



Gifted Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Overview and Adjudication Requirements

The DCPS Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) strives to identify students in grades 4-8 who are artistically and musically gifted and talented. Currently we offer programs for students who are found eligible in Visual Arts, Vocal Music or Instrumental Music and provide instructional services to meet their needs. The Gifted Fine Arts Program provides experiences that challenge the advanced artistically and musically talented students.

The VPA Gifted program meets quarterly, with newly accepted students beginning in the second semester of the school year. Students can be nominated by teachers, parents or other stakeholders. All nominated students are required to attend an adjudication session which will be held on the first Saturday in February. Referrals are accepted throughout the school year, however, to be considered for the spring semester, nomination packets must be finalized by the last school day in November. Incomplete or applications received after the deadline will be considered for the next school year.

The VPA Selection Committee will meet to review portfolios and for auditions/adjudication yearly. Students should be advised that there is an academic component to fine arts and that there will be some requirements involving oral and written work inside and outside of the classroom. Criteria considered when reviewing applications include: superior potential in art or music, superior potential in creativity, and high interest and motivation in art or music.

An Adjudication (Audition)/Portfolio Review will be held on **the first Saturday in February at Dinwiddie Middle School**. Time slots will be communicated to parents once the nominations have been received. Please review the information for the specific focus area requirements (Art, Vocal Music, or Instrumental Music). The adjudication process will take approximately 20-40 minutes.

All sixth through eighth grade students who are identified as artistically or musically gifted and who wish to participate in the Gifted Fine Arts Program will attend a once per quarter pull out model at Dinwiddie Middle School led by the art or music teacher.

Fourth and fifth grade students who are identified as artistically or musically gifted and who wish to participate in the Gifted Fine Arts Program will attend a once per quarter pull out model in a centralized school with transportation provided.



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For students interested in the Fine Arts Gifted Program for ART

- A Nomination Form can be submitted by the student, parent/guardian, teacher or other.
- Once a nomination form has been received, parents will be asked to complete a parent survey and to sign the Permission to Evaluate Form.
- Prior to adjudication on **the first Saturday in February, at Dinwiddie Middle School**, students will complete 3 required drawings on DCPS provided forms and bring them to the adjudication session.
 - The 3 required drawings will depict the following subjects: a self-portrait, a drawing of your home, and an illustration of a dream or memory. Students must follow directions on each page.
 - Students should draw, using a pencil only, from real life.
 - The student's name, school, age and grade must be on each piece of artwork to ensure proper identification.
- Students will be scheduled for adjudication on **the first Saturday in February, at Dinwiddie Middle School**.
 - Applicants will be required to draw, in pen, from observation, a still-life study (10 minutes) on-site.
 - Students will also be required to sculpt a 3-dimensional model, from observation, on site (10 minutes).
 - Students should bring an art portfolio and be prepared to discuss their work. Portfolios should include 5-10 pieces of recent artwork and can consist of finished pieces, works-in-progress, and sketch books.
 - Artwork should be independent work and may be 2-dimensional (drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, computer art, etc.) or 3-dimensional (sculpture, mobiles, crafts, architectural models, ceramics, fashion, etc.). Artwork too large to bring to the adjudication site can be presented in photographs, or on a digital device. (Limit 3-dimensional pieces to three or fewer and if larger than a shoe box, the student will need to share these items through photographs or digitally). Students will be responsible for transporting their portfolio.
 - Drawings/sculpture from observation are preferred, rather from images on the Internet or from photographs. Examples include: still-life studies, landscapes, portraits, or interior scenes. Drawings done in a cartoon/ anime/ manga style or as a game character development are permitted IF it is an observation of an actual 3-dimensional object or from life/figure drawing.
 - Select work that demonstrates originality, creativity, and skill in the use of materials and techniques, ideas/ content, subject matter, consistency, and craftsmanship.
 - A simple portfolio case made of two pieces of stiff cardboard, held together with tape or twine is adequate. Pieces of plain blank paper can be used to separate the works. Include your name, address, telephone number, grade, and current school written in clearly printed block letters on the outside of the portfolio. Label any photographs.
- Visual Arts applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:
 - Technique/Skills (Design cohesiveness. Proficiency in skills. Variety of media techniques. Sketchbook/Idea development. Craftsmanship.)
 - Artistic Vision (Originality in approach. Openness to experimentation. Curiosity. Creative composition. Individual expression.)
 - Drawing Exercise (Ability to create composition. Consistency with shown portfolio. Understanding of underlying forms. Interpretation of prompt. Line quality and control.)
 - Content/Theme (Appropriate subject matter. Clarity of ideas/intent. Historical/personal context. Cross-disciplinary connections. Depth of exploration.)
 - Overall Assessment (Articulate about work during interview. Professional portfolio presentation. Demonstrates a passion for art. Comfortable in receiving critique. General knowledge of visual arts.)
- A Screening Committee will review parent surveys, evaluate portfolios, required drawings and work completed on the adjudication day for originality, complexity of detail (elaboration), composition/design, quality, perception, and expressiveness.
- Students will be notified of the decision of the Screening Committee following adjudication day.
- Identified students will be recommended for placement in the DCPS Gifted Fine Arts Program.



For students interested in the Fine Arts Gifted Program for MUSIC

- A Nomination Form can be submitted by the student, parent/guardian, teacher or other.
- Once a nomination form has been received, parents will be asked to complete a parent questionnaire and to sign the Permission to Evaluate Form.
- Students will be scheduled for an adjudication time on **the first Saturday in February, at Dinwiddie Middle School** where they will perform for a panel consisting of music teachers, general education teachers, and/or administrators or their designee. (20 minutes). At the adjudication session, students will be required to:
 - Select and perform two musical selections that showcase his/her abilities.
 - Bring their own instrument and/or accompaniment recording on CD. Students will be responsible for transporting their own instruments.
 - Keyboard/Piano provided
 - Note: Vocal music accompaniment may not have lead vocals. Please find designated accompaniment tracks, such as for karaoke.
 - Demonstrate poise and presence by introducing his/herself and selections to be performed.
 - For Vocal Music, students will demonstrate vocal range, pitch matching and sight-reading ability through scales.
 - For Instrumental Music, students will play and demonstrate sight reading ability.
 - Participate in a brief interview regarding his/her music background and goals.
- A Screening Committee will review the adjudication rubrics and parent surveys.
- Music applicants will be evaluated in the following areas:
 - Pitch (singing/playing in tune)
 - Quality
 - Timing
 - Posture
 - Preparation
 - Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music. Appreciates the importance of musical preparation. Projects poise and maturity. Demonstrates ensemble experience)
- Students will be notified of the decision of the Screening Committee following adjudication day.
- Identified students will be recommended for placement in the DCPS Gifted Fine Arts Program.



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Fine Arts Gifted Program - Art

Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

1. **Self-Portrait:** Look at yourself in a mirror and draw what you see, using a **plain pencil only** (no color). Include reflections of other things you see in the mirror.



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Fine Arts Gifted Program - Art

Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

2. **Your Home:** Find a comfortable place outside or inside your home and carefully draw where you live, using a **plain pencil only** (no color). Draw your home from any angle where you can see two walls at the same time.



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Fine Arts Gifted Program - Art

Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

3. **Imaginary Drawing:** Draw a dream or memory, using a **plain pencil only** (no color). Give this picture a title.

Title: _____