



THE SCHOOL FOR
**CREATIVE &
PERFORMING ARTS**
Cincinnati Public Schools

AUDITION PREPARATION PACKET FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 7-12



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AUDITION PREPARATION PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

ENTERING GRADES 7-12

All incoming 7th-12th grade students interested in attending SCPA must pass an artistic audition. The audition will be scheduled and confirmed only after SCPA has received a completed application with all supporting materials. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Incoming students entering 7th- 12th grade may

(You may continue on your own paper if you need more space.)

Part 2: Portfolio (4 pieces): Please provide at least four (4) pieces of writing demonstrating work from different genres (i.e. two poems and two stories or one poem, one script, and two stories).

DANCE

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Dance students must be appropriately dressed for the dance audition. *Girls:* leotard and tights or shorts and a tee shirt. *Boys:* tee shirt and tights or tee shirt and shorts. These should be of stretch fabric to allow a full range of movement. Students should bring ballet shoes if they have them. Students who have been on pointe should bring their pointe shoes to the audition. For beginning and entry-level students, the audition will consist of an assessment of flexibility, strength, coordination, musicality, focus, and discipline. Basic ballet and modern positions will be demonstrated, and the students will be asked to imitate them to show evidence of kinesthetic sensibility, awareness of space, and ability to turn, jump and move with ease. For students with dance experience, please bring a photo in first arabesque and be dressed in a leotard, tights, and ballet shoes. Students will be asked to demonstrate combinations to show their level of dance technique. Students will be rated on physical ability, focus, and aesthetic sensibility.

DRAMA

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Prepare the indicated monologue for your grade level or select a monologue of your own from a play. The monologue must be performed by memory and must be memorized exactly. Be sure to speak loudly and clearly. Include appropriate gestures (hand movements) to accompany your speaking of the monologue. Remember, you are portraying the character from the monologue, so it is your job to convince us that you are that character. You will be rated on diction and vocal strength, character interpretation, and control and use of the body. In addition to the memorized monologue, you may be required to do a “cold” reading.

DRAMA MONOLOGUES:

Students Entering Grades 7-8 (from *Our Town*)

STAGE MANAGER: *(To audience)* There's an early-afternoon calm in our town. A buzzin' and a hummin' from the school buildings; only a few buggies on Main Street - the horses dozing at the hitching posts; you all remember what it's like. Doc Gibbs is in his office, tapping people and making them say "ah." Mr. Webb's cuttin' his lawn over there; one man in ten thinks it's a privilege to push his own lawnmower. No, sir. It's later than I thought. There are children coming home from school already.

Students Entering Grades 9-12 - BOYS: (from *Lost in Yonkers*)

JAY: Don't do it Arty, ... Leave him alone, Uncle Louie. You want the bag open, do it yourself. *(He takes the bag from Arty and tosses it at Louie's feet.)* Maybe you don't rob banks or grocery stores or little old women. You're worse than that. You're a bully. You pick on a couple of kids. Your own nephews. You make fun of my father because he cried and was afraid of Grandma. Well, everyone in Yonkers is afraid of Grandma... And let me tell you something about my father. At least he's doing something in this war. He's sick and he's tired but he's out there selling iron to make ships, and tanks and cannons, and I'm proud of him. What are *you* doing? Hiding in your mother's apartment and scaring little kids and acting like Humphrey Bogart... Well, you're no Humphrey Bogart... And I'll tell you

something else – No, that’s all.

Students Entering Grades 9-12 - GIRLS: (from *The Diary of Anne Frank*)

ANNE: Look, Peter, the sky. (*She looks up through the skylight*) What a lovely, lovely day! Aren’t the clouds beautiful? You know what I do when it seems as if I couldn’t stand being cooped up for one more minute? I think myself out. I think myself on a walk in the park where I used to go with Pim. Where the jonquils and the crocus and the violets grow down the slopes. You know the most wonderful part about thinking yourself out?

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Programs of study include Band, Harp, Orchestra, & Piano. Prepare an Etude or Solo of your choice that demonstrates your musical ability. Percussionists will need to prepare both a Snare Drum and Xylophone/Marimba solo. Bring 2 copies of your music for the music teachers to review

VISUAL ART

Step 1 of the Visual Art Audition is a digital upload. You will receive a link to upload your files after the application deadline. Gather the required documents and work samples indicated below. Upload scans, photos, or word/pdf docs of them to be considered for the program. If selected for a callback, SCPA will reach out to you with a time to come to the school for an observational hand drawing exercise.

- Portfolio: 6-8 works of art from the last two years only. No cartoons/anime are allowed for the audition. Work should demonstrate a variety of techniques and MUST include drawing/painting from observation. Additionally, design, creative work, color work, sketchbook drawings, sculpture, installation, or 3D work are also acceptable. Please submit photos of these works in the highest resolution possible.
- Resume: Include name, age, address, phone numbers, parent e-mail, schools attended, extra-curricular activities, classes and workshops attended, awards, exhibitions, and special interests/talents. Resumes are in outline form and must not exceed one page. We will keep this copy of your resume.

VOCAL MUSIC

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Students must prepare and perform a vocal solo with piano accompaniment. A list of some suggested repertoire is provided below. *Pop, rock, R&B, rap, and similar musical styles are not appropriate for the audition and not acceptable.*

The student must sing their selection **from memory** and **must provide printed piano sheet music at the audition.** Sheet music may be found at the Cincinnati Public Library or can be purchased at a music store (such as Willis Music) or online, www.musicnotes.com.

Suggested repertoire:

- A song from a Broadway musical with a defined melody- no rap
- A piece from the 24 or 26 Italian Songs and Arias
- Vocal piece or art song (classical in nature, but can be from any era – i.e. Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Roger Quilter, etc.)
- Spiritual performed in a classical style (such as those arranged by Henry T. Burleigh)

Students may be asked to sing a round, scales, intervals, or to identify music notation symbols.

TECHNICAL THEATER

In-Person Audition. After you complete the application, you will be assigned a time to come to the school for your audition. Program study include Scenic, Lighting, Costuming.

The Technical Theater Department at SCPA realizes that very few 6th-10th grade students have extensive experience in the various areas of technical theater. We are looking for students with a passion for their craft and who wish to pursue a career in their pathway of study. Successful candidates will have a general understanding of the technical theater field as well as knowledge of the area of concentration they wish to pursue (i.e. scenic, costuming, or lighting), artistic potential and maturity, and the ability to pay attention to detail and to stay focused. Students must be motivated, able to follow directions, work in a team, and accept constructive criticism.

How to prepare:

1. Complete the Technical Theater Student Questionnaire included in this packet
2. Review the Audition Interview Process below

For the Audition Interview Process please bring examples of your creativity. Possible options for projects to present could be one, or all, of the following:

- A. Students are encouraged to create an inspiration board for their field of design, as it relates to their favorite theatrical show (i.e. drama, musical, TV show, or movie). An inspiration board is a collage of images, words, and objects (i.e. fabric, trim, paint chips, etc.) placed on a poster board that a designer has collected. It is used as a reference for a show they would be designing. Your board can be digitally created and printed out in color and/or pictures taken from magazines, photographs or other sources and pasted to a poster board not to exceed 22'x28'.
- B. Students, you should have an original portfolio of your work that highlights your interests and skills that relate to the technical theater. Examples of work the portfolio might contain are:
- Drawings or painting from arts classes (not necessarily related to technical design)
 - Three-dimensional work: models, sculpture, small objects you have built or created on your own
 - Sketch books
 - Pictures of structures you have built
 - Samples of clothing, knitting, crochet, jewelry making, beadwork or other textile arts you have created
 - Items created for a production you have worked on previously
 - Photographs from the production showing examples of scenic, costuming or lighting you have helped create
 - Production books (prompt book)
 - Renderings and sketches based on a play you have read
 - Sound/video recording sample
 - Other examples of previous experiences are also welcomed

You must complete the Technical Theater Student Questionnaire below. Bring the completed questionnaire to your audition. It is also strongly recommended you bring the following items with you for each technical theater program you are interested in. Scenic Design: sketches or pictures of any set designs or props you have created; Costume Design: samples of clothes you have made, photos or sketches of clothes you have designed; Lighting Design: photos or drawings of lighting designs you have created. You will be rated on experience using materials or equipment in the technical theater field, your design abilities and your grasp of technical elements in theater.

TECHNICAL THEATER STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Bring to your Audition)

Student's Name _____ Age _____ Current Grade _____

Which are you most interested in? Check all that apply: ___ Costuming ___ Lighting ___ Scenic/Set

Design Please answer the following questions as best as you can using complete sentences.

1. What sparked your interest in Technical Theater and which area are you most interested in pursuing?

2. Where do you see yourself taking these skills in the future both professionally and/or as a college option? Briefly explain your long-term goals and how being a graduate of the Technical Theater program will help you in meeting these goals.

3. Elaborate on your academic interests and how they can be used to enhance your studies in technical theater as well as how your studies in our program can enhance your academic opportunities.

4. Explain how you would be an asset to the Technical Theater program study.

5. Briefly describe the medium your inspiration board is based upon. Why did you choose this particular art form and why is this important to you? What should we be looking for when we view your inspiration board at the audition?

6. Involvement in the Technical Theater program requires a significant time commitment both after school and on weekends. In the past how have you handled the additional time requirements and pressures that outside activities have placed on your schedule?
