



THE SCHOOL FOR
CREATIVE &
PERFORMING ARTS
AT THE ERICH KUNZEL CENTER
FOR ARTS AND EDUCATION

AUDITION PREPARATION PACKET
FOR SCPA STUDENTS
ENTERING GRADE 4



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AUDITION PREPARATION PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 4

All SCPA students entering grade 4 that are interested in continuing their education at SCPA must pass an artistic audition. The audition will be scheduled by SCPA’s Artistic Department. Students entering the 4th grade will audition in creative writing, dance, drama, instrumental music, vocal music and visual art.

CREATIVE WRITING AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Complete the writing profile essay and literary critique on pages 2-3 of this packet and bring this with you to your audition. You will be rated on technical detail, organization, creativity of expression, and sense of purpose. We prefer “creative” pieces that have been written out of a love of writing rather than for school assignments. At the audition, all students will be assigned a writing prompt to be written on-site in 15 minutes.

CREATIVE WRITING

Student’s Name _____

Age ____ Current Grade ____

Parent Signature _____

Part 1: About YOU (Please respond to each of the following questions in 2-4 sentences.)

1. What subjects inspire your writing?
2. Do you hope to pursue writing as a career? If so, why?
3. Name an author you admire and explain why.
4. Describe what you feel when you write.

(You may continue on your own paper if you need more space.)

Part 2: Portfolio (4 pieces): Please provide at least four (4) pieces of writing demonstrating work from different genres (i.e. two poems and two stories or one poem, one script and two stories).

DANCE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Dance students must be appropriately dressed for the dance audition. Girls: leotard and tights or shorts and tee shirt. Boys: tee shirt and tights or tee shirt and shorts. These should be of stretch fabric to allow a full range of movement. Students should bring ballet shoes if they have them. Students who have been on pointe should bring their pointe shoes to the audition. For beginning and entry-level students, the audition will consist of an assessment of flexibility, strength, coordination, musicality, focus and discipline. Basic ballet and modern positions will be demonstrated and the students will be asked to imitate them to show evidence of kinesthetic sensibility, awareness of space, and ability to turn, jump and move with ease. For students with dance experience, please bring a photo in first arabesque and be dressed in a leotard, tights and ballet shoes. Students will be asked to demonstrate combinations to show their level of dance technique. Students will be rated on physical ability, focus, and aesthetic sensibility. All students will be accepted on potential ability for a one-year probationary period. If, at the end of their first full year of school at SCPA, their grade in dance is a “C” or better, their acceptance will be considered permanent.

DRAMA AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Please prepare the indicated monologue from either *Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing* **OR** *Charlotte’s Web*. The monologue must be performed by memory and must be memorized exactly. You will be rated on volume, diction and vocal control, movement and use of gestures, and how well you bring the monologue to life. Remember, it is your job to convince us that your character and your situation are real. After your performance, you may be asked questions about yourself and your character.

Charlotte’s Web:

NARRATOR: (To audience) Shh! Listen to the sounds of the morning. Very, very early morning. So early, in fact, the sun isn’t even up yet. Listen to the crickets... the hoot-owls... a frog down by the pond... a dog up at the next farm... And today there’s another sound. It tells that something exciting happened during the night. Some brand-new pigs were born. Here’s one of them right now exploring his new home. His name is – well, actually he doesn’t have a name, yet. For the moment, he’s still just a little pig. But as you’ll see, he isn’t just any ordinary pig.

Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing

Character: Peter (boy) /Petra (girl)

PETER/PETRA, a 4th grader, has a cute but horrible 4-year old brother, Fudge, who never seems to get in trouble for anything. In this monologue, PETER/PETRA discovers what has happened to a beloved pet turtle. Actors are encouraged to move creatively to establish where mom and Fudge are, and to imagine how Fudge answers each question in the moments marked [pause].

PETER/PETRA: MOM! The chain lock on my door is unhooked, and there's a chair in my doorway, and Dribble is gone! Mom! Did you hear me? The bowl with the rocks and water is there, but Dribble is gone! *[To FUDGE]* Why are you laughing, Fudge? Did you take him? Did you? I won't be mad if you tell me. C'mon, Fudge, please? *[pause]* What do you mean, in tummy? What tummy? *[pause]* OK, Fudge, how did he get in there? *[pause]* MOM! How could you let him do it? HE ATE MY TURTLE!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

For Band, Harp, Orchestra and Piano (Entering 4th - 6th grade):

- Prepare a short piece on your instrument that demonstrates your musical ability. Percussionists will need to prepare a short rhythm etude on snare drum and a short piece for xylophone or marimba.

- Please bring 2 copies of your etude or solo for the music teachers to review. You will be rated on tone quality, technique, rhythmic accuracy, articulation accuracy, tempo, expressiveness and intonation.
- Students with no prior playing experience may express an interest in learning an instrument during the audition.

VISUAL ART AUDITION REQUIREMENT:

Visual Arts Portfolio Requirements:

- Bring 6-8 works of art from the last two years only.
- Work should demonstrate a variety of techniques that include drawing/painting from observation, design, creative work, color work and sketchbook drawings.
- Small sculptures may be carefully packaged and brought in, otherwise take quality pictures from multiple vantage points.
- No cartoons/anime allowed for audition.

Visual Arts Resume

- Include name, age, address, phone numbers, parent e-mail, schools attended, extra-curricular activities, classes and workshops attended, awards, exhibitions and special interests/talents. Resumes are in **outline form** and must not exceed **one page**. We will keep this copy of your resume. (***Do not include certificates, grades or other papers.**)

In-person Audition process

- Students will complete one still life drawing and one creative exercise during their in-person audition. The Visual Arts department will provide materials for this.

VOCAL MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

SCPA students entering 4th grade will perform “America” (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee) by memory in the key given (F major). The sheet music to “America” is included below. The student must perform the song by memory. Additionally, students will be asked to sing in a round for the purpose of identifying the student’s ability to hold a vocal part. Students may also be asked to sing scales or intervals, or to identify music notation symbols appropriate to their grade level.

Voice

America

♩ = 90



My coun - try 'tis of thee sweet land of lib - er - ty of thee I



sing Land where my fa - thers died Land of the pil - grim's pride



From ev' - ry moun - tain side let free - dom ring