



Gaston County Schools Performing Arts Academy

Performing Arts Academy at Pinewood Elementary School Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of A+ and Arts Integration?

The purpose of A+ implementation is to develop a creative culture in which the curriculum is taught through collaboration and multi-discipline integration, with the arts continuously woven into every child's learning experience.

2. What are the requirements for admissions to the Academy?

Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics. Parent/legal guardian must be residents of Gaston County.

3. Who can apply to the Performing Arts Academy at Pinewood and how are students selected?

Students entering kindergarten. Students in grades 1-5 will also be accepted, where seats are available. Students are selected through a lottery.

4. What are the requirements for continued enrollment?

Parent/legal guardian must maintain residency in Gaston County. Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics.

5. What other schools are A+ Art Integration Schools?

Ida Rankin Elementary and WA Bess Elementary are A+ Art Integration schools.

6. What will my child gain from this program?

Research shows that students' grade-level proficiency increases and schools meet or exceed overall school performance goals following the initial three-year implementation of A+. Pinewood will begin its third year in 2023. In fact, students who are traditionally the most marginalized show the largest and most rapid gains. Successful A+ schools report improved attendance, fewer disciplinary problems, stronger teacher satisfaction, and higher levels of community and parental involvement.

7. What will my child learn with the implementation of A+ and Arts Integration?

A+SCHOOLS <small>OF NORTH CAROLINA</small>		A+ Essentials: A Set of Commitments™ <small>A+ Essentials revised and adopted by the National A+ Schools Consortium, October 2016.</small>		<small>National A+ Schools Consortium</small>
Arts <i>In A+ schools the arts are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experienced daily through instruction, integration and exposure inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual arts, creative writing and media arts included in curriculum planning and design integrated in all content areas valued as essential to creativity, learning and personal experiences a part of the school's internal and external identity 	Curriculum <i>In A+ schools curriculum is addressed through:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing teacher skills in creating effective and engaging instruction ongoing curriculum exploration and planning intentional two-way integration of the arts and other disciplines horizontal and vertical alignment of standards enhanced conceptual connections collaborative development of integrated lessons and units 	Multiple Learning Pathways <i>In A+ schools multiple learning pathways include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Intelligences (MI) theory and practice brain research and brain-based philosophies a focus on building 21st century and higher order thinking skills creating and balancing learning opportunities that support the whole child intentional opportunities for students, families, community to develop understanding of how people learn 	Experiential Learning <i>In A+ schools experiential learning:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates student engagement is grounded in arts-based and hands-on learning experiences provides integrated and authentic connections to real-life application models the creative process and inquiry-based instruction allows for understanding of entry points and differentiated instruction provides multifaceted assessment opportunities 	
Enriched Assessment <i>In A+ schools enriched assessment is:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a reflective practice that is designed for learning inclusive of arts and multiple learning pathways ongoing, integrated, experiential and collaborative used both as a self-assessment tool by teachers and students and to help meet school system requirements instrumental in creating a comprehensive picture of student understanding 	Collaboration <i>In A+ schools collaboration is:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> valued and intentional fostered by administration and faculty prioritized through designated time for classroom and special area teachers to plan together experienced throughout the day and in many ways utilized to build relationships within and outside the school community 	Infrastructure <i>In A+ schools infrastructure:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the A+ philosophy fosters supportive and shared leadership addresses daily logistics to allow for collaboration provides time, space and resources to support implementation continually maintains a shared vision and develops faculty commitment provides relevant professional development and mentoring is reflected at all levels 	Climate <i>In A+ schools climate is enhanced through:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building collaborative skills that create an environment of respect and support developing a creative community that is fun and engaging for teachers and students focusing on lifelong learning for the entire school community working towards a common vision and shared decision making sharing and celebration 	

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8. What is the earliest I can drop my child off and the latest I can pick up my child?

The doors will open for student drop off at 7:05. All students need to be picked up by 2:45.