</b> often exceeds expectations</li> <li>● <b>C+/C/C-:</b> consistently meets expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>D:</b> inconsistent/unsatisfactory work/warning of potential failure</li> <li>● <b>F:</b> consistently fails to meet expectations</li> </ul>
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**Honor Roll & Other Recognition:** To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must have no academic grade lower than 80 and no arts grade lower than B-. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have academic grades of 90 or above and arts grades of A- or above at the end of each quarter. BSA students also regularly receive recognition in national arts competitions.

**SAT\*\*:** In March 2019, BSA students scored an average of 1051 on the SAT, as compared to 838 for Baltimore City, 963 for the State of Maryland, and 973 for the country.

**Advanced Placement Tests\*\*:** In 2019, BSA students took a total of 115 AP exams in English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Spanish Language and Culture, Music Theory, and Art History. 75% of students scored a 3 or higher.

**Performances and Exhibitions:** As part of the pre-professional arts program, students participate in an array of both public and non-public performances throughout their tenure at the school. The Visual Arts Department mounts four public exhibitions a year. Master classes are also conducted each year by nationally and internationally renowned visiting artists. In addition, students are provided with a variety of opportunities in professional collaborations with cultural and civic institutions, including Centerstage, Everyman Theater, Hippodrome Theater, Maryland Historical Society, Maryland Institute College of Art, Peabody Institute Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Walters Art Gallery, National Parks, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, and others.

**Artreach Programs:** A further mission of the Baltimore School for the Arts is to function as a resource for the promotion and development of arts education for younger students. This is accomplished through TWIGS, BSA's free after-school arts instruction program for 700 city students in grades 2-8; a school performance program that brings school kids to BSA for matinees; as well as other outreach programs. BSA high school students have the opportunity to participate in the school's artreach efforts.

*\*The SAT & AP numbers reflect the most recent pre-pandemic data*

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