

EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
CICELY L. TYSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
OF PERFORMING & FINE ARTS
35 Winans Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07017-1026
Phone (973) 414-8600 Fax (973) 395-3888
www.eastorange.k12.nj.us

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Ms. Anita D. Champagne

December 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2017-2018 audition requirements and selection process for the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts. The Application Process for the 2017-2018 school year can be found on the back. Tyson Middle/High School challenges students academically, socially and emotionally through a course of study that includes advanced training in a specific arts discipline within the context of a comprehensive college preparatory middle/high school, which will provide students with the skills necessary to compete in our global market.

Please be advised of the following:

- The audition process is open to all East Orange residents in Grades 5 and 8.
- Application packets are available online <https://goo.gl/forms/Zx0OimoZm23dEHlp2> (case sensitive) and on the District's website www.eastorange.k12.nj.us. Limited hard copies will be available in the Guidance Office of each school or the Board of Education's Office (199 Fourth Avenue).
- The Arts majors that are open for audition for all 5th and 8th grade students include the following: Dance, Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Animation, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music. Please note that there are a limited amount of spots available in each of these majors.
- The Arts majors that are open for audition for only the 8th grade students include the following: Television/Film and Musical Theater. Please note that there are a limited amount of spots available in each of these majors.

Spots available for each discipline are noted in parentheses on the Audition Requirements Pages. Numbers may have a slight variation based on the ability to fill each Arts major. The MS represents Middle School and HS represents High School. The numbers beside Instrumental Music encompasses all instruments and the exact allotment for specific instrument or categories can be found in the Audition Requirement section on pages 3-4.

- All returned audition packets should be delivered to the student's School Guidance Department or directly to Cicely Tyson Middle/High School Guidance Department if the student is not currently enrolled in the District.
- Scoring will be reflected in incomplete applications.

Sincerely,

Anita D. Champagne

Principal

Application Process for 2017-2018 School Year

- ❖ Auditions will be held this year for students currently in grades five (5) and eight (8) only.
- ❖ Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or accepted. **No Exceptions!!**
- ❖ For students in District, applications should be submitted online. All hard copies should be returned to your school Guidance Department or the CTS Guidance Department at 35 Winans Street, East Orange, NJ 07017 no later than Friday, January 6, 2017.
- ❖ **The audition schedule is as follows:**
 - Dance (Grade 5):** Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 9:00am - 12:00pm and **(Grade 8):** 1:30pm - 4:00pm
 - TV/Film (Grade 8):** Monday, January 30, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Visual Arts (Grade 5 and 8):** Monday, January 30, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Animation (Grade 5 and 8):** Monday, January 30, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Theater (Grade 5):** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and **Musical Theater: (Grade 8)** from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Theater Tech (Grade 8) and Vocal (Grade 5):** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Vocal (Grade 5):** Wednesday, February 1, 2017
 - Instrumental Music: Harp and Strings (Grade 5 and 8):** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Instrumental Music - Brass, Woodwinds & Percussion (Grade 5 and 8):** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Vocal (Grade 8):** Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 - Piano (Grade 5 and 8):** Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 4:00pm - 7:00pmApplications are available in each District sending school, in the lobby of the Board of Education at 199 Fourth Avenue, and online. The District's website is www.eastorange.k12.nj.us.
- ❖ The application, which includes a teacher recommendation, **must** be completed and submitted no later than **Friday, January 6, 2017**. Late or incomplete Teacher Recommendations **will** reflect in the final score.
- ❖ Auditions will take place from 4:00pm to 7:00pm and from 9:00am - 4:00pm on the dates specified above. Students should report to the Cicely Tyson School Performing Arts Center, 35 Winans Street, where prospective students will be auditioned on a first come first served basis. If there is a need to add additional days due to the number of responses, parents will be notified in advance.
- ❖ Notification regarding the student's acceptance will be mailed to parents/guardians no later than March 31, 2017.

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must show a strong interest in their selected performing arts discipline. The staff selection committee will review all applications. Each student will have a general interview as well as an Audition/Interview with the Arts Selection Panel. Specific program criteria are listed in the "Audition Requirements" section of this application, which can be found on the reverse side of this form. **The Audition/Interview Selection Panel will provide a rubric score for the following: Teacher Recommendation Form, performance in the particular discipline, as well as the required narrative that is written during the audition process to determine the student's potential for success in their program of interest.**

Only Students in grade five (5) and grade eight (8) will be allowed to audition. The student selection process is designed to identify students who can best meet the proficiencies of a visual and performing arts program.

The following criteria have been established as guidelines for the selection process:

1. Students **MUST** be residents of East Orange, New Jersey.
2. Students **MUST** complete the CTS Application for Audition Form and Teacher Recommendation Form. **Students may only audition for one of the arts majors.**
3. Students **MUST** report for an audition in at least one of the following areas: Fine Arts, Vocal Music, Dance, Theater Arts, Musical Theater (High School Only), Instrumental Music, TV/Film (High School Only) and Animation.
4. Students **WILL BE** selected for admission based on the total numerical score for the following three rubrics:
 - a. Performance Task
 - b. Writing Task (*All students are required to complete a writing task on the day of the audition. Question: Briefly tell us why you are the perfect candidate for Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts.*)
 - c. Teacher Recommendation Form

****All Scores are CONFIDENTIAL and WILL NOT BE SHARED with applicants, parents, teachers or school counselors.***

If selected both *parent/guardian(s) and student* **MUST** sign and adhere to the CTS Contract:

- A) Acknowledging their understanding of school policies
- B) Agreeing to the expected Code of Conduct, mandatory Uniform Policy, GPA Requirement and Attendance Policy.

**AUDITIONS FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS
IN GRADES FIVE (5) AND EIGHT (8) ONLY
Auditions will begin on January 28, 2017**

**Only students who submit completed applications to their schools by Friday, January 6, 2017 will be able to audition.
Audition Location: Cicely Tyson School Performing and Arts Center, 35 Winans Street, East Orange, NJ 07017**

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017-2018

DANCE (15MS/10HS)

Students will participate in a technique class consisting of a ballet barre, center floor exercises and a modern/jazz combination.

Students will demonstrate flexibility, a natural sense of movement, musicality, and an innate ability to follow directions.

Students will come prepared to perform a 1 ½ minute (90 seconds) solo piece in any style of dance. Students may be asked to stop dancing if they exceed the time requirement. Students must provide their own CD of their music.

Recommendations for dress attire:

- **Females:** leotards, tights, ballet slippers, hair pulled back off the face
- **Males:** fitted T-shirt, footless tights and ballet slippers. **ABSOLUTELY NO GUM OR JEWELRY**



TELEVISION/FILM (High School Only) (9HS)

Students will undergo an interview and complete an entry-level technology exam. They must

- Bring at least 3 photos revealing a story within each shot as if it was part of a production frame (write the story on back of photo with name); or
- Bring a three (3) minute video that you have created and be ready to discuss.

Recommendations are required from your English and Mathematics instructors. Prior experience is not required for acceptance to this program.

THEATER ARTS (15MS/15HS)

Students should prepare to present a 1 to 2 minute memorized monologue demonstrating pronunciation, projection, articulation and characterization. Candidates are also asked to bring a writing sample explaining their interest in theater arts. **Students may be asked to present a "cold" reading to be distributed at the audition.**

(Continued)



MUSICAL THEATER (GRADE 8 ONLY) (10HS)

Students should have a strong interest in singing, acting and dancing. Students will be asked to sing a song by memory and perform a one-minute monologue by memory. Students have the choice of singing one of the following for their audition:

- A Broadway Solo
- The Star Spangled Banner
- Lift Every Voice and Sing

Students should be able demonstrate clear pronunciation, projection, articulation and characterization. Candidates are also asked to submit a writing sample explaining their interest in musical theater.

FINE ARTS (10MS/10HS)

Students must present ten (10) to twelve (12) art works which demonstrate basic and/or traditional techniques. These artworks should include linear perspective. **CARTOON DRAWINGS will not be accepted in the portfolio of the Fine Arts Candidates.** Please remember that the presentation of art will be taken into consideration. A personal interview will be conducted to obtain information about the candidate and students will be asked to do a work sample during the audition. They also must attend the on-site audition and arrive on time.



ANIMATION (12MS/10HS)

Students must present eight (8) to ten (10) artwork demonstrating basic/traditional art techniques. In addition, 5th Grade students must present five (5) pencil drawings of cartoon characters, (only one Japanese character) and one piece done in one and two point perspective. Candidates can bring any drawings that they have done in the past. A personal interview and short drawing test will be given.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (38MS/36HS)

Students are being asked to bring their own instruments, sticks, reeds and sheet music, if they have them.

Students must 1) perform an etude or prepared selection of their choice that best reflects their musical ability; 2) demonstrate the ability to verbally discuss and perform on their instruments; and 3) illustrate their knowledge of musical symbols (staves, clefs, bars, measures, repeats, endings, double bar, accidentals i.e. sharps, flats, natural signs), primary note values and rests (whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth with corresponding rests), basic time and key signatures, and dynamic markings (*p*, *mf*, *f*). Sight reading and an interview will be part of the audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017-2018



Additional criteria by instrument:

***Brass:** Treble clef -- Perform ledger line C to top space G and C,F,G Key Signatures.
Bass clef -- Perform 2nd line Bb to ledger line D and Bb, Eb F Key Signatures.
Understanding of 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4, 6/8 time.
Ties and slurs, tempo markings (*andante*, *allegro*, *maestoso*) Accidentals, and terminology (*d.c.al fine*, *fine*). Dotted quarter and eighth notes.

* Slots available for Brass: 5 Middle School Students and 5 High School Students

Harp: Aspiring students who have no experience on harp will be evaluated on tonal memory (through singing), rhythmic memory, and the interview process.

Piano: Play two major scales with proper fingering. Short written test and an ear training assessment will be part of the audition.

Strings: One octave scale for Middle School (G & D) major scale, Two octave scales for High School (G, D & C) major scale, two note slurs, slurs with three notes per bow, slurs with 4 notes per bow, tied notes and sight reading.

***Percussions:** Aspiring students should be able to maintain a steady beat and be prepare to play a call and response.

*Slots available for Percussion: 5 Middle School Students and 5 High School Students

***Woodwinds:**

Flute: Perform a range of D below the staff to ledgerline A3. All dotted half, eighth, and sixteenth notes. $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ time signatures

Clarinet: Perform a range low G to ledger line C. $\frac{4}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{6}{8}$ time signatures. Ties and slurs, tempo markings (*andante*, *allegro*, *maestoso*) dotted half and eighth notes.

Saxophone: Same as clarinet except

Performance range-Low E to high C. character) and one piece done in one and two point perspective. Candidates can bring any drawings that they have done in the past. A personal interview and short drawing test will be given.

*Slots available for Woodwinds: 5 Middle School Students and 6 High School Students

VOCAL MUSIC (15MS/15HS)

Student's vocal range and quality of musical ear will be assessed through vocal exercises, sight singing, and their selected solo.

Prepare a musical selection chosen from the list below:

- Lift Every Voice and Sing
- The Star-Spangled Banner (O, Say Can You See)
- America (My Country Tis of Thee)

Students who are studying with a private voice teacher may opt/choose to sing an art song in English, Italian, German or a spiritual. Bring 3 photocopies of music for the panel.

To present yourself in the best light possible:

- Decide exactly what song you will present and PREPARE it (memorize it, singing in tune).
- Your piece will be performed acappella with the exception of students who are performing an art song or spiritual.
- Say your name and answer questions clearly and completely.
- Be ready to talk about yourself, your past musical experiences, your goals for the future.
- Dress appropriately – look like a professional.

We are looking for:

- **Vocal potential** – Your voice has the potential to be developed.
- **Performance and musical potential** – You have the personality to be a performer and succeed in other areas of musical study (composition, recording technology, teaching, etc.).
- **Passion about music** – You are truly excited about music and/or singing.





STUDENT INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Last First Student ID#

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ Present School _____
Month/Day/Year M/F

AUDITION AREA: (check one)

- ANIMATION DANCE FINE ARTS MUSICAL THEATER (8th Grade only)
 VOCAL MUSIC THEATER ARTS TELEVISION/FILM (8th Grade only)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – (If auditioning for Instrumental Music, check one specific instrument below)

- HARP STRINGS PIANO TRUMPET TROMBONE CLARINET PERCUSSION
 FLUTE SAX OTHER INSTRUMENT (Name of Instrument) _____

CURRENT GRADE: (check one) 5th Grade 8th Grade

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Please Print Clearly

Home Address _____
Street Apt #/Flr City State Zip Code

Telephone (Home) _____ Telephone (Cell) _____

Parent's Email Address _____

All Sections MUST be completed before submitting to your school Guidance Counselor

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

You must have the reverse side of this application completed by one of your current teachers. Your completed application (both sides) must be turned into your school no later than Friday, January 6, 2017. Please take note of the date and time of auditions stated in the application process and the audition requirements.

NARRATIVE

On the day of audition, all applicants will be required to complete an essay. Essay Question: Why are you the perfect candidate for the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts?

Student Name: _____	Current Grade: _____
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Please complete the following information:	
School Currently Attending:	
Do you currently perform or have you previously exhibited your work? Yes	No
If so, where?	

The next section is to be filled out by a teacher chosen by the student applicant. One (1) recommendation is required. The recommending teacher must know the student’s potential and degree of commitment. The student must submit:

- **Teacher Recommendation Form** - this form
- **Teacher Recommendation Rubric** - completed rubric with final score
- **Application** - the completed application that is attached

**The scoring rubric for the teacher recommendation is on the back.*

	Below 1	Approaching 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4	Total Score
Commitment					
Grades					
Attendance					
Respect for Other					
Self-Discipline					
Completes Assignments					
TOTAL SCORE					
Total Average Rubric Score <i>Please Note: Total Score divided by six equals Total Average Rubric Score</i> TOTAL SCORE/6=Total Rubric Score					

Comments:

Print Teacher’s Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Subject: _____

THE TOTAL AVERAGE RUBRIC SCORE WILL BECOME PART OF YOUR TOTAL AUDITION SCORE.

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts
Teacher Recommendation Rubric
Audition Process

	Below 1	Approaching 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4
Commitment	Student displays a negative attitude and does not work towards a goal.	Student attempts to display a positive attitude and works hard sometimes.	Student displays a positive attitude and works hard to accomplish a goal most times.	Student always displays a positive attitude and works hard to accomplish a goal.
Grades	Incomplete understanding of most the content. D - F	Student attempts to show some understanding of the content. C - D	Student understands content but not in great detail. B-C	Student exceeds understanding of content and can explain in great detail. A-B
Attendance	Student never attends class, attendance and is never prepared for class.	Student is present in class, late more than once every two weeks and prepared sometimes.	Student is present, on time and late once every two weeks and prepared most times.	Student is present, regularly attends class, always on time and prepared.
Respect towards others	Student never follows directions, listens to peers and responds appropriately.	Student attempts to follow directions, listen to peers and respond appropriately.	Student follows directions, listens to peers and responds appropriately.	Student takes initiative in following directions, listens attentively and responds appropriately with care and consideration.
Self-Discipline	Student never shows the ability to motivate one's self and stay focused and on task.	Student attempts to show self-discipline.	Student shows self discipline most times.	Student always shows self-discipline.
Completes Assignments	Student never completes assignments.	Student attempts to complete assignments	Student sometimes completes assignments.	Student always completes assignments.

A maximum of 4 points will be included into your overall audition score.

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts
Audition Writing Task Rubric

NEW JERSEY OPEN-ENDED SCORING RUBRIC

Points	Requirements
4	A 4-point response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clearly demonstrates an understanding of the task.• completes all requirements of the question(s).• provides an insightful and detailed explanation/opinion that includes or extends ideas from the text.
3	A 3-point response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrates an understanding of the task.• completes all requirements of the question(s).• provides some explanation/opinion that includes ideas from the text for support.
2	A 2-point response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• may address all of the requirements, but demonstrates only a partial understanding of the task.• uses text incorrectly or with limited success.• includes an inconsistent or confusing explanation.
1	A 1-point response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrates minimal understanding of the task• does not complete the requirements• provides only an unclear reference or no use of the text for support.
0	A 0-point response is completely irrelevant or off-topic .

A maximum of 4 points will be included into your overall audition score.