



*We strive to provide every student an avenue to success
through academics, creative and expressive arts, and athletics.*

Application and Audition Guidelines 2018-2019 Incoming 6th Grade Students

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Deadline to Return Audition Packet: Friday, February 16, 2018



Audition and Admission Criteria

Please read this entire packet completely.

Veterans Park Academy for the Arts (VPAA) is an Arts School located in the East Zone. We offer Dance, Musical Theatre, Band, Guitar, Orchestra, Keyboard, Chorus, Visual Arts, and TV Production. Incoming 6th Grade students who are interested in coming to Veterans Park Academy for the Arts as one of our selected arts students must live in Sub Zones 1 or 2 in the East Zone and complete their Student Assignment application before they are able to apply and audition.

Please follow the procedures described on the following pages carefully. The entire process for application into Veterans Park Academy for the Arts Program includes the following steps:

1. Complete the LCSD Student Assignment application either online or paper.
2. Complete Student Application (enclosed) and return by **February 16, 2018**.
 - Application
 - Two letters of recommendation (one from a current teacher and one that can speak to the student's artistic ability. Letters must not be from a member of the applicant's family.) See forms included in packet.
 - Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions.
3. You will be contacted to schedule this audition which will be held on **February 26, 2018** between the hours of 4:00PM-7:00 PM.

Please block out this date on your calendar now.

 - Prepare for your audition by following the audition guidelines as listed under each art area in this Audition and Admission Criteria packet.
 - Come to your audition at the appointed time. All auditions are closed to observers.
 - If a student becomes ill and is unable to audition, written verification documenting the illness from a doctor must be presented to the school within three (3) school days of the date of the of the student's scheduled audition. A new audition date and time will be selected for the student by the school.
4. If you auditioned:
 - You will receive notification by mail no later than 15 days from your audition date.
 - If you are accepted for one of the 15 seats, an intent form will also be included. This letter of intent is due back to Veterans Park Academy for the Arts no later than **March 23, 2018**. After that date, we will go to the next student on the waiting list.
5. If you are selected for the Arts Program at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts:
 - You are making a **three year** commitment to the Arts Program at VPAA in the arts discipline that you auditioned for.
 - For example, if you auditioned for Dance, you will remain in the Dance program all three years.
 - The student is required to maintain a full academic course load on the Veterans Park Academy for the Arts campus.
 - Participation and attendance for performance related after school activities is required.
6. Parent/Guardian involvement is HIGHLY recommended and welcomed. **It is an expectation that you adhere to all the deadlines.** Failure to meet deadlines will result in forfeiting your seat at the school at which you auditioned.



Arts Program Descriptions/Audition Requirements

The arts provides an exciting opportunity for artistically talented elementary school students of Lee County. Once selected at an arts designated school, students become part of an artistic environment designed to develop their talents to the highest possible level while fostering an appreciation and love of the arts which will serve them well in the pursuit of the next step in their educational training and chosen careers.

Just a reminder...in addition to the arts application/audition packet, a zone school application **must** also be completed according to the published timeline. ALL auditions are closed to all observers with no exceptions. This is for the purpose of fairness and equality for all students auditioning.

Dance

Students at VPAA concentrating in dance will be provided unique opportunities to discover, create, and explore the art of dance. Students will train in ballet, modern, jazz, social and ethnic dance and will also be exposed to dance history, anatomy, nutrition and choreography. They will be given opportunities to perform work created especially for them. Through guest teachers and field trips, students will be exposed to working professionals and career options. It is our goal to develop every student's knowledge, talent and love for dance. Parent or guardian support is crucial to the success of any performing art student. Therefore, we highly encourage families to take an active part in the program.

Audition Requirements:

Each student will participate in a live group audition to include but not limited to the following:

- A dance class including dance skills (ballet, modern, and jazz), as well as a short dance combination.
- A short assessment of ballet barre exercises such as Plie, Tendu, and Soutenu.
- A short assessment of locomotor movement such as Chasse, Chasse step leap, and Chainés.
- A short assessment of basic jazz exercises such as Pirouette.
- A short assessment of flexibility and special skills/choreography

Audition Attire

Females are to wear a leotard and tights. Hair is to be secured in a ponytail or bun. Feet can be bare. Ballet shoes and jazz shoes are preferred for the appropriate sections of the class.

Males are to wear solid color gym shorts and a plain T-shirt. Feet can be bare. Ballet shoes and jazz shoes are preferred for the appropriate sections of the class. Hair is to be secured away from the face.



Theatre

The Musical Theatre Program consists of two levels: Musical Theatre 1 and Advanced Musical Theatre. Each group will be expected to attend rehearsals and perform in front of an audience consisting of student community, family members, and possible community performances. Advanced Musical Theatre students will be expected to participate in the annual district and state festivals. Students will study and explore all aspects of the theatre process. Through classroom study and performances, students will be trained in the art and craft of theatre. Drama students gain skills in acting, pantomime, costumes, lighting, sound, stage craft, literature, history, vocal techniques, and playwriting. Students will learn that successful communication in the theatre involves the full integration of all these parts.

Audition Requirements

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- Prepare one monologue from a published play. The monologue must be memorized. Maximum monologue time is a total of three minutes. Please check your material to ensure that you meet this time limit as you will be timed.
- Students may be asked to participate in a cold reading exercise or short movement activity to demonstrate basic skills of commitment to character. Please wear attire which allows for movement.
- Students may be asked to answer a few questions about themselves, e.g. hobbies, activities.

Applicants are expected to arrive at the beginning of the audition time block to sign in. Students will be auditioning one at a time. Parents and guardians will NOT be allowed in the audition room.

Audition Attire

Students are to dress as they would for a professional audition but be able to move freely. Flat, closed-toe shoes that cover the entire foot are suggested. Students should not be wearing sandals, flip-flops or other inappropriate footwear. Hair is to be secured away from the face.

Music: Band, Orchestra, Chorus

The Veterans Park Academy for the Arts Music students have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with one or more ensembles based on their skill and performance area: Band, Orchestra, and/or Chorus. Students within the music department will have the opportunity to select a concentration in the area of instrumental or vocal music. Based upon the selection and the specific talent area of the student, a stimulating course of study will be designed to develop this talent to its highest possible level. In addition to classes in all fundamental musical areas, each student will participate in a wide array of ensemble and individual performance experiences.

The Veterans Park Academy for the Arts Band Program is designed to help students establish the fundamental techniques needed to perform on a band instrument as well as how to read music. There are four levels of band offered: Beginning Band, Concert Band, Beginning Percussion Ensemble, and Advanced Percussion Ensemble. VPAA also has Beginning and Advanced Guitar. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.



The Strings Program consists of three levels of orchestra: Orchestra 1, Orchestra 2, and Chamber Orchestra. Each group will be expected to perform in front of a variety of audiences, consisting of students, family members, and community. Music theory and music reading are part of the expectations for all three levels of orchestra. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

The Choral Program consists of two levels of chorus: Chorus 1 and Advanced Choir. Each group will be expected to attend rehearsals and perform in front of a variety of audiences, consisting of students, family members, and the community. Advanced Choir students are expected to participate in Music Performance Assessment (MPA) festivals at district and possibly state levels, Solo & Ensemble, and other community performances throughout the school year. Music theory and music reading are part of the expectations for all levels of chorus.

Instrumental Audition Requirements

Experienced Instrumental Students

- Students with experience will play a prepared solo of their choice that demonstrates their current level.
- Student will be required to sight read a short excerpt that will be provided at the audition. If your experience is only with the recorder, you may prepare a solo of your choice on the recorder.

Percussion Students

- Percussion students will prepare a solo on the mallets (xylophone, marimba, or bells). These instruments and the mallets will be provided at the audition.
- Students will also demonstrate the rudiments that they know on the snare drum.

Inexperienced Instrumental Students

- Students who are new to a music class who wish to audition will go through an interview that will assess basic music theory knowledge and rhythmic ability.
- The students will go through an instrument fitting process to determine if the instrument is a suitable fit for that student.

Audition Requirements

Chorus

Each student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- A prepared performance of "The Water is Wide."
- A major scale sung on a neutral syllable, *solfeggio*, or numbers a cappella (sung with no accompaniment), evaluated for accuracy
- A rhythmic sight-reading exercise evaluated for rhythmic accuracy
- A melodic sight-reading exercise, evaluated for melodic accuracy
- A tonal memory exercise evaluated by the number of remembered pitches sung
 - *Optional*

Each student may perform an additional song of his/her choice which demonstrates the student's vocal skill. Students may sing a cappella or bring a recorded accompaniment. Recorded accompaniments must not contain a vocalist singing the student's part.



Visual Arts

The visual arts program at the VPAA will concentrate upon the optimum development of each student's artistic skills and techniques. Through immersion in a state of the art environment, and training by a highly skilled staff, students will become strong visual communicators, creative thinkers, and resourceful problem solvers. The opportunity to exhibit as well as to participate in multidisciplinary arts projects will assist students in the development of a global perspective regarding the interrelationship of visual arts to other arts and to our society. Guidance in the compilation of personal portfolios and marketing skills will contribute to the prospects for successful pursuit of the next phase of each student's education and/or chosen career.

Audition Requirements

- Each applicant will be required to participate in a one-hour studio class. During this class, each student will be observed creating several works of art using a variety of mediums.
- Applicants are asked to bring their personal samples of artworks with them to the class. Each item is to be labeled on the back, and is to include the following: Their name, title of the art work, grade level when created and the medium used.
- A minimum of Five (5) selections showing a variety of subjects, media, and techniques of the student's most current and best work.
- A working journal or sketchbook which is currently being used by the student.

Television Production

The Television News Production course is a semester class which introduces middle school students to the essential skills needed to gather and present school news and information. Students will learn news sources, script writing, and interview techniques, basic and advanced video shots, studio and remote equipment operation, computer graphics, editing and news presentation. There are 40 middle school students are selected each year for the Television Production crew. Successful applicants must have skill in reading, writing and speaking, as well as technical ability, as each student will be both in front and behind the television camera.

Audition Requirements

- Bring a letter of recommendation from a Language Arts, Fine Arts or TV Production teacher.
- Each applicant will prepare an original story of not more than **1 minute** in length that will be read on camera from their prepared script.
- In addition, each applicant will be handed an additional script to read on camera from our teleprompter. The script may be read once and the applicant may ask questions to clarify words or meaning.

Both scripts will then be recorded to complete the audition process.

Applicants will be evaluated by their written script and their presentation of both scripts to the audience. Video editing skills helpful.



Rec. By _____ Date _____

Veterans Park Academy for the Arts
6th Grade Middle School Audition Application Form
2018-2019 School Year
Fax Number (239) 303-3075
Phone Number (239) 303-3003
49 Homestead Road, Leigh Acres, FL 33936

Please fill out the information below and return by fax, US Mail or in person to our school.
The deadline to submit this application is Friday, February 16, 2018
No applications will be accepted after Friday, February 16, 2018

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Student ID
Current Mailing Address		City, State, Zip Code	
Date of Birth	Gender	Present School	
First and Last Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)		Parent Contact Number	Primary Language
Parent/Guardian e-mail address			

Auditions will be held on February 26th
Scheduled between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

You may audition for up to **two** elective areas below.

Please rank your preference with a 1 for your top choice and a 2 for your second choice.

_____Band; Please list instrument:_____	_____Chorus	_____Dance	_____TV Production
_____Orchestra; Please list instrument:_____	_____Theatre	_____Visual Arts	

We will contact you with your audition day and time once we receive all applications and can schedule auditions. Please ensure the parent contact number above is accurate.

* Students are expected to make a three year commitment to participating in the elective course in the school's arts program. Students who drop the program will lose their seat at VPAA and need to go back through student assignment.

* Your student assignment receipt must accompany this application. This is obtained by registering with the School District of Lee County through the STUDENT ASSIGNMENT office BEFORE TURNING IN THIS APPLICATION.

* Additionally, you MUST have a current address in the east sub zones to audition at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the Audition and Admission Criteria.

Student Signature	Date	Parent Signature	Date
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Office Use Only: Date Received_____ Complete_____ Not Complete_____



Application: Teacher Recommendation 1

*Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher's signature across the sealed back.
 Recommendations must be included in the application packet and returned by February 16, 2018.
 Please print clearly.*

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student ID
Name of person making the recommendation	Phone Number	
E-mail address	Years You Have Known the Applicant	

Please rate this student:

	<i>No Basis</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>
Creativity						
Self-Motivation						
Self-Discipline						
Work Habits						
Academic Achievement						
Interpersonal Skills						
Interest in the Arts						
Written Expression of Ideas						
Potential for Growth						
Ability to Follow Directions						

(Continue on the other side)



Application: Teacher Recommendation 2

*Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher's signature across the sealed back.
 Recommendations must be included in the application packet and returned by February 16, 2018.
 Please print clearly.*

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student ID
Name of person making the recommendation		Phone Number
E-mail address		Years You Have Known the Applicant

Please rate this student:

	<i>No Basis</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>
Creativity						
Self-Motivation						
Self-Discipline						
Work Habits						
Academic Achievement						
Interpersonal Skills						
Interest in the Arts						
Written Expression of Ideas						
Potential for Growth						
Ability to Follow Directions						

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