



MIDDLESEX COUNTY ARTS HIGH GRADES 9-12

PREPARATION FOR AUDITION / WORKSHOP / PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Sunday, December 4, 2022, at Middlesex College

How to prepare for your Audition / Workshop at Middlesex College,
College Center Building (Lot # 1) 2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison 08818, on **Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022**

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PLEASE NOTE-AUDITION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

- **ALL students will be at the Audition / Workshop for the full two-hour session.**
- **Please call our office (732-566-2787) if you have two auditions at the same time.**
- **Please visit our website at www.teenartsnj.org for any inclement weather notices.**

Your attendance and participation at the workshop will serve as part of your Arts High Audition. Instructors / Judges will be present to evaluate your work and will notify the Arts High administrator of your readiness to participate in the program.

Each student auditioning for Arts High will be judged on how well they apply themselves on Dec. 4th. Students will be judged on artistic ability, listening, and learning skills, willingness to try new things, and successfully working with other students.

HOME PREPARATION WILL BE NECESSARY FOR YOUR AUDITION. SEE BELOW FOR TIMES/INSTRUCTIONS:

ACTING I (9TH & 10TH GRADE) 9 AM – 11 AM

ACTING II (11TH & 12TH GRADE) 11 AM – 1 PM

Wear comfortable clothes that you can move in and flat shoes or sneakers. **Bring a wallet-sized photo** with your name and grade written on the back and a pen or pencil. All students will be doing improv work, and if time allows, reading from scenes. Memorize a monologue, no longer than 1½ minutes that is age appropriate. Do not do a monologue for a 75-year-old man, nor should you do one for a 10-year-old girl. The monologue must be from a regular play or from a monologue book; you may not use a monologue written by you or a friend.

CONTEMPORARY/MODERN DANCE: 9 AM – 11 AM

Wear leotards, footless tights, or tight pants. Pull long hair back. No dance footwear is required. You will dance barefoot. You will be given a number at the sign-in desk. This number will serve as your identification. Affix the number to the front of your clothing. **DO NOT SWITCH NUMBERS.** During the class, students will be

introduced to technical skills, individual expression, and performance preparation. No individual presentation will be required.

MUSIC MPROV ENSEMBLE: 1 PM – 3 PM

Audition Workshop Objectives-

At the conclusion of the workshop the students will be able to play a basic blues song. Blues is an integral element in the creation of jazz, rock, pop and other music styles. Students will learn their respective parts for the song and have a chance to improvise a solo. They will use the pentatonic and blues scale and/or predetermined phrases and motifs (also known as licks) to create their own solos. Rhythm section players will also learn chords and rhythm accompaniment parts.

Audition Workshop Method-

Students will be taught a pentatonic scale and the blues scale. They will learn the melody (and chords) for a basic blues song as well as sample solo phrases or “licks”. We will discuss song form and style differences between rock, jazz, pop and funk versions of the song. Students will learn individual parts for the song and how the different parts work together to create a performance of the song in the various styles. Students will be given ideas about musical phrasing, creating, and developing motifs and listening to others for greater interaction while playing. The students will then have the chance to perform the song and take turns improvising in a variety of musical styles.

Materials-

Students should bring their own instruments and amplifier (if needed) and instrument cable. A keyboard will be available for student use. Drummers should bring a snare drum, hi-hat cymbal and sticks. The evaluation will be primarily based on your performance of the material in the workshop, but please be prepared to play a piece of your choice that best shows your talent.

PROSE & POETRY: 3 PM – 5 PM

Bring a short sample or excerpt from your work (any genre) no longer than one page, double-spaced 12-point font using the prompt below, Include your name, and grade. Keep a copy because it will not be returned to you. Be prepared to read your work and workshop others' writings.

Create a short story or poem out of the following situation:

You (or a character of your own creation) is relaxing at home on a rainy Sunday when the phone rings. The number is not familiar, but you (or your character) answer(s) it anyway. After a very brief conversation, you (or your character) run(s) out of the house.

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY: 3 PM – 5 PM

Students should bring 5 – 10 of your best images, printed, no greater than 8x10. All Images should be labeled with your name and grade and enclosed in a folder or large envelope. **No laptops, no flash drives.** Do not leave the printing process until last minute or you risk not being satisfied with the quality of your images. Bring your digital camera. Camera must have adjustable settings, have ample storage in memory and please make sure your batteries are charged. Prints will not be returned.

SONGWRITING: 9 AM – 11 AM

Songwriters, bring samples of your work to the audition. Recorded samples on your cell phone or laptop are fine. Playing an instrument is not necessary for this class but if you do play an instrument and would like to play one of your songs for the audition (instead of bringing a pre-recorded sample), please bring your instrument. A keyboard will be available. All other instrumentalists, bring your instrument with you including a small amplifier (if needed) for guitar players.

Audition Workshop Objectives-

Students will collaborate throughout the workshop to write a song. The creative process takes many forms. In this workshop, students will be presented with different songwriting techniques, including basic music theory/chord construction, writing bass lines, melodies, and lyrics. They will put their knowledge to use creating a chord progression and/or bass line and melody/lyrics for a verse and chorus to a song.

Audition Workshop Method-

After a brief discussion of the creative process and various songwriting techniques, students will choose a scale (options will be presented by instructor) to use to write a song. Students will learn how to use the scale as the source material to create chords/progressions, bass lines and melodies. Other techniques (modal interchange, secondary dominants, modulations, etc.) will be introduced as needed. Students will learn the tendencies of movement for the available chords and create chord progressions accordingly. They will write a chord progression and/or bass line and/or melody and/or lyrics for a verse and chorus to a song. We will also discuss other musical elements including drumbeats for different musical styles, song forms and how to use contrast and variety to maintain interest. Students will learn how the different parts work together to create a song.

Materials-

Students should bring their own instruments and amplifier (if applicable) to the audition. A keyboard will be available for student use. Students should also bring a pencil and paper and samples of any songs or lyrics they have written (prerecorded samples on cell phone or computer are fine). We will work on a few songwriting techniques during the audition/workshop.

VISUAL ARTS - DRAWING & PAINTING: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

VISUAL ARTS – SCULPTURE: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Bring 5 objects and to use as a still life to draw during the audition. Vary the size, shape, and color of the objects.

How to prepare for the Audition/Workshop: Students should draw primarily from observation, drawing what is around them. Expanding your drawing with your own ideas is a helpful exercise to prepare for the audition, but the major emphasis will be on observation. Students will participate in a drawing workshop on the day of the audition. The drawing will be added to your portfolio at the end of the session.

How students will be evaluated: Students will be judged on technical skills, risk-taking, creativity and imagination by means of a submitted portfolio and the works created in the Visual Arts workshop. The workshop will allow students to demonstrate proficiency in the above-mentioned areas and support the work included in the portfolio.

What to bring to Audition/Workshop: Please bring a portfolio of your work using the guidelines below. Drawing materials for the workshop will be supplied.

Portfolio Guidelines: Painting & Drawing: Your portfolio should consist of your best 10-12 works and an optional sketchbook from the past 2 years. You may include drawings, paintings (on paper only), and other completed works primarily from observation and/or original ideas. Please edit your work and choose works that best show your technical skills, risk-taking, creativity and visual imagination.

Please do not include images from popular culture, comic book or cartoon characters, or Japanese anime. Do not include paintings on stretchers, framed works, laptops, or slides. A sketchbook of original ideas can be included, but do not include sketchbooks of doodles.

Former Arts High students can include work that was created in the program.

Portfolio case – Painting and Drawing: All works must be in a 26” portfolio case (labeled with your name) that holds 18 x 24” work. There is no need to buy an expensive vinyl portfolio. An inexpensive paper portfolio is fine. Please do not place work in bags, envelopes, or include rolled work.

Portfolio Guidelines: 3D: Your portfolio should consist of your best 5-10 works and an optional sketchbook from the past 2 years. Works should be primarily sculpture or other 3–Dimensional works. You may include some drawings, paintings (on paper only), and other completed works primarily from observation and/or original ideas. Please edit your work and choose works that best show your technical skills, risk-taking, creativity and visual imagination.

Please do not include works from popular culture, comic book or cartoon characters, or Japanese anime. A sketchbook of original ideas can be included, but do not include sketchbooks of doodles.

Portfolio case – 3D: All 3D work must be placed together and be **clearly labeled** with your name. If your sculpture can fit in a box (with an open top) please place it all together. If you are including flat works, they must be in a 26” portfolio case (labeled with your name) that holds 18 x 24” work. There is no need to buy an expensive vinyl portfolio. An inexpensive paper portfolio is fine.

Former Arts High students may include work that was created in the program.

ALL VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS MUST RETURN BY 4 PM TO PICK UP THEIR PORTFOLIOS.

NO WORK CAN BE LEFT BEHIND.

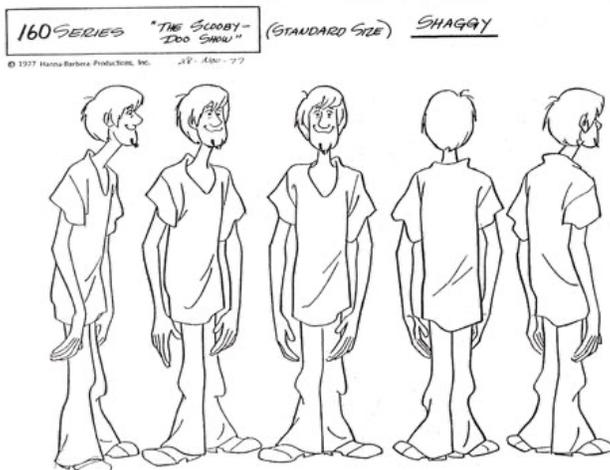
VISUAL ARTS ANIME-MANGA DRAWING: 1 PM – 3 PM

Please bring in on (2) separate sheets of drawing paper: Please include your NAME, GRADE, on each piece of artwork.

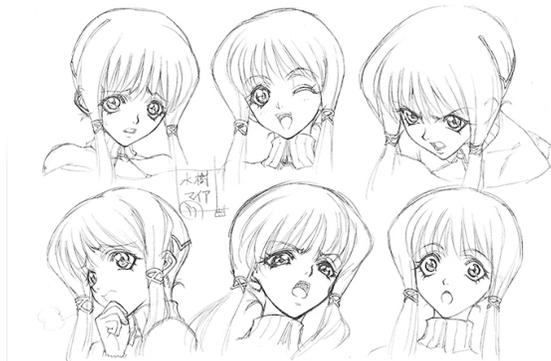
Students will also draw characters via teacher instruction during the audition.

1. **FULL BODY - Character model sheet** - displaying full body with front, side, ¾ and back views. Must be an original character created by student.

EXAMPLE:



2. **FACE EXPRESSIONS – Character Model Sheet** – displaying a minimum 6 different facial expression of the same original character.



Also bring in a sketchbook (must be labeled with your name) and/or a portfolio with five artworks (must be labeled with your name) in a folder or large envelope which accurately demonstrates the student's current artistic skillset

VOCAL MUSIC – BROADWAY: 3 PM- 5 PM

Prepare one Broadway-type show song that best highlights your voice. An accompanist will be provided. Bring sheet music and / or a recording of your accompaniment on a device (without vocals)

VOCAL MUSIC – POP ESSENTIALS: 11 AM- 1 PM

Students should prepare to sing a song of their choice. Preferred is a song that is “pop” in genre but not required for audition.

Students should be prepared to sing scales so that their vocal range and “musical ear” can be determined, students will go through various vocal warmups.