



2023-24 School Profile Baltimore School for the Arts

The School: 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 & 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 as one of the top public high schools 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 the six major areas of artistic study. Students spend half of each day, four or five periods, in college preparatory courses and half of each day, four or five periods, in their art discipline.

Student Body: Approximately 90% of BSA's students come from Baltimore City and 10% from the seven counties surrounding Baltimore. 56% percent of students are African-American, 37% are White, 3% are Latino, 2% are Asian, and 2% represent other races. In addition, 30% of the class of 2024 will be first-generation college students. The diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and racial mix of students is a special quality of the school.

Enrollment: Baltimore School for the Arts has an enrollment of roughly 430 students in grades 9 to 12. There are 95 seniors in the class of 2024. The average academic class size is 25 students.

Faculty: There are approximately 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, designers, musicians, and visual artists who teach at the school on a part-time basis, providing a critical link between 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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 4 credits in English● 4 credits in Mathematics● 3 credits in Science● 3 credits in Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2 credits in Foreign Language● 1 credit in Computer Science● 1 credit in Health● 0.5 credit in Physical Education |
|--|--|

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 Language & Composition, English Literature, Calculus AB, and Spanish Language & Culture 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 I-IV, 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:

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

CLASS OF 2024Official **UNWEIGHTED** GPA Distribution (as of June 2023)

GPA range	# of students	% of class
4.00	8	8.42%
3.50-3.99	31	32.63%
3.00-3.49	24	25.26%
2.50-2.99	18	18.95%
2.00-2.49	14	14.74%
Total	95	

CLASS OF 2024Official **WEIGHTED** GPA Distribution (as of June 2023)

GPA range	# of students	% of class
4.50-5.00	9	9.47%
4.00-4.49	19	20.00%
3.50-3.99	26	27.37%
3.00-3.49	16	16.84%
2.50-2.99	20	21.05%
2.00-2.49	5	5.26%
Total	95	

Honor Roll & Other Recognition: To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must have academic and arts grades of 80 or above. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have academic and arts grades of 90 or above. BSA students also regularly receive recognition in national arts competitions.

Advanced Placement Tests: In 2023, 124 BSA students took a total of 163 AP exams in English Language and Composition, English Literature & Composition, Calculus AB, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics, U.S. Government & Politics, Psychology, and Chemistry. 58% percent of students scored a 3 or higher. In October of 2023, College Board awarded BSA a place on their "AP Honor Roll" for the 2022-2023 school year.

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.

Executive Director Roz Cauthen/rcauthen@bsfa.org

Assistant Principal for Academics Tom Askey/taskey@bsfa.org

Assistant Principal for Student Support Dawn Strickland/dstrickland@bsfa.org

School Counselor Abby Warren '92/awarren@bsfa.org

Department Heads:

- Iris Andersen '96, Dance/iandersen@bsfa.org
- Mellasenah Edwards '85, Music/medwards@bsfa.org
- Becky Mossing '88, Theatre/bmossing@bsfa.org
- Julianne Franz, Stage Production & Design/jfranz@bsfa.org
- Archie Veale '85, Visual Arts/aveale@bsfa.org
- Beatriz Bufrahi, Film/bbufrahi@bsfa.org