

# NWSA 2018-19 Audition Requirements

## Middle School Visual Arts

**Instructors: Ms. Tamara Conrad, Ms. Jamie Berry, Mr. Joshua Cornwell, Mr. Bryan Wilson**

**Audition Length: Up to 90 minutes at school for mini-lesson. Mini-portfolio is prepared in advance by the student.**

The middle school visual arts audition has two elements to give every student their best chance to demonstrate their abilities. The two elements are:

**(A) A mini-portfolio**, which is prepared in advance by the student at home or at school.

This is turned in by the student on their audition (mini-lesson) day. The five required items for the mini-portfolio, with instructions and references, are outlined below.

**(B) An in-person mini-lesson** led by NWSA visual arts faculty. No supplies or special preparation is required for the mini-lesson component of the audition.

Middle school students arrive on their scheduled audition day to deliver the complete mini-portfolio for assessment AND to participate in the mini-lesson. An Audition Request is needed by the Audition Request deadline in order to schedule the mini-lesson. The portfolio **must** be turned in on the same day as the mini-lesson in order for the student to be scored.

The audition will assess visual literacy, contextual understanding, and critical thinking per NC Essential Standards. The student must demonstrate their artistic ability and the motivation/dedication to grow through serious study of visual arts.

### **Mini-portfolio Audition Requirements:**

- **CLEARLY LABEL ALL SUBMISSIONS WITH STUDENT'S FULL NAME AND CURRENT GRADE**
- Do NOT submit cartoons, anime, or unfinished works in the portfolio.
- Do not submit actual sculpture- use photos only.
- **ONLY SUBMIT WORK RELATED TO THE ITEMS LISTED.** These works must have been created within the past year.
- **USE ONLY** a 9 x 12 or 8.5 x 11 sketchbook. You can complete final projects in your sketchbook, or tape them in the book. If you are including larger finished artwork that cannot be attached inside the sketchbook, please enclose the both the sketchbook AND large items in a portfolio case (with the maximum size of 18 x 24 inches.)
- Bring the finished mini-portfolio (with all 5 items below,) to your mini-lesson/audition appointment. This includes the projects, sketchbook/practice work, and critique.

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### Mini-portfolio Items 1-5

#### Item 1: Landscape

Show us how you see the world and show off your understanding of space, color, and texture. View the landscapes by Edward Hopper <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/62.95> and Katsushi Hokusai <https://www.katsushihakokusai.org/South-Wind-At-Clear-Dawn-Gaifu-Kaisei.html>

- View the master works by Hopper and Hokusai.
- Find a landscape to draw: look out a window, take a walk, or go through family pictures. Just don't copy from a magazine, online, or other published source.
- Practice drawing your landscape in your sketchbook. Be sure to include foreground, middle ground, and background. How can you show details of that exact day, season, time and place? Have you learned about horizon lines and vanishing points? PRACTICE.
- Create a final (best) landscape and fill the page. Add texture and color with colored pencils, watercolors, etc. If you don't like your first effort, try again!
- Include BOTH your practice work AND your final (best) landscape in the portfolio.

#### Item 2: Self Portrait

**The self-portrait shows your ability to creatively express ideas through portraiture! Study the portraits by Sofonisba Anguissola**

[https://www.oneonta.edu/faculty/farberas/arth/Images/ARTH200/Artist/anguissola/sel\\_1554.jpg](https://www.oneonta.edu/faculty/farberas/arth/Images/ARTH200/Artist/anguissola/sel_1554.jpg) and Njideka Akunyili Crosby <http://njidekaakunyili.com/work/then-you-lost-me>

- Draw the two works by Anguissola and Crosby in your sketchbook.
- What kinds of stories do you imagine from these works? How did you get that story? Label some of the clues in your drawings of each portrait.
- What kinds of story would you like to tell in YOUR self-portrait? How could you show that? Write or sketch some ideas in your sketchbook.
- Look into a mirror. Practice making different facial expressions. How can you use your pose, environment, and facial expressions to tell us more about YOU through your self-portrait?
- Draw from your reflection using a pencil. Be sure to capture the details that make you look like YOU!
- Add shading with your pencil.
- If you don't like your first effort, try again. Label your best (finished) Self Portrait and include it in the portfolio.

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### Item 3: Best Recent Art Project (from school if possible)

- Choose your best project from last year.
- Label it with your name.

### Item 4: Sculpture (pictures and notes in sketchbook only)

- Choose your best sculpture project from the past year, or make a new one.
- Ask an adult to help you take pictures of your sculpture.** Take pictures from several points of view and take at least one close up of the best area.
- Print the best pictures and paste at least two in your sketchbook to show your work. **DO NOT TURN IN THE ACTUAL SCULPTURE!**
- On this page, write notes and tell us how you made this sculpture AND why it is your best sculptural work.

### Item 5: Critique

- Which piece in your mini-portfolio is your very best? YOU decide and tell us why it is your best. Back up your argument with details from the artwork and use your art vocabulary.**
- Handwrite your answer on a sheet of lined notebook paper.
- Title it "Critique of My \_\_\_\_\_" (Fill in the blank with your title or description.)
- Hand write at least one paragraph explaining why this is your best work. Be sure to use your art vocabulary! Grade level appropriate introduction, supporting facts, and a conclusion are expected. Convince us this is your very best work!
- Parents, please refer to the NWSA CMS website "Prospective Students" tab, under "Reference Documents." There you will find an article entitled "Writing an Art Critique" for your child to use as a reference.