



NFMHS Center for Arts and Media

Program Descriptions/ Audition Requirements

The Center for Arts and Media provides an opportunity for artistically talented high school students in Lee County. Once selected, students will 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.

Admission to the Center for Arts and Media program is by **audition ONLY**. In addition to the Center for Arts and Media application, students **must** complete the necessary paperwork to register for Lee County Schools according to the published timeline. Should a student be accepted into the arts program following the audition, that student will automatically be enrolled at North Fort Myers High School as long as the corresponding **letter of intent is returned by the appropriate date**. All students enrolling in the Center for Arts and Media **must complete four semesters** in the program to be considered for a waiver should they choose to leave the arts program (School District of Lee County Administrative Regulation 1.63).

DANCE

Students concentrating in dance will complete an intensive course of study in choreography, performance, ballet, modern, and other dance techniques. In addition to providing instructional opportunities within the full spectrum of recognized dance styles, the program places a strong emphasis upon artistic quality, aesthetics, and career preparation. Regular association with practicing professionals as well as multidisciplinary programming with other departments will be an important aspect of the dance department's curriculum. It is the goal of the dance department to provide all of its students with a wide range of quality opportunities and experiences that will allow them to prepare for advanced study, professional growth, and personal fulfillment.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of ballet by performing exercises at the ballet barre - - - exercises needed will be instructed during the time of audition
- Student will be asked to execute specific dance skills (pirouettes, battements, splits, jetes, and side leaps) - - - all skills will be done on both the left and right side
- Students will have a **one minute prepared selection** of choreography of the student's own choosing - - - music will be provided by the student.

DRESS CODE: Females should wear a leotard and tights, ballet or jazz shoes, and hair should be secured back off of the face. Males should wear gym shorts and a t-shirt with any hair secured off of the face.

MUSICAL ARTS

VOCAL ARTS (CHORUS)

EACH student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- A major scale sung on a neutral syllable, solfeggio, or number a cappella, evaluate for accuracy
- A rhythmic sight-reading exercise evaluated for rhythmic accuracy
- A melodic sight-reading exercise evaluated for melodic accuracy
- EACH student will perform from memory one song representing the student's current level.

Live accompaniment is suggested, as no accompanist will be provided. A recorded accompaniment is acceptable as long as it contains no vocalist singing the student's part. **A cappella performances are unacceptable for the audition.**

ORCHESTRA

EACH student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

- Sight-reading of a short selection presented at audition
- All candidates need to **memorize** the following scales and arpeggios: one octave C, D, and G Major, played using eighth notes at one quarter note equals 60 bpm.
- To be considered for higher level orchestra placement, students need to play as many major and minor scales and arpeggios **from memory** using eighth notes at one quarter note equals 60 bpm. Playing multiple octaves is not required nor recommended.
- Must have a prepared solo, no longer than two minutes, appropriate to the candidate's current level and ability. Please note, solos from Suzuki books are highly recommended. Also, imslp.org is a great online resource to find free, legal solos.
- **Excerpts from "full/string orchestra/ensemble" literature or anything played during your current school's concerts are not allowed.**

If you have any questions or concerns about picking audition music or if you do not understand the above requirements, please email the NFMHS Orchestra Director nadiab@leeschools.net

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND)

EACH student will participate in a live audition to include the following:

Woodwind/Brass

- 12 major scales and arpeggios, as many as known from memory. Students must use all-state articulations and demonstrate a consistent tempo and range of their instrument.
- A prepared solo of choice with at least two contrasting sections that demonstrate lyrical and technical aspects.
- Sight-reading of a short selection presented at the audition.

Percussion

- 12 major scales and arpeggios, as many as known from memory, on a mallet instrument.
- A prepared exercise or etude on any mallet instrument.
- Drum rudiments on snare drum.

Drum Set

- Presentation of Styles
 - Swing
 - Rock
- A prepared solo of choice

Guitar/Bass Guitar

- 12 major scales and arpeggios, as many as known from memory.
- A prepared solo of choice. It is preferred that this piece is a printed piece of music (not a piece learned from ear).
- Sight reading of a short selection presented at the audition.

THEATRE ARTS

Students selecting a concentration in the theatre arts will have the opportunity to obtain intensive training in acting, directing, design, and technical theatre. The course of study will include opportunities in acting, voice, and diction, mime and movement, improvisation, directing and playwriting, state make-up, theatre technology, theatre history, vocal techniques, dance, musical theatre, and other classes.

PERFORMING - AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare two (2) contrasting monologues. Monologues must be memorized. Choices might include one comic and one dramatic piece or one classical and one contemporary piece. Monologues must be chosen from published plays. Scripts from movies, TV, or self-written works are unacceptable.
- **Maximum monologue time is a total of three minutes** for both pieces. Check materials carefully to ensure that you meet this time limit.
- Students who wish to demonstrate vocal ability may sing a solo selection of up to 16 bars from a published musical for theatre in addition to the two required monologues. Vocal selections will be in addition to the three minute time limit. Accompaniment should be on a phone or iPod. Recorded accompaniment is only acceptable as long as it contains no vocalist singing the applicant's portion. **A cappella performances are unacceptable for this audition.**

TECHNICAL- AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare a portfolio showcasing your technical selection. A student having multiple interests should be prepared to show all work in all interested areas.
- Students should prepare a five-minute presentation about the portfolio and be prepared to answer additional questions afterward. Note cards can be used during the presentation.

Applicants are expected to arrive at the beginning of the audition time to sign in with administration and complete any remaining paperwork. All students will be escorted to the audition room at the appropriate time. Parents/Guardians will be asked to wait in the auditorium and are not permitted inside the audition room.

DRESS CODE: Students should dress as they would for a professional audition but be able to move freely. Flat, closed-toe shoes that cover the entire foot are encouraged. Students wearing sandals, flip-flops or inappropriate footwear may not be permitted to audition if unsafe. Hair should be secured away from the face. Ladies are asked not to wear skirts or dresses.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If applicable/available applicants should bring a current headshot and/or resume to the audition. This is NOT a requirement, but is allowed if available and can be helpful.

DIGITAL MEDIA

The Digital Media Arts program focuses on developing each student's artistic creativity in electronic art communications. Students have the opportunity to explore graphic design, photography, animation, gaming, and video production while becoming familiar with a variety of advanced computer applications. In our state of the art multimedia facility, students will have access to professional camera equipment, computers, studio equipment, and an ever growing list of industry standard software.

Throughout their high school career, students will create a high quality electronic portfolio that showcases their artistic and technical abilities. By graduation, they will have the training and experience necessary to enter an advanced digital media arts program or to embark upon a career in their chosen media arts field.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each student **must bring a portfolio** the day of audition that accurately demonstrates his or her art and computer abilities with a focus on video, graphic design, gaming, animation and/or photography. Please include **at least three samples, no more than ten**. Include the original file + the rendered version. For example, if you are submitting a Photoshop file, you would include the Photoshop file + a jpeg version. If a video sample is included, it should be not more than five minutes in length, per sample.

- Portfolio Items may include, but are not limited to:
 - Presentation in which the student played a production or talent role (camera, director, graphics, audio, reporter, writer, or actor)
 - A news segment from a school or arts related event
 - Computer graphics used in a multimedia production or publication
 - PowerPoint/Google Slides/Prezi presentations
 - Photoshop Projects
 - Edited Photography
 - Yearbook Spreads
 - Hand drawn sketches – please provide a digital copy (picture or scan)
 - Video Games
 - Game Art
 - 3D Model
 - Animation – 2D and/or 3D
 - Graphic Design

DO NOT INCLUDE: Word documents, unaltered photos, google searches

Diversity of samples is strongly encouraged.

2. Portfolios can be saved on a USB or shared via the student's Google Drive. Share to the following teachers: Jennifer Curls, Holly Kurth, Eric Brounson and Maryellen Gross. If using a USB it needs to be clearly labeled with the student's name and middle school.

USBs WILL NOT be returned, please make sure only portfolio work is included.

DIGITAL MEDIA CONTINUED...

- Each applicant will **present** their three samples and answer a variety of questions based on their portfolio to North High Digital Media teachers. Students should be prepared to explain HOW they created the project, what inspired them, what programs were used, and why they want to audition.
 - Students will have access to a computer to load their portfolio
 - Students are allowed to bring in personal computer equipment – iPad, laptop, etc.
 - EACH applicant **has five minutes** to present – time will be kept in audition
- A teacher recommendation by one **current** middle school teacher is suggested, **NOT** required. Please ask your teacher to write no more than 200 words explaining why he or she feels you would be a worthy entrant into the NFMHS Digital Media program. A short letter focused on attendance, behavior and academic performance submitted at your audition will help provide the panel with a complete assessment of the applicant.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Do I audition for a specific program or Digital Media as a whole?*

You audition for the entire Digital Media department. During your audition you can let us know which program you would like to focus on.
- What type of portfolio pieces do I bring to the audition?*

Any sort of portfolio items listed above in something you are interested in. We want to see what knowledge you have with no “official” training.
- What if I never took a computer class in middle school?*

That’s quite alright. There are free websites online that you can use to create portfolio pieces depending on what group you are interested in, SEE:
www.gimp.org www.yoyogames.com www.blender.org
<https://krita.org/en/> www.paint.net
- How do you judge each applicant?

Each portfolio piece is judged based on creativity and effort put forth. The panel of judges will ask specific questions per piece and rate your answers based on skills communicated and demonstrated. Each applicant is also judged on following the directions outlined in the audition requirements.

For further information please e-mail the appropriate teacher:

Garry Kamphouse - Department Head/Certifications – GarryJKa@leeschools.net

Eric Brounson - TV Production – EricCB@leeschools.net

Jennifer Curls - 3D Modeling/Gaming/Animation – JenniferCC@leeschools.net

Holly Kurth - Photography – HollyAK@leeschools.net

Maryellen Gross – Graphic Design – MaryellenVG@leeschools.net

VISUAL ARTS

All students applying for admission to North Fort Myers High School Center for the Arts and Media must, submit a digital portfolio prior to the day of auditions, participate in a drawing assessment during the audition day and, most importantly, have a desire to be a successful art student.

Practicing for the Drawing Assessment

Practice drawing from observation (i.e. still-life). Focus on value scales and composition.

Practice a new drawing each week; give yourself a goal and challenge yourself.

Ask your art teacher, if you have one, to critique your work and provide feedback.

PART ONE: APPLICATION & PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION

Portfolios must be in a digital photograph format. We will not accept a physical portfolio. Your portfolio should consist of at least 12 pieces of art (4 required pieces) plus a personal statement. We will be looking for ambition levels, understanding of principles and elements of design and creative thought process. Any portfolio that does not meet these basic requirements will be considered incomplete and therefore disqualified. Titles/Labels of the four required pieces are helpful.

Personal Statement

Please write a personal statement of 500 words or less, describing your previous art training experience (if any), your personal interest in the fine arts and the goals that you hope to accomplish as a Visual Art student over the next four years. Include this statement with your digital portfolio.

Portfolio

Total of 12 pieces of work. Please provide the following 4 required artworks in the portfolio, the remaining 8 works will be looked at for ambition levels, understanding of basic principles and elements of design, and creative thought processes.

*You may also include examples of other media that demonstrate the diversity of your talent; any 3D piece please photograph and include in the portfolio. **WE DISCOURAGE PORTFOLIOS CONSISTING SOLEY OF ANIME, CARTOONS OR SUPERHERO IMAGES.***

DETAILS FOR PORTFOLIO CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE...

VISUAL ARTS CONTINUED...

Required Portfolio Pieces:

1. A self-portrait done in pencil. Your self-portrait should reflect a minimum of 2 hours work. It can be created using a mirror or a photograph. The drawing should be original and at least 9"x12" in size.
2. An observational drawing of a still life including 3 or more items. This will be drawn in pencil and/or colored pencil. This drawing should reflect a minimum of 2 hours work. Objects should be drawn realistically, include shading/shadows, and should be drawn as a group. Your chosen objects can be anything such as food, toys, bottles, shells, plants, shoes. The drawing should be original and at least 9"x12" in size.
3. One colored drawing or painting. Applicant can use any media, subject matter, and style. The drawing should be original and at least 9"x12" in size.
4. Personal choice piece. This piece can be any medium or material. It can be 2-D or 3-D. It can also be computer/digital art, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, collage or fabric. This original piece can be of any size and should reflect at least 2 hours' worth of work.

Submitting the Portfolio: Applicants will be submitting a digital portfolio prior to the auditions via flashdrive. The flashdrive will be returned to the student/ parents the day of audition to ensure that nothing is misplaced. Students and parents please make sure that the applicant's name is physically on the flashdrive to allow for easy identification (i.e. sharpie or label). The flashdrive file folder must be labeled with the applicant's last name, first name and school initials.

Applicants will create a file within the folder for their images; labeled with last name and first name. This is where the applicant will organize their 12 images in numerical order (i.e. 1-12) ***IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO MAKE THE FIRST 4 IMAGES YOUR REQUIRED PIECES*** followed by a word document that contains their statement of intent; labeled with their last name, first name and statement.

PART TWO: ON SITE INTERVIEW-AUDITION

- Portfolio must be submitted prior to audition day containing the 4 round one artworks and up to 8 additional original artworks produced within the last 12 months. **Do NOT exceed 12 art pieces in the digital portfolio.**
- The audition will last 90 minutes and consists of 2 drawing exercises, with a 10 min break in between, done in the classroom. You do not need to bring any drawing materials as they will be provided. Audition drawings will remain in the application file.

NOTE: Throughout the audition students may be interviewed in regard to their current work process or portfolio submissions.

If you have any questions about the requirements detailed above please contact Felipe Maldonado, felipem@leeschools.net and/or Special Programs Coordinator Jeremy Ridgeo, jeremyjr@leeschools.net