



General Information

Middle School Visual Arts Auditions

- All students interested in Apex Arts must complete an online application [here](#).
- All applicants must complete an audition to be considered for the program.
- Audition appointments will be automatically scheduled by the application system. Please plan accordingly.
- All applicants must pass the auditions and meet academic requirements to be eligible for the lottery.
- All students expressing interest in Apex Arts are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of previous training or experience level.

Visual Arts Audition Components

A Visual Arts audition consists of:

- **Portfolio: 3 Works**

Each student applying to Visual Arts is required to submit a portfolio of three pieces of artwork. Each piece in the portfolio will be assessed based on the criteria listed in the following prompts:

- 1. Self-portrait from observation.** Complete a realistic drawing of yourself from observation (looking at a mirror or photo while drawing). The drawing should be completed in **graphite/pencil**.
- 2. Environment:** Create a drawing/painting of an environment you are familiar with. This may be an indoor or outdoor setting. This should be completed using **any color media** of your choice (chalk pastel, oil pastel, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, etc.)

3. Choice Piece: Select an additional piece of your choice in **any media** (drawing, painting, photography, digital media, or sculpture) that **best represents your work as an artist**. Be prepared to discuss this piece in your interview.

Audition Prompt: Drawing Prompt

- Prompt will be given at the time of audition, either in person or virtually.
- Materials will be provided at in-person auditions.
- If auditions are virtual- you will need blank paper and drawing materials to complete the prompt.
- **Interview**
 - Be prepared to discuss your interest in Apex Arts, your portfolio, and potential as an artist.

Scoring Criteria

You will be scored on the following criteria for each piece:

- **Composition:** Well-balanced composition that effectively engages the space provided. A focal point is evident and pulls in the viewer's attention.
- **Proportion:** Size and spatial relationships are cohesive and appropriate to the design.
- **Use of Media:** Demonstration of skills with media, techniques, and processes. Manipulation of the materials successfully conveys mood, atmosphere, or style.
- **Creative Expression:** Creative approach to the design. The artwork is daring with a strong sense of personal expression of ideas and meaning.
- **Following the portfolio guidelines:** Creatively expanded upon the prompts while following directions.

High school applicants must score at least an average score of 7 on their audition AND meet academic requirements to be eligible for this program.

Recommendations for Preparation

- Review the Apex Arts Visual Arts **Audition Workshop** materials provided.
- Visit www.aacps.org/apexarts for more information about Info Sessions, Workshops, applications, and auditions.
- See your school counselor for assistance with the application or for more details about the academic requirements.
- Get feedback on your portfolio pieces from an art teacher at your school, ask questions about the prompts if you are unclear about what is being requested.
- **Practice drawing from observation and shading** to prepare for the audition prompt at the audition.
- Contact the Apex Arts Office with any specific questions you may have.
- *Si necesita una explicación en español de los requisitos, llame a José al 410 533 4815*