



ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

VISUAL ARTS Audition Requirements

- All students applying for admission to Arts High School as Visual Art Majors must audition.
 - Students can sign up for an audition on the Arts High School website.
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Visual Art Audition Requirements are:

1. ART ENTRANCE EXAM

- Applicants should come prepared with 2-3 sharpened number 2 pencils
- Actual seat time for exam will be 70-90 minutes.

THE ART ENTRANCE EXAM WILL INCLUDE:

- **A Realistic STILL-LIFE DRAWING From Observation (25 minutes)**
 - Good composition
 - Understanding of spatial relationships
 - Interpretation of form, value, and texture
- **A QUICK-FIGURE DRAWING from observation (10 minutes)**
 - Good composition
 - Scale and Proportion
 - Interpretation of form
- **A SELF-PORTRAIT while looking in a mirror (15 minutes)**
 - Good composition
 - Scale and Proportion
 - Interpretation of form, value and texture
- **A SPATIAL RELATIONSHIP EXERCISE (10 minutes)**

2. PORTFOLIO REVIEW

- While not required, a portfolio is **strongly recommended**.
 - Your portfolio should include a minimum of 5-7 pieces of your strongest artwork.
 - Portfolios will be assessed as you work on the entrance exam.
 - See below for details.
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PRACTICING FOR THE ART ENTRANCE EXAM

- The best way to prepare for the exam is to practice drawing from observation (looking at what you are drawing).
 - **Still Life**-You can arrange several objects clustered together on a table top and draw them as they appear. You should make the objects look three-dimensional on the page and add value and texture as you see them.
 - **Figure Drawing**-Get someone to model for you and practice drawing the full figure in a variety of poses.
 - **Self-Portrait**-Practice drawing your face from life while looking in a mirror, not a photograph.
- You might want to practice new drawings every week, or a little every night. Remember the more you practice drawing the better you get.
- Ask the Art Teacher at your current school to help by teaching you to draw what you see and instruct you how to create a good composition using space, form, value and texture.

THE PORTFOLIO

Two-Dimensional Work (*drawings, paintings, etc.*)

- Bring original work.
- Bring drawings done from observation, rather than on photos or other artwork.

Three-Dimensional Work (*sculptures, mobiles, etc.*)

- Small sculptures can be brought to the audition.
- If sculpture is large or bulky, a photograph of it, taken against a contrasting background, is acceptable.

Time-based and Digital Work (*photographs, animations, movies*)

- Photos should be printed out and presented in the portfolio with other work. These should not be in a digital file.
- If you would like us to view animation or video, please provide a flash drive with written instructions on how to access the file. These will be viewed on a school computer; there is no need to bring your own laptop.
- You may also include examples of other media that demonstrate the diversity of your talent. We discourage portfolios consisting solely of cartoons and superhero images.
- There is no need to purchase an expensive portfolio. A simple hand-made cardboard portfolio is adequate.

- On the outside of your portfolio, please place a label clearly lettered with your name, age, and current grade.

TIPS:

- Do not matte works. Our focus is the quality of the work, not the mattes.
- Please DO NOT bring work in frames.
- When you have completed your audition, remember to take your portfolio home. We do not want your work lost or damaged.

If you have any additional questions about these requirements, please contact Kennis Fairfax at KFairfax@nps.k12.nj.us