

2019 acGATEWAY Application
Aiken County's Gifted & Talents Education with Artistic Youth

2019 acGATEWAY is open to CURRENT students in grades 3 – 12. AcGATEWAY serves students who excel in the visual and performing arts. The program offers creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Creative writing is only open to middle and high school students. Students will spend four to five weeks completely immersed in their arts area. At the end of the program, the students will perform in a showcase, and the visual arts students will have their artwork on display. Students who have just completed grades 9 – 11 will receive one unit of honors fine arts credit towards high school graduation for their work in acGATEWAY. The fine arts credit can only be awarded once. AcGATEWAY is a high-paced program, where students accomplish a lot in a short amount of time. Classes are intense and require focus and dedication. In order to preserve the integrity of the program, the following guidelines have been established. Please read them carefully before completing an application to participate in the program. Any student who did not participate and complete the 2018 program must audition regardless of his/her grade level. All students who participate in the 2019 program must complete the application form, but are not required to re-audition unless changing content areas.

Attendance Policy

It is an absolute necessity that acGATEWAY students are prompt in arrival to class, and prompt to be picked up at dismissal, and attend each day of the program. Missing one day puts a student extremely behind schedule, which hinders the student from successfully completing the program. The program will run daily from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for elementary students and 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for middle and high school students. The program will run Monday through Thursday. The students will put on a showcase at the end of the program. This showcase is a formal event, where the performing arts students display their talents, and the students in visual arts display their artwork in a gallery-type setting. Please see the list of important dates of the program so you may plan accordingly. Students are allowed to miss two days for illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, or death in the family. Medical, dental, and other appointments should be scheduled on Fridays or after the program has concluded. Signing out early and dropping off late should be avoided if possible. These instances will be counted as a tardy against the student. Two unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the acGATEWAY program for the 2019 year. Certain emergencies reviewed by the director may be exempt. Two tardies will equal one unexcused absence. Transportation will not be provided for the program. Students will have the option to eat at the school cafeteria or bring their own lunch. Lunch will be served 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for elementary students and 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for middle and high school students.

Discipline Information

Students who are accepted in the acGATEWAY program are devoted and dedicated. We expect hard work and respectful behavior at all times. If a student becomes a disruption or behavior problem, he/she will be sent to the office and appropriate action will be taken according to the Code of Conduct and Policies. A second violation will result in dismissal from the program and a one-year probationary period from auditioning or participating. The use of cell phones is not

permitted 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. unless prior permission from the teacher or director has been given. Cell phones WILL BE confiscated, if necessary, and returned at the end of the day to the student. Students should abide by Dress Code established the Aiken County Schools Code of Conduct and Policies. Consequences for not abiding by the dress code, as set forth in the Code of Conduct and Policies, will be followed.

Important Dates

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| January 11, 2019 | Online applications available |
| February 8, 2019 | Deadline to complete application |
| February 12, 2019 | Audition times released (Emailed to parent & school coordinator) |
| February 23, 2019 | Auditions at Midland Valley High School |
| March 1, 2019 | Audition results released (Emailed to parent & school coordinator) |
| June 11, 2019 | FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS (Midland Valley High School) |
| July 2, 2019 | Elementary Showcase (Auditorium) Conclusion of elementary summer program |
| July 3 – 4, 2019 | Holiday |
| July 9, 2019 | Middle/High Showcase (Auditorium) |
| July 10, 2019 | Middle/High Program, ½ Day (Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.) |

Each school has an acGATEWAY coordinator. The coordinator should be either the school dance, music, theatre, or visual arts teacher. Your school office staff will know who the school coordinator is at your school should you need to contact them for acGATEWAY information.

Audition Process

Auditions are an integral part of the acGATEWAY program. It allows the adjudicators to screen all candidates and identify if the student is a gifted and talented artistic student. All students that did not participate or complete the 2018 acGATEWAY program must audition using the arts area requirements. Unfortunately, due to time limitations we cannot hold special auditions for students who cannot make their assigned audition date and time. **ALL** students who did not participate last year music audition. Student who participated in an arts area that desire to change areas, must re-audition or continue within their original area of study from the previous year.

Audition Information

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| Audition Location | Midland Valley High School |
| Audition Date | February 23, 2019 |
| Audition Time | Notification on February 12, 2019 |

Elementary Student Audition Requirements

Visual Arts Requirements:

Portfolios will be presented at the audition. Your portfolio should contain the following pieces of artwork:

1. A realistic pencil drawing of an animal or person
***Realism** in the arts is the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully - the way it really looks.*
2. A landscape composition in the medium and style of your choice
***Landscape-** includes the visible features of an area of land: mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea.*
3. One piece of your choice

Unacceptable artwork includes: comic book images that are copied or created, reproductions of published sources from logos, work created on notebook paper or artwork torn from spiral sketchbooks. Your portfolio must be labeled clearly with your name, grade, and school. In addition to submitting the completed portfolio, you will be required to attend and participate in a workshop. The workshop consists of an impromptu drawing topic. The workshop will last approximately 30 minutes.

Music Requirements:

1. A prepared musical selection of the student's choice. When selecting a piece for audition, choose one that best represents what the student can produce and is age appropriate. Popular songs from the radio are discouraged. Memorization of the selection is highly recommended. Please bring a copy of the selection with you and/or accompaniment music or track. If accompaniment tracks are used, the lead vocal part should not be on track for your audition.
2. A standard musical selection chosen by judges for ALL students to perform. This piece will be the song, *Over the Sea to Skye*, verse 1. This selection can be found in grade 4 music books titled Spotlight on Music page 344. The CD accompaniment is available on CD 19. Please memorize this song for your audition. Students will audition with the musical accompaniment only; however, the vocal arrangement may prove helpful in preparation for the audition. Every elementary music teacher in Aiken County Public Schools has a copy of this piece, as it is the required text for the State of SC. Please see your elementary music teacher for access to this song.
3. Echo clap/sing 4 different short passages, which will be presented at audition. All students will be presented with the same patterns. These passages will be 4-8 measures long and range in difficulty from simple to more complex.

Dance Requirements:

Students will demonstrate their ability in each of these areas. They will be evaluated on their basic dancing ability and their talents in each of the following dance areas.

Improvisation: Students will perform an improvisational dance to a segment of music played by the judges.

Workshop: Each student will learn a dance and then replicate it by themselves. Grades 3-5, 24 counts.

Students should audition in dance rehearsal attire and appropriate dance shoes, if possible.

Drama Requirements:

1. Acting: Portray a person involved in a specific action.
2. Reading: Students will be asked to do a reading which will be provided by the judges at the time of audition.
3. Monologue: Students should be prepared to perform a ONE minute memorized presentation of a monologue or narrative.
4. Improvisation: Students should be prepared to improvise a 30 second scene with beginning, middle, and end in response to a given character and situation, which will be provided by the judges during auditions.
5. Pantomime: Students will be expected to perform a 30 second prepared pantomime with beginning, middle, and end of a person or animal engaged in an activity.

Middle/High School Student Audition Requirements, Grades 6 - 12

Visual Arts Requirements:

Portfolios will be presented at the audition. Your portfolio should contain the following pieces of artwork, each in at least 9" x 12" size. The work should be mounted or matted on a heavy surface (poster board or mat board).

1. A self-portrait using the medium (material) of choice - the artwork should include a variety of lines, values, and drawing techniques.
2. One piece of your choice, representing your skills and abilities.
3. A piece using color scheme: monochromatic, triad, complimentary, split-complimentary, warm or cool schema, or analogous. Ideas include: a landscape, abstract/non-objective work

Sketchbook: Each student must provide their personal sketchbook. The sketchbook is proof that they create work outside of class. The judges will be looking for the following:

- a. At least 10 pages of ideas and/or thoughtful studies
- b. Work which is original
- c. A variety of subject matter and techniques
- d. A variety of media

Unacceptable artwork includes comic book images that are copied or created, reproductions of published sources from logos, work created on notebook paper or artwork torn from spiral sketchbooks.

Your portfolio must be labeled clearly with your name, grade, and school.

In addition to submitting the completed portfolio, you will be required to attend and participate in a workshop. The workshop consists of an impromptu drawing topic. The workshop will last approximately 30 minutes.

Music Requirements:

Music: Middle / High School

Students will be evaluated on tone, technique, musicianship, originality and overall performance.

Technique

1. Middle School wind and mallet students must perform the 7 All State Scales. They must also play a one octave chromatic scale from concert Bb-Bb. Strings players must perform the following major scales: C, G, D, A, E and F. They must also play the E minor scale and the chromatic scale from G to G. Snare drum players must play the 7 All State Rudiments. Piano must be prepared to perform the C Major, G Major, F Major (each 2 octaves, no more than one minor scale.)

2.) High School (9&10) wind and mallet students must perform the 9 All State Scales. They must also play a two octave chromatic scale from concert Bb-Bb. Strings players must perform the following major scales: C, G, D, A, E and F. They must also play the E minor scale and the chromatic scale from G to G. Snare drum players must play the 9 All State Rudiments. Piano must be prepared to perform the C Major, G Major, F Major (each 2 octaves, no more than one minor scale.)

High School (11&12) wind and mallet students must perform the 12 All State Scales. They must also play a two octave chromatic scale from concert Bb-Bb. Strings players must play the following major scales: C, G, D, A, E and F. They must also play the E minor scale and the chromatic scale from G to G. Snare drum players must play the 12 All State Rudiments, and long roll. Piano must be prepared to perform the C Major, G Major, F Major (each 2 octaves, no more than one minor scale.)

3.) Vocal students must be able to sing three different pitch scales on (Using the syllable La). They must also sing a one octave chromatic scale.

4.) Match pitch and sing intervals.

Task #1

Etudes

Students will perform a prepared selection of their choosing. Please consult with your music teacher to determine appropriate selections. All students must bring a copy of their music to the audition. Students may perform with or without accompaniment in real time. Accompaniments, if used, should be instrumental only. Students with inappropriate tracks will be asked to perform unaccompanied. Popular music is not acceptable for this audition.

Task #2

Musical Responses

Students will respond to rhythmic and melodic echo and question-answer phrases.

Task #3

Sight Singing /Sight Reading

Students will be asked to sight sing or sight read a piece of music taken from appropriate level material.

Dance Requirements:

Students will demonstrate their ability in each of these areas. They will be evaluated on their basic dancing ability and their talents in each of the following dance areas. Students should audition in dance rehearsal attire and appropriate dance shoes if possible.

Improvisation: Students will do an improvisational dance to a segment of music played by the judges.

Workshop: Each student will learn a dance and then replicate it by themselves. Grades 6-8, 32 counts; Grades 9-12, 48 counts.

Drama Requirements:

1. Students must come prepared with 1 (one) monolog no more than 1 (one) minute in length. The monolog could be from a movie, play, or original but NOT a poem.
2. Be prepared for an improvisation. This improvisation will include a short script which will be provided during the audition for the applicant to read.
3. Applicants should also be prepared for a short interview.

Creative Writing Requirements:

Portfolio: Students are asked to bring a portfolio of their work to the audition workshop.

The portfolio should consist of the following:

1. Poetry: three poems
2. Short Story: two short stories of no more than five pages

In preparing your portfolio, follow these directions:

1. Your name should be on a title page at the beginning of the portfolio.
2. The papers should be placed in a small binder or folder with prongs- they must NOT be paper clipped or stapled.
3. All work must be typed.

4. Each work must be labeled with its appropriate category (ex. Poem #1)

Workshop: During the workshop, you will be asked to write a variety of different pieces that reflect different writing styles. You will be asked to write a series of poems, a short narrative, and prose.

All Students

All students must have one letter of recommendation completed by the day of auditions. The recommendation letter should be completed by an academic teacher, arts instructor, and/or private teacher. The applying student should not see the completed letter of recommendation. The appropriate letter of recommendation will be sent to the school coordinator to distribute to the student along with an additional copy that will be emailed directly to the parent or guardian upon completion of the application. The letter of recommendation should be brought to the audition in a sealed envelope and turned in at registration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jstockton@acpsd.net. Thank you for your interest in the acGATEWAY program.

In the Arts,

J. Lance Stockton
Coordinator, Fine Arts & Special Programs
Aiken County Public School District