



SOTA AUDITIONS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I audition for more than one major?

No. We feel that you will be more successful if you choose the major you are most passionate about and focus only on that major. Also, SOTA receives between 500 – 600 applications each year. Each applicant is guaranteed to be scheduled for an audition over the course of three days. We simply do not have enough time or resources to audition that many students in more than one major.

How many available seats are there each year?

SOTA typically accepts 200 new students each year. This equates to approximately 20 students per major. Statistically, SOTA will accept roughly one out of every five students who apply. Unfortunately, four of every five families will not be accepted. Because of this, it is vital that you complete the RCSD Schools of Choice Booklet to secure a seat at your second or third choice school if you are not accepted into SOTA.

Can I audition again next year if I do not get accepted this year?

Yes! You can audition each and every year. The largest number of acceptances, however, occur at the 7th grade level. Acceptance for off grade level auditions (students entering any grade beyond 7th grade) is not only based on the completion of a successful audition, but also seat availability specifically in your child's grade level and chosen major area of art.

What does the audition consist of?

SOTA's audition is a simulated experience. Within this time, students will experience what it would be like to attend SOTA. Because of this, our audition process is as much an audition of us as it is of your child. We have created a unique combination of group and individual work specific to each artistic discipline. The audition lasts for approximately three hours and will consist of your child participating in class(es) and/or rehearsal(s), as well as an interview/performance component where your child will individually demonstrate their artistic ability.

What do you look for in the audition?

We look for a unique combination of talent and potential to learn. We measure this through a three-hour simulated experience where students will be able to participate in a variety of group and individual work.

Do you factor in academics, behavior, attendance, etc. into your decision to accept students?

No. Acceptance into SOTA is based only on your child's artistic ability as measured during the scheduled audition.

Do you expect all of your students to pursue a career in the arts after graduation?

No. Our focus is to provide your child with a well-rounded education with an emphasis on the Arts. Only 25%–30% of our students will pursue a career in the arts after graduation. However, 100% of our students will have a greater appreciation for the arts in education and in society when they leave SOTA.

Do you give preference to students who have siblings that already attend SOTA?

No. The only possible exception would be in the case of a tiebreaker. However, in that situation we would also take other factors into consideration such as the completion of their application file, quality of student essays, letters of recommendation and artistic portfolio.

If I get accepted into one arts major, will I have an opportunity to participate in other majors?

Yes, particularly in grades 7 and 8. Our Middle School curriculum in the Arts is exploratory in nature. Our Middle School music ensembles are open to all students. Additionally, Middle School students are scheduled into 10-week arts rollover class where they will experience every major over the course of their two years in Middle School prior to entering grade 9 where they will essentially be locked into their majors through graduation. However, please know that High School students also have opportunities to take elective classes in other majors, especially junior and senior year when their schedule provides additional time. Any student can audition for our plays and musicals that take place throughout the year.

How does SOTA compare academically to charter schools and other public schools in our area?

It is difficult to compare SOTA to charter schools because they operated under different guidelines. SOTA students are held to the same academic standards as any other public school. Our high graduation rate is evidence of our strong academic program. There are also full offerings of Advanced Placement courses within every department. SOTA will fully prepare your child to pursue any academic or artistic career of their choosing after graduation.

We hope this document has answered some question that you may have had about SOTA and our audition process. If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact Mario Belculfine, Assistant Principal for the Arts at School of the Arts. Thank you.