



AIKEN COUNTY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2018 acGATEWAY Application

Aiken County's Gifted & Talented Education with Artistic Youth

2018 acGateway is open to CURRENT students in grades 3-12 and is a wonderful opportunity for your child! acGateway is catered to students who excel in the visual and performing arts. The program offers drama, creative writing, dance, music, 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 for all to see. All students will receive a grade for the program and must maintain at least a B average in the acGateway program to attend and continue to attend in the following years. **Students who have just completed grades 9-11 will receive one unit honors fine arts credit towards high school graduation for their work in acGateway.** This 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 rules have been established. Please read them carefully before completing an application to participate in the program. Any student who was not in the program last year must audition regardless of his/her grade level. All students who participated last year will be invited to participate this year and will not be required to re-audition.

Attendance Policy

It is an absolute necessity that acGateway students are prompt to arrive to class, prompt to be picked up at the end of the day, and attend each and every day of the program. Missing one day puts a child extremely behind schedule, which hinders the student from being able to successfully complete the program. The program will run daily from 8:15 am - 2:30 pm for elementary students, and 8:00 am-3:30 pm for middle and high school students. The program will only be held 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 "showcase" 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 any other appointments should be scheduled on Fridays whenever possible or after the program has concluded. Signing out early and dropping off late should be avoided if at all 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 2018 year. Certain emergencies reviewed by the director may be exempt. **Two** tardies, either upon arrival to Gateway or pickup from Gateway, will equal **one** unexcused absence. Transportation is not provided and each **student must bring his/her own lunch every day.** Lunch is 11:00-11:30 for Elementary students and 12:00-12:30 for Middle/High students.

Important Dates

November 20th (Monday) - Applications available to students (Online)

January 5th (Friday) - Completed applicant information must be returned to school coordinators

January 12th (Friday) - Audition times sent to students via acGateway coordinator (Emailed)

February 10th (Saturday) - Auditions held at Kennedy Middle School

March 9th (Friday) - Audition results mailed to applicant's home address

March 23rd (Friday) - "Permission to Attend the Program" form returned to school coordinators

June 12th (Tuesday) - FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS!

July 3rd (Tuesday) - Holiday!

July 4th (Wednesday) - Holiday!

July 10th (Tuesday) - Elementary Showcase at 7:00 pm

July 17th (Tuesday) - Middle/High Showcase @ 7:00 p.m.

July 18th (Wednesday) - Middle/High program ends, 1/2 day dismissal at 12:00 pm

Each school has an acGateway coordinator. The coordinator should either be the school music, drama, dance, or visual arts teacher. Your school office staff should be able to let you know who the coordinator is at your school should you need to contact them for an application, recommendation sheets, or other acGateway information.

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 for a warning, and the parent will be contacted via discipline notice. 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 from 8:00-3:30 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 the Dress Code established through the Aiken County Schools Code of Conduct. Consequences for not abiding by the dress code, as set forth in the Code of Conduct, will be followed.

Audition Process and Expectations

Auditions are an important part of the acGateway program. It allows the judges to choose the best students possible. All students who did not participate last year must audition and each arts area has different requirements. Unfortunately, due to time limitations we cannot hold special auditions for students who cannot make their assigned date and time. **ALL** students who did not participate last year must audition. Students who participated in a content area that desire to change content area, must re-audition or continue within their original area of study from the previous year.

Audition Location: Kennedy Middle School, 274 East Pine Log Road, Aiken, SC 29803

Audition Day: February 10, 2018

Audition Times: You will be notified of your audition time with a letter sent to the student through the acGateway coordinator.

Elementary Student Audition Requirements, grades 3-5

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
- 4.

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

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 30-45 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. Accompaniments, if used, should be instrumental only. Tapes or CDs with solo vocal tracks are not acceptable. 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, Short Story #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 before they are assigned an audition time. The recommendation should be completed by academic teachers, arts instructors, and/or private teachers. The applying student should not see the completed letter of recommendation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jstockton@acpsd.net or call the district office at 803-641-2645, and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you for your interest in our program!

Sincerely,

J. Lance Stockton

Coordinator, Fine Arts

Aiken County Public School District

Director, acGATEWAY – jstockton@acpsd.net
803-641-2645



acGATEWAY Student Recommendation Form

Completed by Arts, Private, or Academic Teacher. Students should NOT see these completed forms.

Student Applying:		School:		Grade:	
Applicant's Art Area					
Recommender's Name:		School:			
How long have you known the applicant?		Has applicant been your student?			
Your Signature:			Phone:		
What subject do you teach?					
Student Behavior	Not Observed	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
A. Exhibits high quality work in one or more arts areas					
B. Commit to a task in one or more arts areas					
C. Exhibits arts involvement and interest in class					
D. Exhibits a willingness to explore arts problems					
E. Exhibits creative potential					
F. Goes beyond the obvious and sees unusual relationships					
G. Investigates arts form in his or her spare time					
H. Likes to elaborate upon an idea or add details					

Please comment on the applicant's work habits, personal traits, attitude and commitment to work. What do you consider to be this applicant's particular strengths and weaknesses?

Does this student require any special accommodations to maximize his artistic potential? Be specific as possible.

For Dance Applicants Only

Scale 5=excellent 4=good 3=uncertain/not observed 2=average 1=below average

Physical Aptitude___ Musicality___ Muscular Strength___ Natural Talent___ Stamina___

Please send all recommendations to the acGateway coordinator at the school the student currently attends.



DRAMA RECOMMENDATION ONLY
acGATEWAY Student Recommendation Form

Completed by Arts, Private, or Academic Teacher. Students should NOT see these completed forms.

Student Applying:		School:		Grade:	
Applicant's Art Area					
Recommender's					
How long have you known the applicant?		Has applicant been your student?			
Your Signature:				Phone:	
What subject do you teach?					
Student Behavior	Not Observed	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
A. Volunteers to participate in classroom plays and improvisational scenes					
B. Follows through effectively					
C. Demonstrate an emotion, a physical feeling, or a situation through facial and vocal expressions					
D. Mimics people and animals in simple activities					
E. Presents self with ease					
F. Shows originality and creativity in day-to-day activities					
G. Describes the action of a story—the who, what, where, the feeling of the characters.					

Please comment on the applicant's work habits, personal traits, attitude and commitment to work. What do you consider to be this applicant's particular strengths and weaknesses?

Does this student require any special accommodations to maximize his artistic potential? Be as specific as possible.

Please send all recommendations to the acGateway coordinator at the school the student currently attends.