

# NORTH EAST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## Audition Guidelines

1. All students auditioning for Cinema, Creative Writing, Instrumental Music, Technical Theatre, or Visual Arts should submit a 300-500 word essay explaining why you wish to be considered for NESAs and what you can bring to the major for which you are auditioning.
2. All students should be prepared for a personal interview with the audition panel.

### Cinema

- Candidates will complete a short written exercise prior to their interview. Students may also bring examples of their writing, artwork, and video productions for the committee to review (optional). These examples will be left with the panel and **will not** be returned. Please bring copies. Do not bring originals. *Please note: students should not be discouraged because of lack of experience in this field.*

### Creative Writing

- Submit 3 copies of a portfolio of written works (in a binding of your choice as long as the sheets are removable and NOT stapled). The portfolio should contain at least 10 pieces of original writing, and can be a combination of poetry, prose, screenwriting, playwriting, fiction, or creative non-fiction. Please do not submit school assignments, as these do not reflect originality of conception. If you are submitting a novel or any lengthy treatment, submit only 10 pages. Please do not send original photos or artwork, as portfolios are never returned. Remember that the appearance of your work provides the first impression of you and will invite the reader to look further or discourage the reader from forming a positive impression. **The portfolio of written work must be submitted with your application.** These writings will be read and evaluated by the Creative Writing Director and two other credentialed writers. At the on-site audition, students will be asked to write from a prompt and will be interviewed by the audition panel. Your portfolio will **not** be returned, so please do not submit originals.

### Dance

1. Prepare a one-minute choreographed dance in the style of your choice. It should be the style that best showcases your strengths. Emphasis will be on performance ability and interpretation of the music. A CD/tape player will be provided.
2. Learn and perform an impromptu dance with the choreographer's direction. A short ballet and jazz combination will be taught.
3. Dress in the following attire for the audition:
  - Women--leotard and tights (sweats, t-shirts, half tops are prohibited)
  - Men--jazz pants or tights and a form-fitting shirt (sweats and baggies are prohibited)**Auditionees should bring all of their dance shoes to the audition.**
4. The last portion of the audition is a short interview. The panel will ask questions pertaining to school, dance training, other artistic interests, and life in general.

### Instrumental Music

1. Prepare an audition etude or solo not to exceed four minutes. The audition material should be representative of your abilities, and you are encouraged to present a varied musical spectrum, i.e., tempos, range, and style. You may use excerpts from more than one etude/solo in order to best represent your skills.
2. Each applicant will also sight read as part of the audition.

## Musical Theatre

1. Prepare one minute of a song from a musical theatre work, to be performed from memory. It is your responsibility to furnish sheet music for the accompanist and have it properly marked with starting and stopping points. Your sheet music must include piano accompaniment—do not bring lead sheets that only provide the vocal melody and chord charts. You must use the provided accompanist. **The accompanist will not transpose music.** Recorded accompaniments are not allowed.  
*(Many students would like to know what kind of song to pick for their auditions. There are many suitable songs from Broadway musicals in anthologies available at the library or for purchase at Southern Music or RBC Music. Please pick a song that you are comfortable singing, and feel that you can express convincingly. Do not feel you have to sing something extremely difficult or from the "latest" show.)*
2. Prepare and memorize a one-minute monologue from a published play. Do not use poems or cuttings from novels. The audition panel will be looking for naturalness and evidence of a true understanding of the text.
3. Prepare an introduction to your audition similar to this example: "Hi, my name is (*your first and last name*). First, I'm going to perform (*name of your song*), from the musical (*title of show*). Then I'll present a monologue of (*character's name*) from the play (*play title*)." You may present your song and monologue in whatever order you prefer.
4. Be prepared to participate in a dance audition. Bring clothes suitable for movement. Dress professionally for the audition. Do not wear shorts, cut-offs, flip-flops, sandals, halter-tops, t-shirts or other such informal clothing. You do not need to prepare anything for the dance portion of your audition.

## Technical Theatre

- Be prepared to present a portfolio and/or examples of your technical accomplishments, any creative artwork, photos of work accomplished or performances you have worked, and photos of scale models you have built, if available. This is optional, and students should not be discouraged from auditioning because of a lack of experience in the technical field.

## Visual Arts

1. Present a portfolio consisting of 10 to 20 pieces of artwork that are examples of your thoughts and ideas. The portfolio can consist of both 2-D and 3-D work. Work does not need to be matted or mounted. The work should be your original work from your own concept and not copies of existing artists' work. All work must be original and from direct observation. Sketchbooks need to be included in the portfolio. Portfolios should NOT include any cartoons, animee, superheroes, or fantasy images. Artwork may include still life drawings, self portraits, printmaking, painting, cityscapes or street scenes, clay, sculpture, mixed media, and no more than 5 photographs.
2. Participate in an on-site drawing. Subject matter and materials will be furnished. **You should plan for a 45-minute on-site drawing in addition to your scheduled interview time.**
3. A 15—20 minute interview will involve discussing your work and your portfolio; work ethics; how often you draw; the importance of studying art history; types of media you have used; and the content of your sketchbook.