Our Mission ... Student Success ... Academic, Artistic and Humanistic



Audition Process

Where the **Electricity** of the **CREATIVE ARTS** and the **Energy** of ACADEMIC LEARNING come together!

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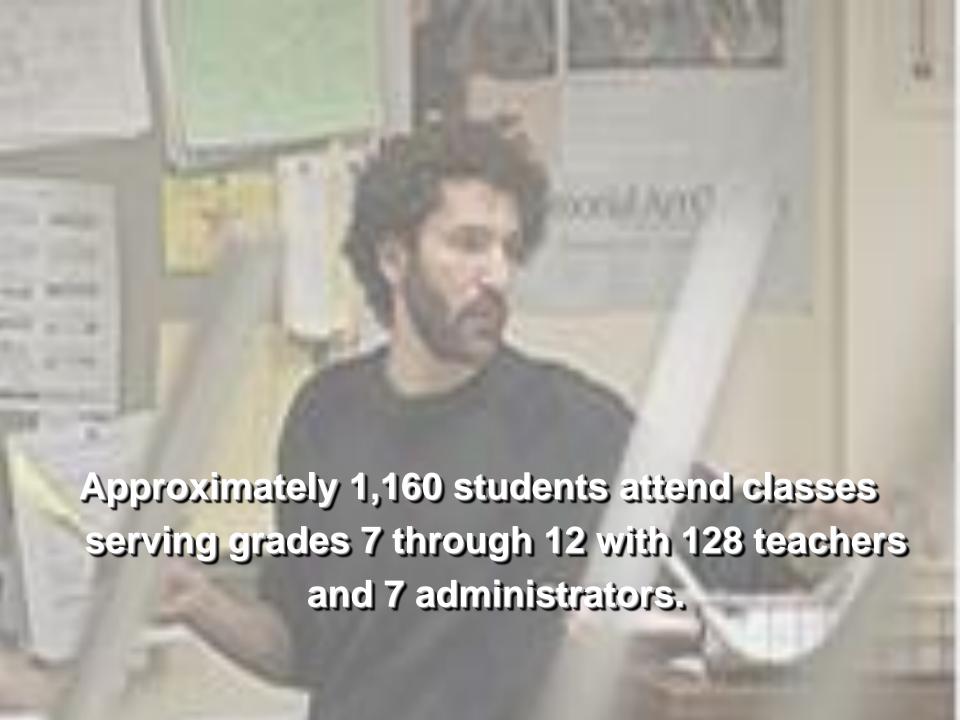
Overview of SOTA

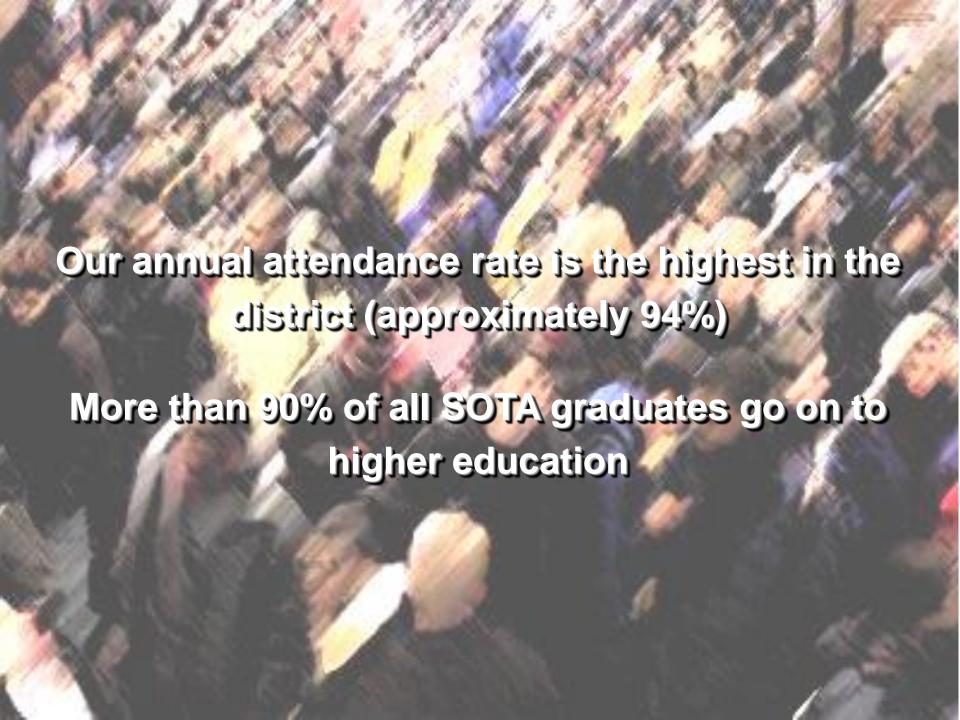
School of the Arts is nestled in the heart of Rochester's Cultural District.
Our Academic and Arts curriculum often benefit from Rochester's culturally diverse Arts scene.

Upon graduation students will receive a School of the Arts High School Diploma with a fine arts sequence in one of six subject areas:

Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Music, Theater Technology or Visual Arts

Students at the **School of the Arts** must earn a minimum of 25.5 credits to graduate including an eight credit sequence in their chosen field of study.





The School of the Arts outstanding faculty and administrative staff create an environment that is safe and promotes lifelong learning.

Advanced Placement classes are offered in every academic and artistic field of study.

Timeline

Timeline

Week of October 22, 2018

SOTA Application Packet mailed home to all current 6th grade families. Students in grades 8-11 must request an application directly from SOTA. Applications are also be available on-line at: sotarochester.org. SOTA Application Packet emailed to all 6th grade student email accounts, 6th grade teachers, and RCSD elementary Arts teachers.

- November 17, 2018
 SOTA Saturday of the Arts Hand-On Exploratory Open House
 45 Prince Street
- December 14, 2018
 Completed applications due to SOTA

RCSD TBD

High School EXPO

Please Note: Attendee applications will be accepted for scheduling

Timeline Continued

- Week of January 7, 2019
 Audition Notification Letters mailed to all SOTA applicants
- January 22-24, 2019 SOTA Audition Dates
 Please save these dates your child will be scheduled to audition on one

of these days from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Please Note: Due to the high number of applicants, auditions cannot be rescheduled or changed for any reason!

- February, 2019
 RCSD Schools of Choice Application Due
- April, 2019
 Acceptance letters mailed home
- New Student Orientation
 TO BE DETERMINED AUGUST 2019

Important Names and Phone Numbers

Joe Capezzuto Student Equity and Placement 262-8680

Kelly Nicastro
Principal, School of the Arts
Audition Hotline 324-3502

Alan Tirré

Assistant Principal for the Arts, School of the Arts
Audition Hotline 324-3502

alan.tirre@rcsdk12.org

Audition Requirements

- Be Available on audition dates.
 January 24 26 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Due to large numbers of applicants, Auditions CANNOT be rescheduled or changed for any reason.
- Students can only audition in ONE art area.

 Students may audition in Creative Writing, Dance,
 Drama, Instrumental Music (Band, Strings, Piano),
 Vocal Music, Theatre Technology or Visual Arts

- Each audition will resemble a typical arts class.
 Lessons will be taught, assignments will be given,
 students will complete/perform their assignments in
 front of their teachers and peers.
- Every audition will be measured according to a standard rubric. Each student will receive a numerical score from 1-10.

In addition to the individual department requirements, *ALL* students auditioning for *School of the Arts* are required to bring/provide the following:

- A written essay/statement (5-7 sentences in length)
 explaining why you want to attend School of the Arts.
 Be sure to describe your interest in the ART AREA of your scheduled audition!
- A completed <u>Applicant Snapshot</u> from a previous or current teacher. Teachers should return these to SOTA AUDITIONS via district mail no later than JANUARY 20, 2017. Letters received after this date will NOT be processed.

CREATIVE WRITING

Please bring:

- A full portfolio of your written work reflecting different genres and styles. Each portfolio should include a varied selection of poetry (rhymed and unrhymed), a varied selection of fiction (short stories, plays) and a variety of non-fiction work (essays, book reports, journalism, reviews, class projects that reflect research, etc.) Additionally, please include original drafts of work that has been revised.
- Pencil, pen (blue or black ink only). Paper will be provided.

You MAY be requested to:

Participate in a writing workshop.

DANCE

Please bring:

- Dance attire (leotard, tights) or close-fitting athletic wear (no shorts – no bare legs).
- For safety, use dance shoes or bare feet.
- A cassette or CD of music for the piece you will perform.
- A list of any private lessons (past or present) or school extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.) in which you participate.

- Present a short dance sequence (at least 30 seconds to 1 minute in length).
- Respond to teacher-directed combinations.

DRAMA

Please bring:

 A brief (approximately 100 words) memorized monologue from either a play or book in the first person (do not use speeches or rhyming poems). Your English teacher or librarian might be a wonderful resource.

- Do some improvisation.
- Do a short reading of our choice.
- Demonstrate ability to convey stage presence, emotion, body movement and response to direction.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Band & Strings)

Please bring:

- Your instrument.
- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet-music sample(s) or book(s) of music you are playing at this time.

- Play three major scales from memory.
- Play at least one prepared piece.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Set drummers will be requested to play at least three (3) of the following styles: swing, samba, funk, rock, bossa nova, disco, shuffle, jazz or waltz.

PIANO

Please bring:

- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet music sample(s) or book(s) of music that you are playing at this time

- Play three scales with both hands from memory.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Play a simple arrangement of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'
- Play at least one additional prepared piece.

VOCAL MUSIC

Please bring:

A copy of the sheet music for your prepared song.

- Sing one major scale.
- Sing "America" (My Country 'Tis of Thee).

 Diction is an important part of this segment.
- Sing one prepared song of your choice.
 An accompanist will be provided.
- Sight-sing a simple four measure melody.

THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Please bring any three of the following:

- A Drawing, Painting or Paper Mache project that you created at home or in your art class that you are proud of.
- Your ideas for a Dollhouse Ground Plan (living room, kitchen, bedroom, etc.)
- Something built from wood, like a box or bird house.
- A list of sets and props from an episode of your favorite TV show, movie or cartoon.
- Your ideas or plans about how you would build a bookshelf.
- An example of Computer Art or Computer Drawing you created.

THEATRE TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED

- Do measuring activities with a standard ruler.
- Draw pictures based on moods/emotion/words, problem solve in a group activity, follow instructions to build a simple object.
- Work with basic hand tools.
- Learn to use a computer for drawing.

VISUAL ARTS

Please bring:

- #2 pencil
- Sample drawing (pencil drawing of an old shoe on a piece of 8.5" x 11" white paper that will be left at the audition)
 - Student Portfolio

A Student Portfolio should include several samples of your best 2-dimensional art work. Students should include a collection of art work from their art classes in addition to items from your sketchbook (no cartoons or super heroes). In addition, please be sure to include the following types of drawings; 1) A Self-Portrait. 2) A Still-Life. 3) A Landscape (a view from outside or a picture of a room). Students may also bring examples of 3-dimensional work (a sculpture, a ceramic piece, etc.).

VISUAL ARTS CONTINUED

- Participate in a 3 4 hour long Visual Arts class. Class activities will include creativity, problem solving and writing exercises as well as creating two-dimensional and threedimensional artwork.
- Respond to questions about your art work and art processes during an interview.

Screening Sheets



45 Prince Street at University Rochester, New York 14607 242-7682

Creative Writing Screening Sheet

Checklist: Essay/Stateme	nt of Intent	☐ Letter of Recommendation ☐ Portfolio		
Area	Evaluation (0-5 points	Score (points x %)	Comme	ents
ETRY PORTFOLIO (25%) Poetic Devices Imagery Form (Structure) Meaning (Theme) Diction (Word Choice)	•	•		
CTION PORTFOLIO (25%) Narrative Structure Point of View Theme Plot & Character Dev. Description, Dialogue	•	•		
ON-FICTION PORTFOLIO (25% Controlling Idea Grammar/Mechanics Organization/Meaning Language Development	•	•		
ORKSHOP (25%) Active Participation Interest & Potential Poetry Writing Sample Tiction Writing Sample Non-Fiction Writing Sample	•	•		
			[TOTAL SCOR
LETED BY:				DATE:



POETRY PORTFOLIO (25%)

- Poetic Devices
- Imagery
- Form (Structure)
- Meaning (Theme)
- Diction (Word Choice)

FICTION PORTFOLIO (25%)

- Narrative Structure
- Point of View
- Theme
- Plot & Character Dev.
- Description, Dialogue

NON-FICTION PORTFOLIO (25%)

- Controlling Idea
- Grammar/Mechanics
- Organization/Meaning
- Language
- Development

WORKSHOP (25%)

- Active Participation
- Interest & Potential
- Poetry Writing Sample
- Fiction Writing Sample
- Non-Fiction Writing Sample





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Dance

Screening Sheet

Checklist: Essay/Statemer	t of Intent 🔲	Letter of Recommendation	riate Dress 🔲 On Tim
Area	Evaluation (0-10 points	Comments	
S 10: Technique		+ / - Clear Lechnique + / - Cor. dination	+/-Dance Apt. ude
Solo: Performance		+/-F esentation +/-Cenergy	+/-Expression
Solo: Movement Quality and Aesthetic Sense		+ Use of Space, Levels and Direction + Dynamic Changes	+/- Rhythmic Changes +/- Creativity
Studio Work: Dance Potential		/ - Clean Technique / - Coordination	+/-Dance Aptitude
Studio Work: <i>Focus and</i> Discipline		/ - Pays Attention Consistently / - Follows Directions Consistently	+ / - Concentration
Attitude and Behavior		/ - Maintains Positive Attitude - / - Does Not Distract Self or Others	+ / - Does Not Talk + / - Is Respectful
Energy and Effort		+ - Shows Excellent Work Ethic + - Pushes Themselves beyond Capability	+ / - Demonstrates High Level of Energy
Proprioceptive Sense (ability to apply corrections)		+/-Visibly Applies Corrections +/- Applies Corrections Even When Diffic	cult
Musicality: Timing and L ['] nythm		+ / - Hears and Moves to Beat + / - Can Change Rhythms	+ / - Uses Music Expressive y
Ove all Kinesthetic Ser e		+/- Demonstrates Good Kinesthetic (musc +/- Movement Rending Consistent with R	
			TOTAL SCORE
MPLETED BY:			DATE:
2			DATE:

DATE:_

	Solo: Technique	Clean Technique Coordination	Dance Aptitude
	Solo: Performance	Presentation Energy	Expression
	Solo: Movement Quality and Aesthetic Sense	Use of Space, Levels and Direction Dynamic Changes	Rhythmic Changes Creativity
7	Studio Work: Dance Potential	Clean Technique Coordination	Dance Aptitude
6	Studio Work: Focus and Discipline	Pays Attention Consistently Follows Directions Consistently	Concentration
	Attitude and Behavior	Maintains Positive Attitude Does Not Distract Self or Others	Does Not Talk Is Respectful
	Energy and Effort	Shows Excellent Work Ethic Pushes Themselves beyond Capability	Demonstrates High Level of Energy
	Proprioceptive Sense (ability to apply corrections)	Visibly Applies Corrections Applies Corrections Even When Diffic	
Description of	Musicality: Timing and Rhythm	Hears and Moves to Beat Can Change Rhythms	Uses Music Expressively
1000	Overall Kinesthetic Sense	Demonstrates Good Kinesthetic (musc Movement Remains Consistent with R	



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Drama

Screening Sheet

Checklist:	tent	☐ Letter of Recommendation ☐ Portfolio
Area	Evaluation	Comments
OC L & PHYSICAL WARM-UPS (oints)		+/-/inc Vallingness to participate +/-/inc Ability to follow instructions +/-/inc Ease in working with others +/-/inc Potential for growth
EATRE GAMES i points)		+/-/jc Cooperation & Teamwork +/-/nc Trust +/- inc Respect working methods of others +/- inc Shows passion for the art form
ONOLOGUE WORK epared work must be from a real play or ok. Excerpt from:) points)		+ / / inc Preparation / Memorization + / / inc Interpretation / Characterization + - / inc Integration of face, voice, body + - / inc Ability to take direction + - / inc Potential for growth
ENE WORK os and Trios, Timed rehearsals, sentation) points)		+ -/inc Ability to cold read + -/inc Ability to listen + -/inc Contribution to the group effort Blocking relates to actors / audience + -/inc Interpretation / Characterization + //inc Rehearses cooperatively + //inc Potential for growth
RITTEN WORK mmary of scene work, Journal entry on dition process, Brief biography of nologue character) points)		+/- inc Demonstrates seriousness of purpose +/- inc Ability to articulate details +/-/ nc Meaningful content +/-/ ic Use of vocabulary +/-/ in Grammar, mechanics, punctuation
MMUNICATION by iences in theater/tech, music, poice, nce, art. Future intentions with hajor i poin, s)		+/-/inc Commitment to theatre +/-/inc Accepts directorial decisions +/-/inc Arthulates goals clearly +/-/inc Demonstrates poise
		TOTAL SCOI



VOCAL & PHYSICAL WARM-UPS (10 points)	Willingness to participate Ability to follow instructions Ease in working with others Potential for growth	
THEATRE GAMES (15 points)	Cooperation & Teamwork Trust Respect working methods of others Shows passion for the art form	
MONOLOGUE WORK Prepared work must be from a real play or book. Excerpt from: (20 points)	Preparation / Memorization Interpretation / Characterization Integration of face, voice, body Ability to take direction Potential for growth	
SCENE WORK Duos and Trios, Timed rehearsals, presentation (20 points)	Ability to cold read Ability to listen Contribution to the group effort Blocking relates to actors / audience Interpretation / Characterization Rehearses cooperatively Potential for growth	
WRITTEN WORK Summary of scene work, Journal entry on audition process, Brief biography of monologue character (20 points)	Demonstrates seriousness of purpose Ability to articulate details Meaningful content Use of vocabulary Grammar, mechanics, punctuation	
COMMUNICATION Experiences in theater/tech, music, voice, dance, art. Future intentions with major (15 points)	Commitment to theatre Accepts directorial decisions Communicates ideas respectfully Articulates goals clearly Demonstrates poise	



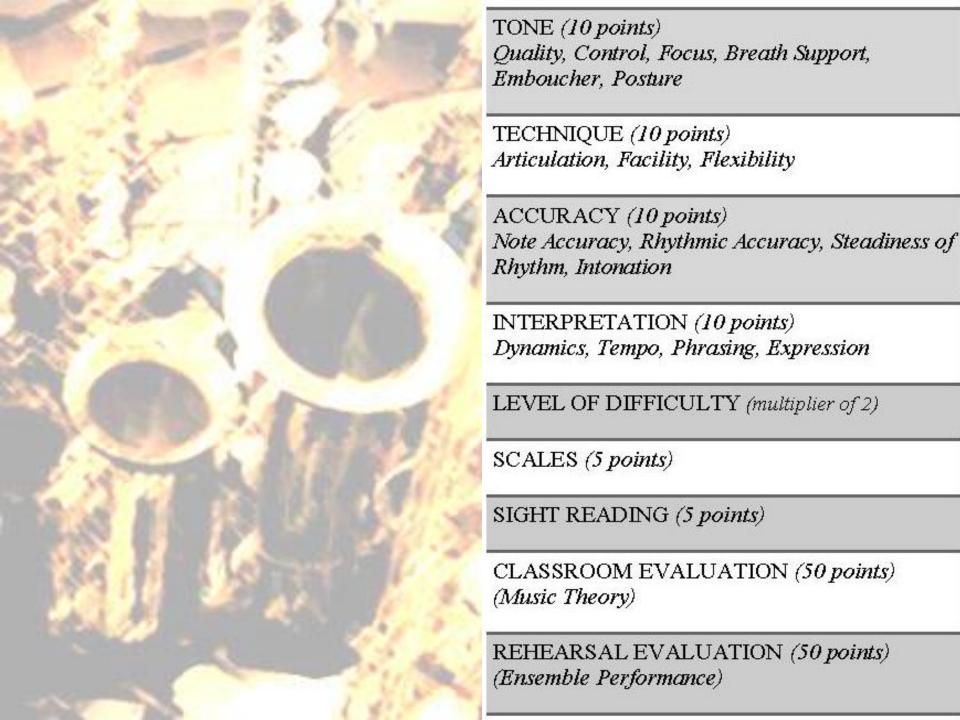


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Woodwinds & Brass

Screening Sheet

Checklist: Essay/Statement of Intent	□ Le	Letter of Recommendation		
	24%			
Area	Evaluation	Comme	ments	
FONF (10 points) Quarty, Control, Focus, Breath Support, En Joucher, Posture				
ECHNIQUE (10 points) Articulation, Facility, Flexibility				
ACCURACY (10 points) Note Accuracy, Rhythmic Accuracy, Steadiness o Rhythm, Intonation				
INTERPRETATION (10 points) Dynamics, Tempo, Phrasing, Expression				
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY (multiplier of 2)				
SCALES (5 points)				
SIGHT READING (5 points)				
CLASSROOM EVALUATION (50 points) Music Theory)				
RL HEARSAL EVALUATION (50 points) (En amble Performance)				
TOTAL POINTS & FINAL COMPUTATIONS				
is:			TOTAL SCO	



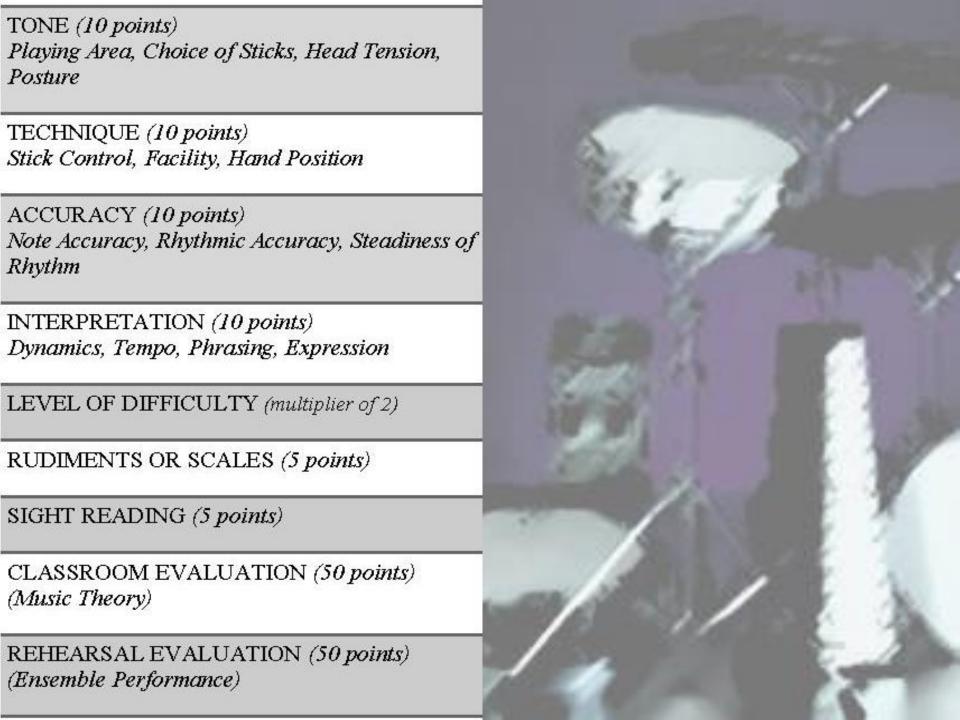


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Percussion

Checklist: Essay/Statement of Intent	☐ Letter of	Recommendation	☐ Portfolio
Area	Evaluation	Comme	nts
TONY (10 points) Playing Area, Choice of Sticks, Head Tendion, Posture			
IECHNIQUE (10 points) Stick Control, Facility, Hand Position			
ACCURACY (10 points) Note Accuracy, Rhythmic Accuracy, Steadiness o Rhythm			
INTERPRETATION (10 points) Dynamics, Tempo, Phrasing, Expression			
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY (multiplier of 2)			
RUDIMENTS OR SCALES (5 points)			
SIGHT READING (5 points)			
CLASSROOM EVALUATION (50 points) (Music Theory)			
LEHEARSAL EVALUATION (50 points) (La semble Performance)			
TOTAL POINTS & FINAL COMPUTATIONS			
es;			TOTAL SCOR
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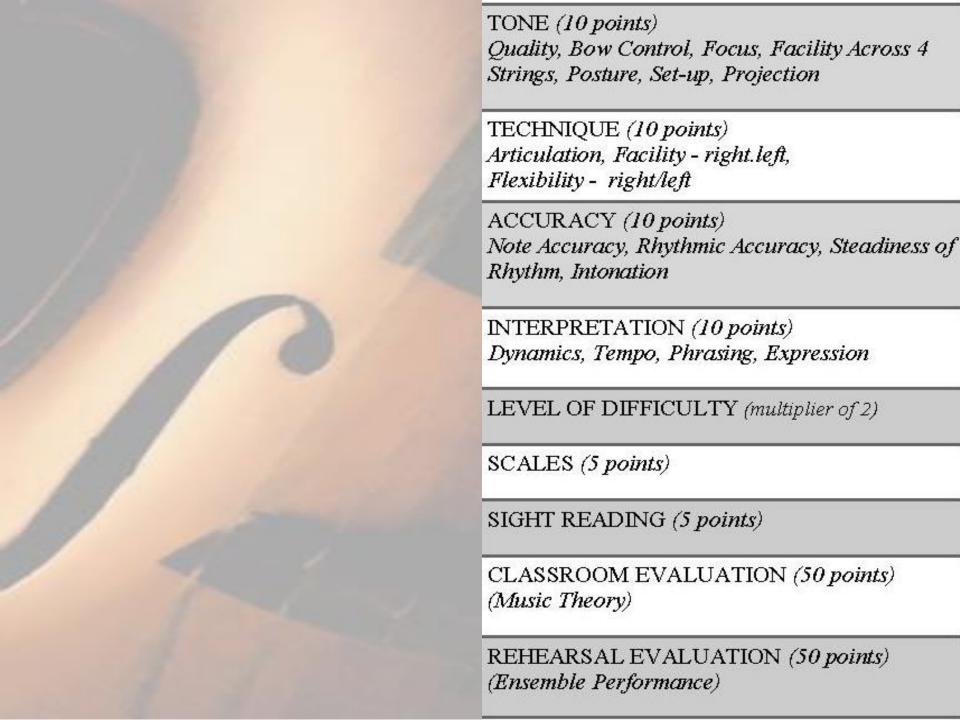




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Strings Screening Sheet

Checklist: Essay/Statement of Intent		Letter of Recommendation	☐ Portfolio
Area	Evaluation	n Comme	ents
CONE (10 points) Qua (1), Bow Control, Focus, Facility Acros. 4 It rigs, Posture, Set-up, Projection			
ECHNIQUE (10 points) rticulation, Facility - right.left, flexibility - right/left			
ACCURACY (10 points) Note Accuracy, Rhythmic Accuracy, Steadiness of Rhythm, Intonation			
NTERPRETATION (10 points) Dynamics, Tempo, Phrasing, Expression			
EVEL OF DIFFICULTY (multiplier of 2)			
CALES (5 points)			
IGHT READING (5 points)			
CLASSROOM EVALUATION (50 points) Music Theory)			
HEARSAL EVALUATION (50 points) En. emble Performance)			
TOTAL POINTS & FINAL COMPUTATIONS			
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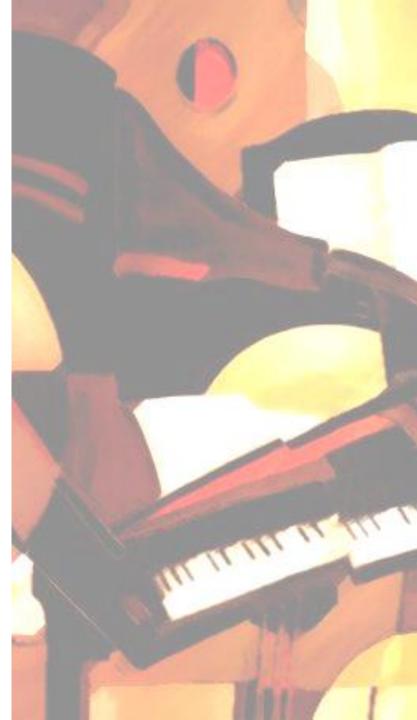




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Piano

Checklist:	☐ Essay/Statement of Intent	Letter of 1	Recommendation	☐ Portfolio
	Area	Evaluation	Comme	nts
RHYTHM	(10 points) CURACY (10 points)	:		
TECHNIQ	UE (10 points)	•		
MUSICIAN	NSHIP (10 points)	•		
LEVEL OF	DIFFICULTY (multiplier of 2)			
SCALES (.	10 points)			
SIGHT RE	ADING (5 points)			
CLASSRO (Music The	OM EVALUATION (50 points)			
(Maste The	ory,			
	AL EVALUATION (50 points) Performance)			
TOTAL PO	DINTS & MPUTATIONS			
		J.		
				TOTAL SCORE
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RHYTHM (10 points)
PITCH ACCURACY (10 points)
TECHNIQUE (10 points)
MUSICIANSHIP (10 points)

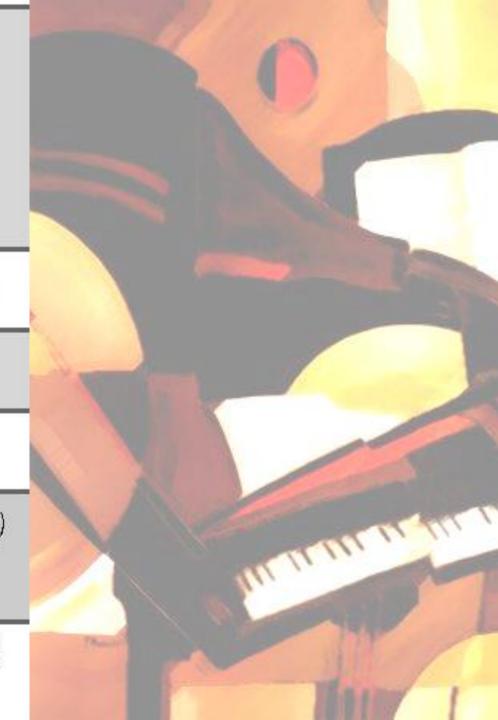
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY (multiplier of 2)

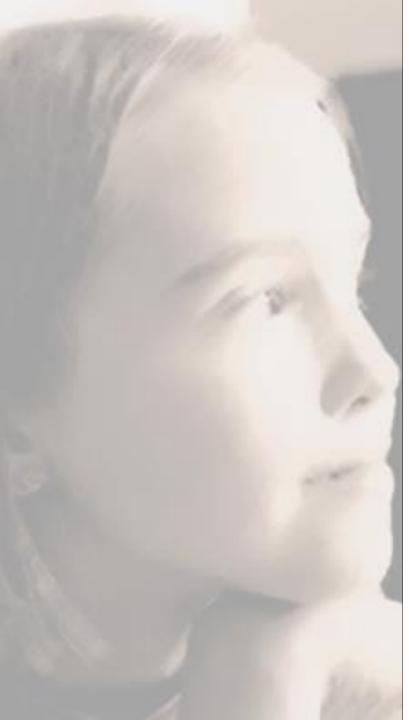
SCALES (10 points)

SIGHT READING (5 points)

CLASSROOM EVALUATION (50 points) (Music Theory)

REHEARSAL EVALUATION (50 points)
(Ensemble Performance)



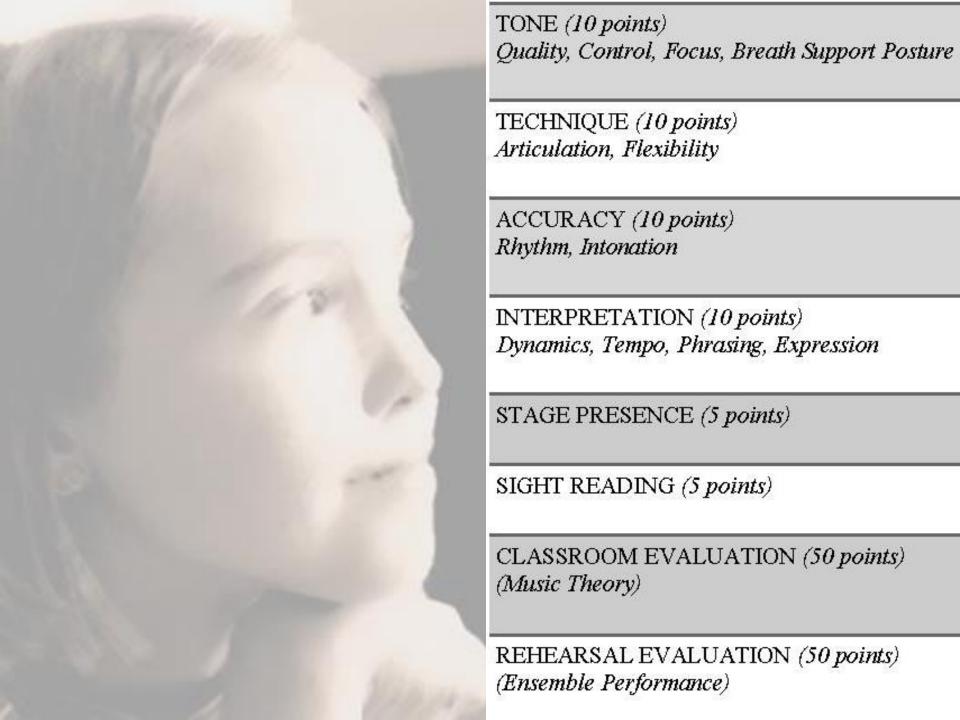




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Vocal Music

Checklist: Essay/Statement of Int	ent 🗌 Let	ter of Recommendation	☐ Portfolio
Area	Evaluation	Comme	nts
TON (10 points) Qu' ity, Control, Focus, Breath Support Po	ure		
ECHNIQUE (10 points) Articulation, Flexibility			
ACCURACY (10 points) Rhythm, Intonation			
INTERPRETATION (10 points) Dynamics, Tempo, Phrasing, Expression			
STAGE PRESENCE (5 points)			
SIGHT READING (5 points)			
CLASSROOM EVALUATION (50 points) (Music Theory)			
EHEARSAL EVALUATION (50 points) (A semble Performance)	7		
TOTA POINTS & FINAL COMPUTATIONS			
es:			TOTAL SCO

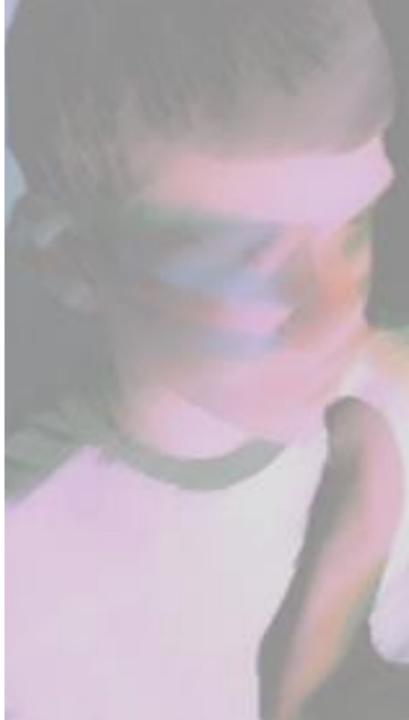




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Theatre Technology Screening Sheet

Checklist: Essay/Statement	CAD	□ Sound □ Stage Management □ Costumir Letter of Recommendation □ Portfolio
Area	Evaluation (0-5 points	Comments
TATERVIEW (10%) Preparation, Spontaneity		
PORTFOLIO (20%) Creativity Drawing Ability 3D Art		
POTENTIAL (40%) Commitment Willingness/Ability to follow directions Teamwork		
SKILL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP (30% Attention to Detail Procision Project Built According to Plan		
es:		
es:		
es:		TOTAL SCORE
es:		TOTAL SCORE
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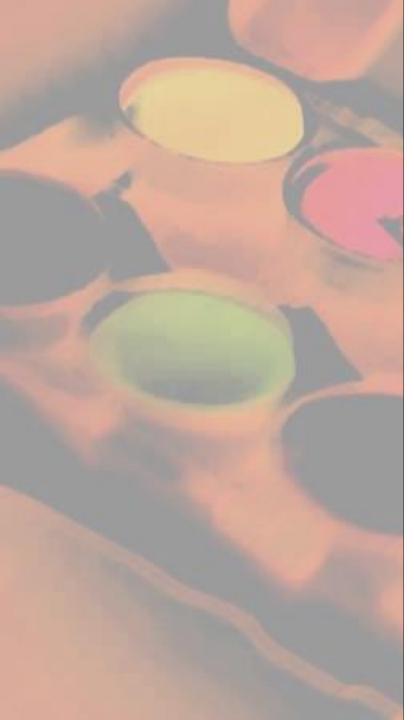


INTERVIEW (10%)
Preparation, Spontaneity

PORTFOLIO (20%) Creativity Drawing Ability 3D Art

POTENTIAL (40%)
Commitment
Willingness/Ability to follow directions
Teamwork

SKILL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP (30%) Attention to Detail Precision Project Built According to Plan





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Visual Arts

litional Stud	ent Information:	or coming officer		
mionai stud				
Checklist:	☐ Essay/Statement of Intent	Letter of Recommendation	☐ Drawing Sample	☐ Portfolio
	Area	Evaluation	Comments	
Base for the az ant pick or article Persona Sense o Skill & PARTICIPA Focused Coopera AUDITION Audition Pad Written Creativ Written 2D Drawing Persona Sense o Skill & D Modeling Persona Sense o Sense o	Statement (6) ity Test (6) Response (6) Activities (Shoe/Hand) al Expressiveness (6) f Design (6) Craftsmanship (6) g Sculpture Activity al Expressiveness (6) f Design (6) Craftsmanship (6)			
es:			тот	AL SCORI
			<u> </u>	
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PORTFOLIO / INTERVIEW (36 points)

Based on the audition instructions, a collection of previous artwork or artwork prepared for audition for review

- Personal Expressiveness (12)
- Sense of Design; ordering of visual elements (12)
- Skill & Craftsmanship (12)

PARTICIPATION (10 points)

- Focused Attention (5)
- Cooperation (5)

Audition Packet

- Written Statement (6)
 - Creativity Test (6)
- Written Response (6)
- 2D Drawing Activities (Shoe/Hand)
- Personal Expressiveness (6)
- Sense of Design (6)
- Skill & Craftsmanship (6) 3D Modeling Sculpture Activity
- Personal Expressiveness (6)
- Sense of Design (6)
 - Skill & Craftsmanship (6)

Confidential Applicant Snapshot



Confidential Applicant Snapshot

$\mathcal{O}\iota$						
Name of Student					Current Grad	ie
Name of person completing this form						
Relationship to student		Ih:	we known this	student	years/mon	ths (circle one)
What course(s) do you teach this student		Ma	terials used			
Your school's name		Sch	ool telephone			
To the Teachers and Adults completing this form: We your students best, we are asking you to provide us w Please be candid about your student's artistic ability children are constantly growing, changing and develohim/her. After you have completed this form, please help!	rith feedback or and motivation. ping. This form	n qualities we f We understa is one piece o	feel are essentiand the difficulty of the student's	al for student su in evaluating a profile that will	ccess at School of student and are fo be used in the ass	the Arts. Illy aware that essment of
	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent Top 10%	Outstanding Top 5%	Not Applicable
Leadership qualities						
Attendance						
Interest / Motivation						
Drive to succeed in demanding arts program						
Self confidence						
Integrity						
Creativity						
Initiative						
Respects supplies and equipment						
ARTISTIC TRAITS						
	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent Top 10%	Outstanding Top 5%	Not Applicable
Problem solving						
Artistic potential						
Effort						
Study habits						
Artistic curiosity						
Attention to detail						
Ability to follow direction						
Ability to work individually						
Ability to work in a group or ensemble						
Commitment to practicing and homework						





Confidential Applicant Snapshot

Name of Student		Current Grade
Name of person completing this form		
Relationship to student	I have known this student	years/months (circle one)
What course(s) do you teach this student	Materials used	
Your school's name	School telephone	

To the Teachers and Adults completing this form: We at School of the Arts appreciate your cooperation in completing this form. Since you know your students best, we are asking you to provide us with feedback on qualities we feel are essential for student success at School of the Arts. Please be candid about your student's artistic ability and motivation. We understand the difficulty in evaluating a student and are fully aware that children are constantly growing, changing and developing. This form is one piece of the student's profile that will be used in the assessment of him/her. After you have completed this form, please seal it and return it to SOTA AUDITIONS via USPS or RCSD Courier Mail. Thank you for your help!

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent Top 10%	Outstanding Top 5%	Not Applicable
Leadership qualities						
Attendance						
Interest / Motivation						
Drive to succeed in demanding arts program						
Self confidence						
Integrity						
Creativity						
Initiative						
Respects supplies and equipment						

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent Top 10%	Outstanding Top 5%	Not Applicable
Problem solving						
Artistic potential						
Effort						
Study habits						
Artistic curiosity						
Attention to detail						
Ability to follow direction						
Ability to work individually						
Ability to work in a group or ensemble						
Commitment to practicing and homework						



We appreciate any	assistance you ca	n give us by	answering	the questions	below.	Please feel free to	use additional
pages if necessary.							

We app pages i	preciate any assistance you can give us by answering the questions below. Please feel free to use additional f necessary.
	Based on your observation, please evaluate the applicant's talent, imaginative qualities and potential for artistic growth.
2.	How serious is this student's study of their art form? How focused/interested is he/she? How does this student respond to constructive criticism?
S .	We would appreciate any additional comments and observations concerning this student. Please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper.
Please	circle one:
	Highly Recommend Do Not Recommend
Teacher	Signature, Street Address, Date



If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact staff at SOTA