



## The Creative Writing Department at ASFA

The ASFA Creative Writing department offers a disciplined study of poetry and prose for grades 7 – 12. Students do more than simply produce poems, stories, and creative nonfiction of high literary merit. Because we believe good writing requires good thinking, the department's primary goal is to develop students' critical thinking skills. Our rigorous program of writing workshops, literature surveys, and professional development opportunities is designed to help each young writer cultivate a writing process that is demanding, rewarding, and sustainable.

### Application Procedure

To apply to the Creative Writing Department at ASFA, you must be a rising 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grader.

**Application Deadline: ASFA must receive all the following documents by January 28, 2022.** Student Application; Application Fee; **three** Teacher Recommendation Forms; Counselor/Registrar Form, including transcript and testing information and writing portfolio.

**Student Application:** Complete and submit to ASFA **as soon as possible**.

**Application Fee:** A \$50.00 non-refundable application fee must be paid when application is submitted **on or before the deadline**.

**Teacher Recommendation Forms (3):** Forms are located under schoolrecs on the application. Forms must be electronically signed by the parent and student before forms are submitted to the teachers to complete. Forms must be completed by your **current English and two academic teachers of choice**. Recommendations must be received **on or before the deadline**.

**Counselor/Registrar Request for Grades Form:** Form is located under schoolrecs on the application. Form must be signed by the parent and student before the form is submitted to the Registrar or Guidance Counselor at your school to complete. This form and all the requested information must be completed and returned to ASFA **on or before the deadline**.

## Writing Portfolio

**DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME** on any writing samples. When Creative Writing faculty assess the portfolios, they do not know the student's name, sex or other identifying information.

- Include a cover page on your writing portfolio labeled with applicant's name, grade, and birthdate.
- Label each page with appropriate headings (poetry, short fiction, and personal essay) and individual titles. Also, each page of the writing portfolio must be labeled with the applicant's birthdate in the right-hand corner (ex: June 14, 2001 should read 61401).
- The portfolio must be submitted electronically, 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Single-space poetry and double-space short fiction and personal essay.
- Do not include illustrations, clip art, or submit more work than requested in the writing guidelines.

Portfolios that do not follow these guidelines will not be read. The portfolio must be sent to ASFA **on or before the deadline** to Melanie Lee (address below). The following requirements apply to **all grades, 7 – 11**.

**POETRY – five to seven (5 – 7) poems.** Note: this refers to individual poems, not pages.

**SHORT FICTION – five to ten (5 – 10) pages** of short fiction

**PERSONAL ESSAY – One to two (1 – 2) pages.** Pick **ONE** of the following essay prompts:

- Write about the most transformative moment you experienced last year.
- How does writing change the way you see the world?
- What objects tell the story of your life?

The writing portfolio should be organized in the order listed above. **Only completed applications received by the deadline** will be reviewed. When the audition committee reaches a decision, we will notify you.

### Email Creative Writing Portfolio to

Melanie Lee

Registrar

[mlee@asfaschool.org](mailto:mlee@asfaschool.org)

### For questions about completing applications contact

Melanie Lee

205.252-9241

205.458-0342 (fax number)

Email: [mlee@asfaschool.org](mailto:mlee@asfaschool.org)

### For questions about specific audition requirements contact

T. J. Beitelman

Chair, Creative Writing Department

Email: [tjbeitelman@asfaschool.org](mailto:tjbeitelman@asfaschool.org)