



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

# Application and Audition Guidelines

## 2022-2023

### Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Ed Carter  
*Principal*

Jaclyn Kustra  
Mark Macchia  
Rebecca Mendes  
Misty Smyrnios  
*Assistant Principals*

49 Homestead Road S.  
Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936  
Telephone: 239-303-3003  
Fax: 239-303-3075

**Deadline to Return Audition Packet: Friday, January 28, 2022**





## 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. Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are interested in coming to Veterans Park Academy for the Arts as one of our selected arts students must complete the Zone 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 **January 28, 2022**
  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> for Visual Arts, Music, Dance, and Drama and February 4<sup>th</sup> for Technology** between the hours of 4:00 PM-6:30 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 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 20 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 **February 25, 2022**. 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 for the arts discipline in which you auditioned.
  - 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.
7. It is an expectation ALL deadlines are strictly adhered to. Failure to follow deadlines will result in denial of your applied program seat.



## Arts Program Descriptions/Audition Requirements

The arts provide 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 upload their addition into a Google Classroom. The information will be provided to the student after the application is turned into the school.

- 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.

## **Drama**

Students at VPAA concentrating in drama will be provided unique opportunities to discover, create, and explore the art of drama. Through classroom study and performances, students will be trained in the art and craft of theatre. Drama students will gain skills in acting, pantomime, costumes, lighting, sound, stagecraft, literature, history, vocal techniques, and playwriting. Students will learn that successful communication in the theatre involves the full integration of all these parts. Students will be expected to attend rehearsals and perform in front of live audiences. Students will be participating in community performances as well as district and state festivals.

### **Audition Requirements**

Each student will participate in a live audition on Zoom 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**

Students at VPAA concentrating in music will be provided unique opportunities to discover, create, and explore the art of music. The music program offers students the opportunity to learn instrumental and vocal music techniques, music history and music theory. All students in the music program are expected to attend rehearsals and perform in front of live audiences. Students will be participating in community performances as well as district and state festivals. Although the school has a limited number of instruments to issue to students for class, it is highly recommended students acquire their own instrument (borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

### **Audition Requirements**

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

- Prepare one musical excerpt from a published work. Please keep your musical excerpt limited to 3 minutes total length. You **MUST** provide a paper copy of our musical excerpt at the time of audition.
- Students may be asked to participate in sight reading exercises to be evaluated on their understanding of music theory.

## **Technology**

Students at VPAA concentrating in technology will be provided unique opportunities to discover, create, and explore the art of technology. The technology program offers students the opportunity to learn audio/visual skills, computer skills, digital photography, Photoshop, and robotics. The courses are designed to be enrichment courses, allowing the students to apply their knowledge of reading and mathematics through a technological lens. Students are expected to take any of the secure assessments associated with the technology courses. Students who successfully pass the associated secure assessments will earn the recognized certifications in digital tools and/or Microsoft Office.

### **Audition Requirements**

- Provide **two** letters of recommendations from current or previous teachers who can speak on your abilities in the areas of: Mathematics and Language Arts/Reading.
- Provide an essay (max. 500 words) explaining your interest in pursuing the technology program. All essays should be dropped off at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts or mailed to the school.
- A portfolio of 5 photos should be emailed to the photography teacher, Paul Dengler, at [PaulND@leeschools.net](mailto:PaulND@leeschools.net) for consideration for the photography program.

## **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 15-minute drawing on Zoom.
- Applicants are required to create a digital portfolio of work that includes a minimum of five (5) selections showing a variety of subjects, media, and techniques of the student's most current and best work. This can be shared through google classroom. Google classroom code:yyhpqhj
- Applicants may also show a working journal or sketchbook, which is currently being used by the student.



Rec. By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Veterans Park Academy for the Arts

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Audition Application Form

2020-2021 School Year

Fax Number (239) 303-3075

Phone Number (239) 303-3003

49 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Please fill out the information below and return by fax, US Mail or in person to our school.

**All applications must be received by Friday, January 28, 2022**

**No applications will be accepted after this date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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)  
Language

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Contact Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian e-mail address

**Auditions will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 between 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.**

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

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

\_\_\_ Dance    \_\_\_ Drama    \_\_\_ Music    \_\_\_ Technology    \_\_\_ Visual Arts

**We will contact you with your audition day and time once we receive all applications and can schedule auditions. A Zoom link will be sent to the email you have provided. 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 2 or 3 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*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

Office Use Only: Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete \_\_\_\_\_

Complete \_\_\_\_\_

Not





**VETERANS PARK  
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS**

**Application: Teacher  
Recommendation**

*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 January 29, 2021.  
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)



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Signature

Date



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 January 29, 2021.  
Please print clearly.*

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Student Last Name

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Student First Name

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Student ID

---

Name of person making the recommendation

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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)

Please provide a short recommendation for the applying student. Please reference your direct experiences with the student to include details from the criteria on the preceding page.

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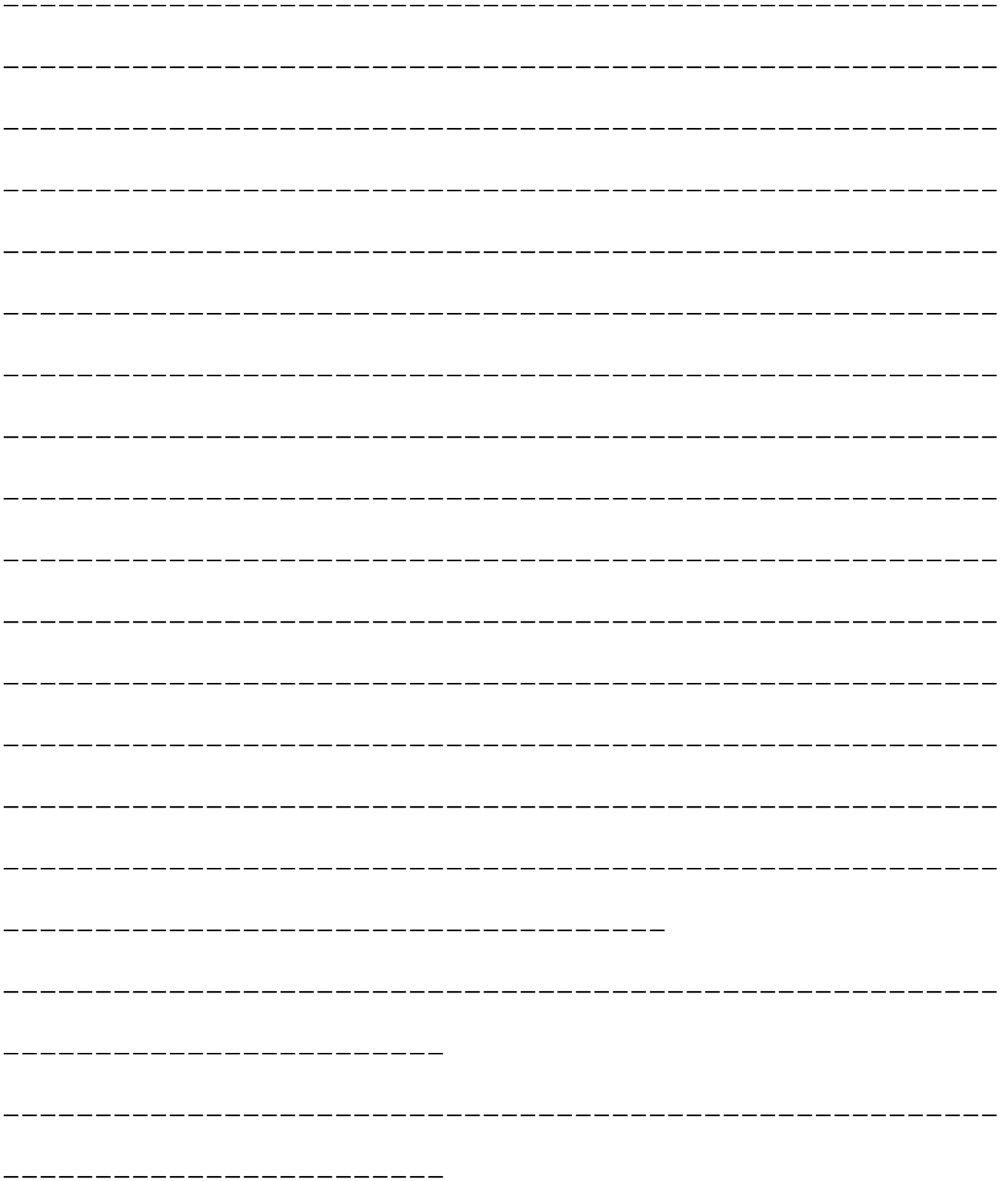
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Signature

Date