

How do I Become a CAPA Student? Questions? Email capa@philasd.org

How do I apply to CAPA?

The High School for Creative and Performing Arts is a special admittance school. Students must submit an application online at the School District of Philadelphia's website, meet all academic requirements below, and audition for ONE of seven arts majors: Creative Writing, Dance, Instrumental Music, MDTV, Theater, Visual Arts, or Vocal Music.

CAPA is a Philadelphia Public School, so you must **apply online** through the School District of Philadelphia's website. The application portal is open for a short time in the Fall each year and can be accessed here: <http://www.philasd.org/>

**Look on the School District's homepage for the link to apply; but again, it is only open for a short time each year in the Fall for the following school year. This year, the portal is open September 18, 2020 until November 6th, 2020.

All questions regarding the application process can be sent to **capa@philasd.org** .

Both current School District of Philadelphia students can apply here as well as students from charter, private, and Archdiocesan schools. Students who are not Philadelphia residents can apply to CAPA; however, open seats are for students with Philadelphia residency who meet the requirements first. If there are seats open after all eligible Philadelphia resident students have been accepted, non-Philadelphia residents will be considered. Please choose the correct pathway when applying.

What are the admission requirements? (updated in light of the impact of Covid-19 closures)

- Report Card Grades (A's and B's preferred) from 6th & 7th grades
- Standardized PSSA Test Scores from 5th & 6th grades
- Satisfactory attendance with little to no latenesses for 6th & 7th grades (pre-Covid closures)

I applied online. Is there anything else I need to do?

YES! Students from NON-PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS (private, charter, parochial schools, suburban, and out of state schools) need to provide official copies of their transcripts from the previous school year, standardized test scores, and attendance information. Nothing handwritten will be accepted. **Applications cannot be reviewed without the academic records. This will be considered an incomplete application.** Students at schools within the Philadelphia School District do not need to provide these documents since we are automatically sent your records from the district.

CAPA does not accept nor require letters of recommendation. **Please do not send them as they are not considered when evaluating applicants.**

My child does not have standardized test scores from either 5th or 6th grade. What should I do?

It is suggested that you have your child take a standardized test. If that's not possible for whatever reason, you can send in the application to be considered as is.

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I am a homeschool student. How do I apply?

In addition to applying online through the SDP application portal as explained above, please send whatever academic plans and/or data you have as well as standardized test scores. An interview may be required in lieu of the standard report card grades and attendance.

I forgot to apply online or missed the window for online applications. What can I do?

Unfortunately, applications cannot be considered if you failed to apply online through the District and/or fail to provide academic information in a timely manner. Typically the application portal is open from September 18th until November 6th for this year (2020-21).

How does CAPA decide who is granted auditions?

CAPA receives over 2500 applications each year and is only able to accept about 200 students each year. From the 2500 applicants, less than half will be invited to audition. Auditions are granted based on a student's academic background.

Since CAPA is a college preparatory school with rigorous academic expectations, auditions are only granted to students who have met the academic criteria that will ensure them success in such a special program. Generally, students need to have As and B's on their report card grades as well as satisfactory attendance and test scores.

When are auditions?

Auditions are in December by invitation only (sent in late November); students at schools outside of the district (private, parochial, charter, suburban and out of state schools) who are invited to audition are notified by email through the email address provided on the application. Students at schools within the School District of Philadelphia invited to audition will have letters sent to their schools as well as their school district email addresses and should check with their principals or counselors. Please check your spam folder if you think you should have received an audition based on the criteria listed above.

What do I bring to my audition? How long will it take?

Normally, auditions are roughly an hour, with the exception of dance and creative writing which are about 2 ½ hours. The invitation to audition includes a sheet of instructions about what to bring. Since auditions are held virtually this year, there may be a change to the amount of time needed. All changes and expectations will be expressed in the audition letter.

How long until I know if I am accepted to CAPA?

The School District releases all information regarding applications on the same day, typically in mid-January. We do not have dates for this release of information. You would receive word on all of the schools that you applied to by logging into the portal. You need to respond with your intentions within one week or otherwise specified by the School District of Philadelphia. Otherwise, you forfeit your place.

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If you call CAPA, we cannot not tell you if your child was accepted or passed an audition.