



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia High School for Creative & Performing Arts

High School Information – Virtual Tour



Meet Our Presenters

Jennifer Melendez

Interim Principal

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Scott E. Kaufman

CTE: Digital Media Production

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Our History

- 1869 - CAPA's building began as The Ridgway Library, named in honor of socialite Phoebe Ridgway
- \$1 million (\$22.69 Million today) was donated by Rush's husband; he & Phoebe are buried within
- 1920-30's - In a "remote" area, the private library was often empty; bodies removed, & building sold to the Free Library
- 1978 - the School District of Philadelphia decided to create a magnet school for the arts, but the school had no home
- 1980's - library space abandoned by the Free Library of Philadelphia; the building falls into disrepair
- 1990's - Mayor Ed Rendell decided that Broad Street should be an "Arts Corridor," & CAPA should have a permanent home in the abandoned Ridgway Library
- 1995 - construction begins, adding an entire school to the original building
- 1997 - CAPA's staff and students move in on Halloween, parading in costume from temporary residence in Palumbo School
- Present - CAPA staff and students revel in the history and beauty of the former Ridgway Library



Purpose of This Overview

The purpose of this overview session on **The Philadelphia HS for Creative & Performing Arts** is to provide 8th grade students, parents/guardians and counselors with information regarding our school.

We will cover information about:

- Admission Criteria
- Extracurricular Activities, Electives, Sports, & More
- School Specific Information
- What sets us apart from other schools and more!



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What sets our school apart from other schools?

The educational experience at CAPA involves an intense, college preparatory academic program combined with advanced instruction in the arts. In addition to a full course load of college-bound courses, students receive advanced instruction in at least one of seven major arts areas: creative writing, dance, drama, instrumental music, vocal music, visual arts, or media design and television production. A year-long, interdisciplinary capstone project culminates the secondary school experience.

Highlights of the Academic Program

- Advanced Placement Courses In Ap English Language, Ap English Literature, Ap Us Government, Ap World (Modern), Ap Psychology, Ap Calculus, Ap Biology, Ap Environmental Science, And Ap Music Theory
- Dual Enrollment Courses At Local Colleges Are Available To All Students
- All Students Complete 20 Hours Of Community Service Requirements Before Graduating
- Students Thrive In An Atmosphere That Promotes Acceptance, Achievement, And Self-Esteem
- CTE Program: Digital Media Production where you can earn Adobe Professional CC Certifications and College Credits



What Students & Families Like About Our School

CAPA HIGHLIGHT REEL

Diversity in School Population

An Eclectic Environment Fueled By The Love Of The Arts

Non-Judgmental Climate Accepting Of Everyone

Teachers That Are Invested In Their Students Achievements

Capa Is A Beautiful Building Where Students Enjoy Coming To School Everyday



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Descriptions of Majors & Highlights



Creative Writing



Program Description & Highlights

- The CW program is about drive and dedication. Students take courses in fiction, nonfiction, journalism, analytical writing, playwriting and screenwriting, memoir, poetry, and a senior capstone class.
- The Creative Writing Curriculum includes classes in the following subjects:
 - Creative Nonfiction, Fiction, Journalism, Analytical Reading and Writing, Playwriting and Screenwriting, Memoir, Poetry, and a Writing Capstone Class in which students produce the CAPA Literary Magazine and various digital forms of writing.
- Our mission is to engage students in a process of cultivating their literary genius, a sense of moral goodness, and a questioning mind. Through this union of knowledge, character, and a spirit of curiosity, we prepare our students to become positively engaged in the living and learning communities that exist at CAPA. We want to teach students to develop the eye to see what is right in front of them, and by way of learning how to write, to teach others to see it, too.
- We publish an online and physical newspaper, produce literary magazines, put on readings and performances of student work, and end the year with a spring show called Writers Cafe.



Dance



Program Description & Highlights

- The students in the CAPA Dance Department will receive training daily in Ballet, Modern & Jazz.
- They also will have the opportunity to perform in our annual winter and spring concert.
- We are looking for dancers who are motivated, dedicated and passionate about dance.
- All students in the dance department will perform in:
 - The 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade
 - The Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington DC every year



Instrumental



Program Description & Highlights

- CAPA Concert Band is group of highly motivated percussionists, woodwind and brass players. The band plays a wide variety of repertoire from Sousa to contemporary arrangers such Richard Saucedo and Scott Watson. From Ellington to pop, gospel and R&B styles of music, the band plays executes an eclectic mix music in performance in school and across the city of Philadelphia.
- CAPA Jazz Ensemble is a dedicated group of hard working musicians focused on highlighting the rich legacy of jazz in the city of Philadelphia. Our repertoire not only includes the important compositions within in the jazz canon of music, it also includes many contemporary jazz composers as well. Additionally, the group writes and arranges a lot of its material.
- **Concert Band:** Members participate in the All City High School Festival held every year at the Kimmel Center in March.
- Members have also participated in district level ensembles as well as Play On Philly and Philadelphia Youth Orchestra programs.
- We are developing collaborative projects with the University of Pennsylvania and Eastern University.
- **Jazz Ensemble:** We have collaborations with the Clef Club of Music, the Kimmel Center, University of the Arts and Temple University. Additionally, our students receive masterclasses from the top jazz musicians in the Philadelphia area and around the country.



MDTV

CTE: Digital Media Production



Program Description & Highlights

- Instruction in this program includes, but is not limited to, basic computer and communication applications, web and graphic design, video, audio, film production, and photography.
- Students also learn on current industry standard equipment and computer software like the Adobe Suite and will be able to set up and operate professional level film and photography equipment.
- Students in this program will be exposed to a variety of skill areas in order to specialize in a related career, such as Graphic Design, Web Design, Film Making, Videography, Photography, Audio Production, Digital Animation and Podcasting.
- Receive access to Adobe CC Account for Free while in our program.
- Have access to our program's own website that has a plethora of resources
- Become an Adobe Certified Professional in Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Illustrator and InDesign
- Earn College Credits through [SOAR](#)
- Participate in SkillsUSA Leadership Activities and Competitions
- Summer Virtual Mobile Device Photography Paid Internship
- Student work on display in various art exhibitions like Art Feast, Design Philadelphia, Greenfield Film Festival, WHYY Youth Media Award and CAPA Student Film Festivals



Theater



Program Description & Highlights

- During their four years at CAPA, Theater students train in 5 different areas: Acting, Script Analysis, Writing, Technical Theater, and the Business of Acting.
- Theater students get many opportunities to perform in shows with their grade ensembles as well as with other groups within CAPA. They also work the technical part of every show during CAPA's performance seasons.
- In addition, they get to see several professional productions at theaters in Philadelphia.
- A CAPA Theater major graduates prepared to enter college for further study in the many occupations of the professional theater as well as other affiliated professions such as Psychology, Law and Business.
- Perform Scene Shows and Full-Length Plays
- Classical Training and Shakespeare Show Improv, Theater Games & Activities
- Trips to Professional Productions Workshops with Professional Actors
- Opportunities to do technical support for other department shows
- Learn stage technology, including lighting and sound equipment, costuming, and set design
- Acting skills, including a variety of techniques and script analysis



Visual Arts



Program Description & Highlights

- CAPA's Visual arts program is a rigorous curriculum that offers an in-depth experience into 2D and 3D studio arts. Students will build a solid foundation starting in their 9th grade year.
- Here they will explore in a structured and disciplined studio environment with a variety of media. Various media includes: [2D] Graphite, Watercolor, Acrylic, Oil Painting, Ink, and in [3D] Clay, stone carving, plaster, mixed media.
- Students are also introduced to art history, art criticism, and other activities that utilize critical thinking skills.
- By senior year, students are well prepared with an extensive portfolio of work which potentially can lead to a professional career in the arts.
- Art Feast (Annual Exhibit/Fundraiser)
- Senior Museum Trip
- Opportunities to Exhibit Work in Community
- Scholarships
- Artist Workshops
- Visiting Artists



Vocal



Program Description & Highlights

- The vocal department at The High School for Creative and Performing Arts features a comprehensive music curriculum focused on building skills in vocal technique, performance, musical literacy, music theory, music history, and an expansive choral repertoire.
- The vocal department is comprised of three performance ensembles: mixed choir, vocal ensemble, and concert choir under the direction of Mrs. Thomas-Moyett.
- CAPA's vocal department has been featured in various venues throughout the community, sharing stages with various names, from The Philadelphia Orchestra to Barry Manilow.
- They have also performed in honor of General Colin Powell and President Joe Biden.



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Admission Requirements, Specialized Requirements & Audition Requirements



Admission Criteria for Our School

Grade Requirements	As, Bs, and One C
Attendance	90% or Better
Assessment	50th Percentile for Both ELA & Math PSSA Scores
Additional Requirements	Audition





AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Presented by
the CAPA Arts Teachers



When Applying Through the SDP Portal

- Prospective students **MUST** have applied and been selected through the School District [website](#) during the Fall School Selection window to audition.
- Please do not send your student's information directly to us.
- The School District of Philadelphia's Central Offices review all academic data and provide us with the list of students eligible to audition.



When Applying Through the SDP Portal

- **Students may select up to FIVE criteria-based High School placement slots, so your child may apply for more than one major at CAPA (for example, you may use two of those slots for “CAPA-Dance” and “CAPA-Creative Writing”).**
- **Each Major at CAPA is considered its own “school” in the admissions process. We do not have the ability to change the selected Major in the portal, so please make sure to read through the audition requirements (linked in the right-hand side of this page in the tabs) before choosing.**



CAPA's Seven Art Majors:

- [Dance](#)
- [Theater](#)
- [Vocal Music](#)
- [Instrumental Music](#)
- [Creative Writing](#)
- [Visual Arts](#)
- [MDTV \(CTE: Digital Media Production\)](#)

**When applying you must indicate what major.
If invited to audition, it will be for that major ONLY.**



Additional Audition Information

- Please do not submit anything directly to CAPA in advance of an audition.
- All portfolio or audition materials would be brought to the audition if you receive an audition offer.
- Auditions are typically held in mid-late December and are by invitation only. All auditions are evaluated by the individual Arts Teachers.



Additional Audition Information

- After the initial school district application has been approved, prospective students are notified to attend an audition at CAPA for their chosen art major.
- Determining acceptance is a combination of the academic criteria, audition criteria, and then by lottery.
- Students who meet all the criteria but do not get accepted by lottery will be placed on a waitlist.
- If available space becomes available, students will be pulled off the waitlist by The Office of Student Placement at the School District of Philadelphia.



Creative Writing

Ms. Citron: acitron@philasd.org

Mr. Corona: mcorona@philasd.org

Ms. Kramny: jmkramny@philasd.org

Mr. Diffenderfer: jdifferfer@philasd.org

Ms. Harr: rharr@philasd.org

Mr. Ippolito: jjippolito@philasd.org

Ms. Shin: sshin@philasd.org



Creative Writing Requirements

- The audition will consist of a writing exercise, approximately one and a half hours in length, which will include a verbal review of your portfolio.
- A portfolio containing approximately 5-8 current, typewritten samples of your fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and academic writing samples **MUST** be brought to the audition.
- If you have a chromebook or other device, please bring it with you to the audition. If you do not have one, we will provide one to use during the audition.



Dance

Ms. Demby: sdembyafum@philasd.org



Dance Requirements

- ****Prior experience is valued but not required****
- **The audition will consist of a dance class involving ballet, jazz, and modern dance technique. All students are required to have a one (1) minute solo prepared to show us how they move through their own choreography. Students must bring their own music.**
- **YOUNG LADIES: Wear leotards, footless tights and ballet shoes.**
- **YOUNG MEN: Wear tights or jazz pants, a solid white or black t shirt or sleeveless shirt with no writing or logo and ballet shoes *NO BAGGY CLOTHES**
- **Hair MUST be pulled back off the face and neck - contained with a hair tie, pins, etc.**
- ***The attire for the audition is highly suggested but not required. If these items can't be obtained, please wear form fitting clothes***
- **We are looking for students who demonstrate a strong passion for the art of dance, a positive attitude, and a willingness to accept discipline and positive corrections.**



Instrumental

Ms. Foley: nfoley@philasd.org

Dr. J. Fluellen: jeffluellen@philasd.org



Instrumental Requirements

- The audition will consist of the performance of 2 major scales of your choice, and 2 contrasting solo pieces or etudes. Music from school concerts is perfectly acceptable! Please choose music you are comfortable playing and you feel best represents your ability.
- Drum and percussion students should demonstrate a familiarity with the “13 Essential Rudiments”. The audition will be administered on snare drum and/or keyboard percussion.
- Students are welcome to audition on Piano and Guitar. Because our program is centered around Concert Band and Orchestra, students accepted on Piano and Guitar must be willing to learn a secondary Band or String instrument. Once accepted, instruments and instruction will be provided by CAPA for those students.
- NOTE: Please bring your instruments and sheet music to the audition.



MDTV

CTE: Digital Media Production

Mr. Kaufman: sekaufman@philasd.org

Ms. Vanleer: srmarchicaphilasd.org



MDTV Requirements

CTE: Digital Media Production

- **STUDENTS SHOULD BRING TO THE AUDITION:**
 - A Resume (Outline ANY and ALL related prior media experience, skills, hobbies, clubs, software, camera equipment, youtube channel, art, extra curricular activities, and the like...
 - [RESUME TEMPLATE DOWNLOAD](#)
 - Photo of Applicant
 - Portfolio Items
 - The applicant should provide ANY of the following media related samples of work; and not limited too...
 - Digital files, web links, and photos of physical art can be submitted
 - Visual Art Portfolio (i.e. illustration, drawing, graphic design, Photoshop, Storyboard)
 - Original typed script, screenplay, theater play, or short story
 - Photography, Video Samples, youtube links
- **AT THE AUDITION:**
- Perform an on site task in Video Production Storyboard creation and Logo Design Illustration (hand drawn)
- All materials will be provided at the audition
- Meet the teachers to discuss your portfolio and why you'll be a good fit for the CAPA MDTV Program



Theater

Dr. Goebig: mgoebig@philasd.org

Ms. Kramny: jmkramny@philasd.org



Theater Requirements

- We are looking for students who have a passion for and an interest in live performance and an eagerness to learn.
- Students should prepare for the Audition:
 - MEMORIZE
 - two (2) monologues from published plays
 - (Monologues can be found on the Internet or in books at the Free Library of Philadelphia.)
 - AND
 - one stanza of a song from a Broadway-type musical without accompaniment.
- Students should bring to the Audition:
 - A Photograph (Photos will not be returned.)
 - A Resumé or List of theater study or experience.
 - (A sample can be found [HERE](#)). Included within this resumé or list should be:
 - A description of your previous dramatic experience
 - An explanation of why you want to study theater at The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts
- At the Audition, Students will do the following:
 - a warm-up (Students should wear clothing suitable for light exercise.)
 - the performance of the prepared monologues
 - the prepared song
 - a cold reading
 - a conversation about the student's interests
- Students' auditions will be evaluated in each of these areas.



Visual Arts

Ms. Stevens: mstevens@philasd.org

Ms. Haire: khaire@philasd.org



Visual Arts Requirements

- **VA Auditions are 2 Parts:**
 - Your [4 piece] art portfolio
 - A live drawing test, done on site. Details of the drawing test will be given to the student at your audition appointment only. Materials will be provided.
 - Do not contact us about the drawing test ahead of time.
- **4 PIECES: Portfolio Assessment**
 - All work should be well crafted, and include a background and subject.
 - Minimum size is 8.5x11" for 2D pieces.
 - Acceptable Media: Painting, Drawing, Colored Pencil, Marker, Charcoal, Oil Pastel - NO DIGITAL WORK, ANIME, or CARTOONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.
- **3 REALISTIC OBSERVATIONAL pieces:**
 - A portrait
 - A still life
 - A page of human figures
- **1 "Wildcard" Piece:**
 - A "creative" piece that may be 2D or 3D, showing us what you can do. Show us your aesthetic, design, etc. This piece may be abstract.
- **Student's final audition scores are compiled from both of the above parts; the PORTFOLIO, and the DRAWING TEST.**



Vocal

Mrs. Thomas-Moyett: bthomas3@philasd.org



Vocal Requirements

- The Vocal Audition Consists of Three Parts:
- Performance of two, memorized, student-selected solos.
 - Kindly select twenty-four measures or a section of song that best showcases your ability that lasts no more than two minutes in length. (You may be only asked to perform one selection, but please have both prepared.)
- Classical, musical theater, contemporary, pop, jazz, and gospel genres are welcomed.)
 - Sheet music is a requirement. Please come prepared to sing along with piano accompaniment, or you may accompany yourself on piano/guitar.
 - Execution of simple sight-reading examples.
- Imitation of pitches and rhythm



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Academic Offerings & Operations



How many students per class?

- 33 is the maximum number of students per teacher.
- 24 is the maximum number of students in the CTE program classroom.



We Offer AP, IB and Honors Classes

Course Sequencing for the 2023-24 School Year

**English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, English 3 Honors, English 4 Honors
AP Language, AP Literature, Honors Spanish**

**Algebra 1 Honors, Algebra 2 Honors, Geometry Honors
Pre-calculus Honors, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus**

**World History Honors, African American History Honors, United States History
Honors, Social Science Honors**

*****AP African American History will be offered starting SY 24-25*****

AP US History, AP World History, AP Gov & Politics, AP World History



What type of CTE programs does your school offer?

DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

Informational Promo Video

Instruction in this program includes computer and communication applications, graphic design, computer illustration, photography, website design, film making, video and audio production. Digital Media Production specialists provide services in a variety of areas associated with web and graphic design, video, audio, television production, animation and photography.

Students in this program will be exposed to a variety of skill areas in order to specialize in a related career, such as Graphic Design, Web Design, Videography, Photography and Filmmaking.



What electives does your school offer?

Student electives are mainly occupied by their chosen art major or program of study.

The necessary Arts and Humanities electives for graduation are fulfilled by the requisite Arts classes in the student's major.

**Additional Electives offered at this time are:
Personal Finance, 9th Grade Seminar,
LGBTQ Studies and Music History**



Our Bell Schedule

A/B Full Day

Period	Start	End
1st	8:00 AM	9:36 AM
2	9:39 AM	10:19 AM
3	10:22 AM	11:11 AM
4	11:14 AM	11:54 AM
5	11:57 AM	12:46 PM
6	12:49 PM	1:29 PM
7	1:32 PM	3:04 PM

STANDARD BELL SCHEDULE

At CAPA, we alternate between A Day & B Day where students take four 90-min classes each day.

Students are rostered for lunch at 2nd, 4th, or 6th periods.



Does your school require uniforms?

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

- **Appropriate attire must not jeopardize the health and safety of others.**
- **Attire must not cause disruptions or interfere with the educational process.**
- **Clothing with obscene words or pictures is not allowed.**
- **Clothing with drug related pictures or words is not allowed.**



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Extra Curricular Activities



What sports do you offer?



- **Girls' Volleyball**
- **Football**
- **Softball (varsity/JV)**
- **Basketball**
- **Baseball (varsity/JV)**
- **Cheerleading**
- **Track and Field**
- **Lacrosse**
- **Cross Country**
- **Boys' Volleyball**



What clubs and activities do you offer?

Clubs

- **Student Council**
- **Relationships First Ambassadors**
- **Student Advisory Committee**
- **Community Service**
- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**
- **GSA**
- **Mock Trial**
- **Skills USA**
- **WHYY Media Lab**
- **Theater Tech Crew**
- **My Vision Theater Co.**
- **National Honor Society**
- **Yearbook**

Activities

- **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**
- **Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, and Theater Performances**
- **Black History Month Show**
- **Student Film Festival**
- **Art Feast**
- **Halloween Instrumental Concert and Haunted House**
- **CAPA Alumni Jawn on the Lawn**



Are there requirements to participate?

- Significant lateness, absences, or cutting of class will have an adverse impact on student privileges and academic achievement. Appropriate attendance and punctuality are also required for participation in major performances.
- Academic eligibility is a prerequisite for participation in any extracurricular activities. **If a student has one “F” in any class, arts or academic, they are prohibited from participating in any sport or club or any extracurricular activity, including the musical. Grades are calculated each report period.** This can also be calculated at a point halfway through a marking period. This means that any student who is not academically eligible at the appropriate evaluation time will not be able to attend a significant social event or participate in an extracurricular activity including sports and the musical. Certain arts majors could be adversely affected by this, as participation in the musical and on trips for certain grades and majors is mandatory.



What are some of the special events that your school offers?

- Spring/Winter Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, and Theater Performances
- Student Film Festivals
- Black Box Theater Productions
- Student Dance Choreography Show
- CAPA Alumni Event – “Jawn on the Lawn”
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Halloween Instrumental Concert and Haunted House
- Black History Month Show
- Spring Musical
- Art Feast



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Supports & Services



What supports are in place when a student needs extra help?

- 2 School Counselors– Career And College Exploration, Social-Emotional Guidance, 504 Plans
- 1 Specm– Assistance With Iep (Individual Education Plan)
- 1 Nurse – Any Medical Concerns, 504 Plans
- Partnerships With Community Organizations And Counseling Centers
- Tutoring – National Honor Society



Transportation

- Students who reside 1.5 miles or more from their assigned school will be issued a Septa Key Card.
- Students with special circumstances (IEP, 504, etc) may be eligible for other modes of transportation.
Please connect with the team at your school to discuss these options.



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Fun Facts & Photos



Fun Facts About Our School

NOTABLE INDUSTRY ALUMNI

QuestLove and Black Thought (The Roots)

Boyz To Men

Jazmine Sullivan

Leslie Odom Jr. (Hamilton)

Christian McBride (Jazz Bassist and Composer)

Bianca Ryan (America's Got Talent)

Jerrie Johnson (Harlem)

Bret Gray (On My Block)

Mitchell Edwards (All American)

Joey DeFrancesco (Jazz Musician)

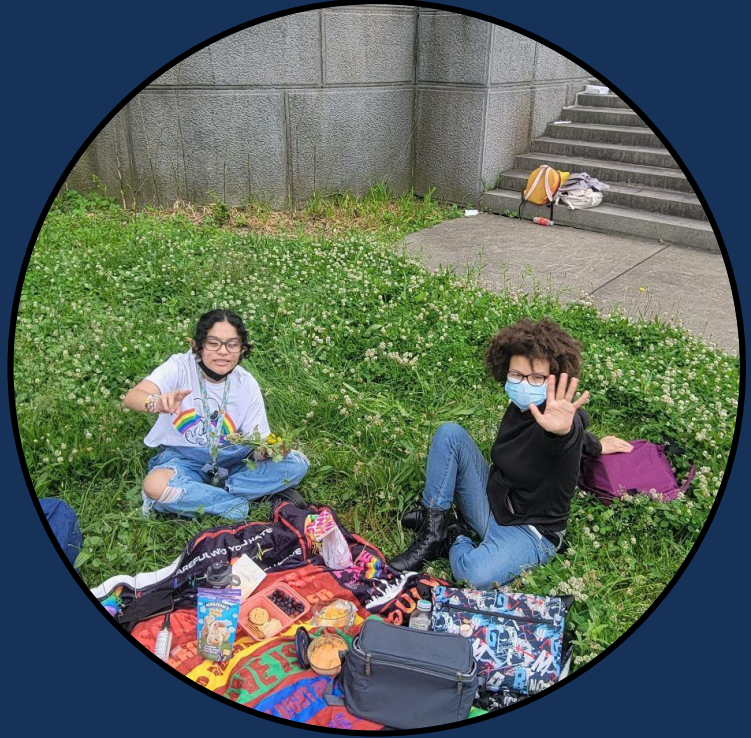


Photo Gallery



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Open House Dates & Times



Open House Dates

OPEN HOUSE



DATES & TIMES

Wednesday, September 20 9-11am
Tuesday, October 10 9-11am
Tuesday, October 17 9-11am
Tuesday, October 24 9-11am

These tours allow for students & families to see what happens at CAPA during a school day. You do not need to RSVP to these in-person Open Houses, but students should be accompanied by an adult.

215.400.8140

[HTTPS://CAPA.PHILASD.ORG/](https://capa.philasd.org/)



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Contact Us

<https://capa.philasd.org/>

