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What is NESAs?

The North East School of the Arts (NESAs) is a gifted and talented program in the arts, structured as a magnet school on the campus of Robert E. Lee High School. North East Independent School District supports NESAs financially and academically. NESAs provides a rigorous academic environment, consisting of a sequential, customized curriculum designed to encourage artistic excellence, integration with multiple arts disciplines, and authentic assessment. NESAs students study daily with our unique staff of professional educators who are also working artists with significant training and experience in their individual disciplines. NESAs students also participate in master classes and seminars with professional artists, engage in many enrichment activities, and have multiple opportunities to showcase their talents. Students are accepted for the NESAs program through an application and formal audition process. All students in grades 8—11 from Bexar County and surrounding areas may apply to audition. Seven majors are offered at North East School of the Arts: Cinema, Creative Writing, Dance, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Visual Arts.

Where are you located?

On the campus of Robert E. Lee High School
1400 Jackson-Keller Road
San Antonio, Texas
(Inside Loop 410 between West Avenue and Blanco Road)

How many students attend NESAs?

Enrollment at NESAs is generally around 300 students.

Who can attend NESAs?

NESAs is a magnet fine arts high school program. Students in grades 8—11 can apply and audition to attend. Students from all areas of Bexar County and surrounding towns can apply and audition to attend. As of the 2010-11 school year, out-of-district (non-NEISD) students will be required to pay \$5,181 tuition per year. Half of the tuition will be due on or before August 1st, and the remaining half on or before January 3rd.

Is it too late to come to NESAs if I am going to be a junior (sophomore or senior) next year?

No. Of course we would love to have you starting your freshman year; the more time you are attending classes at NESAs, the more you will get out of the program. We accept students entering 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Do I have to move into NEISD to attend NESAs?

NESA accepts students by audition from all over the San Antonio/Bexar County metropolitan area. We have students who attend our program who travel from Bandera, Poteet, New Braunfels, Boerne, and other surrounding towns. However, as of the 2010-11 school year, out-of-district (non-NEISD) students will pay \$5,181 tuition per year. Students who live in the NEISD attendance area will not pay tuition.

How many students do you accept?

The number of students accepted varies by major. It also depends on the grade level that auditioning students will be entering and how many students will be in each grade level. However, in every case, the acceptances are based on the auditions and not necessarily on a set number of students to be accepted.

Does NESAs provide transportation to Lee High School?

NEISD provides transportation for NEISD students from their assigned NEISD campus. For example, if a student would regularly attend MacArthur High School, the student could go to MacArthur and catch an NEISD bus that would bring him/her to NESAs.

Students who live outside the district are responsible for their own transportation. Many ride city busses (there is a bus stop right in front of our campus) and many car pool. The Alamo Area Council of Government (AACOG) coordinates a car pool program and we provide that information to our students at the NESAs Orientation before school starts. Additionally, students with a driver's license and car may drive themselves to school. A parking permit is required which may be purchased for \$20 for the school year from the Lee Assistant Principal's office.

Do you have tours? Can I shadow a NESAs student?

Because our classes are small and instruction is intense, we do not offer tours or shadowing. It would be very disruptive to the learning and creative processes.

We do however offer an opportunity in the fall to visit our classes, meet our students and talk to our teachers. This event, called "Night With NESAs," is coordinated by pARTners, our very active parent support organization. You can find out when by visiting our website in August.

Alternatively, we have a full [season schedule](#) of events for all of our seven majors. You are always welcome to see our work and possibly visit with some students or teachers at these productions and events.

How big are NESAs classes?

NESA classes are considerably smaller than regular classes. The size of the class varies by major.

Do I have to take regular high school classes?

Yes. NESAs students take their core courses at Robert E. Lee High School. Lee has excellent GT and AP classes. We encourage NESAs students to take classes that will fulfill the NEISD Recommended requirements for graduation. (Your Lee counselor will help you select the courses that are needed.)

Can I stay at my high school for core classes and just take arts classes at NESAs?

No, NESAs is a magnet fine arts high school. NESAs students take their core classes at Robert E. Lee High School.

How many classes a day do I take at NESAs and how many at Lee? Explain the schedule to me.

As of the 2010-11 school year, all NEISD high schools will be changing to a 7-period day (ending block scheduling). Generally, most NESAs students will take two NESAs classes per semester, but this will vary by major and grade level.

Additionally, we offer a number of elective classes for NESAs students. Many NESAs students go to summer school to take core classes so that they can take additional NESAs electives during their junior and senior years.

Can I be in more than one major?

You can audition for up to three majors. If you are going to be in 9th or 10th grade and are selected by more than one major, you will have to choose one. You will need to take core courses for the other five classes each semester in order to complete all of the required courses for graduation.

We do allow juniors and seniors who have enough of their core courses completed to double major. They still have to apply, audition, and be accepted by the second major. In that case, they would be taking four NESAs courses each semester (two in each major).

Do you have prom and other social events?

NESAs has a formal banquet/dance in May each year. Lee High School has Homecoming, Stratford Ball, and Prom, which NESAs students can attend.

Is there a student council?

Students are elected from each major to serve on the NESAs Representative Forum. NRF helps plan Night With NESAs and the NESAs Banquet, provides community service and social activities for NESAs students, and is a forum for communication among the seven NESAs majors. NESAs students also volunteer to tutor other NESAs students in academic courses; the tutors have named themselves the NESAs Nerds.

Lee High School has a student council where NESAs students are often involved.

Can I participate in sports or other extracurricular activities?

It is difficult to participate in sports because of the intense amount of time outside of class that is required for most NESAs students. Particularly if you are majoring in Dance, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, or Technical Theatre, your rehearsal schedules will not allow for many other practices or competitions. This is one of those difficult times when you must choose which activity you would most like to do. If a particular sport is really important to you and you are accepted for NESAs, you should visit with the appropriate coach to see if accommodations can be made for your NESAs schedule. Your NESAs commitment *will always* come first.

Many NESAs students do participate in other extracurricular activities, such as: National Honor Society, clubs, class officers, PALS, etc. The important thing is to learn how to manage your time effectively so that you can be involved in the activities that you like, as well as maintaining good grades, while fulfilling your obligations to your NESAs major.

Can I go to NESAs and ISA? What is ISA anyway? What is STEM (RAM Academy)?

The International School of the Americas (ISA) and STEM (RAM Academy) are other magnet programs on the Robert E. Lee campus. Please see the ISA and STEM websites for more information: www.neisd.net/isa/ www.neisd.net/stem/

What is the NESAs application and audition process?

Applications are available on the NESAs website or by calling the NESAs Office. The application deadline will be noted on the NESAs website; auditions are held at various times throughout the year, usually in October, January, and June. Every student who submits a *complete* application is assigned an audition date and time after the application deadline.

Complete applications include:

- Application signed by parent or guardian
- Photo
- Resume

- Essay (for Cinema, Creative Writing, Instrumental Music, Technical Theatre, and Visual Arts majors only)
- Fine Arts Teacher Recommendation Form
- Counselor Recommendation Form
- Transcript and current grades

Why do I have to submit a photo?

Photos are only used for identification purposes. They don't need to be professional headshots. A school picture or a snapshot is fine.

I have my part of the application complete, but I am waiting on my fine arts teacher or counselor to fill out the recommendation form. Do I have to have those to turn those in with my application?

Your fine arts teacher and/or counselor can mail, pony, or fax the recommendation form and transcript. The most important part of the application is the form that is signed by your parent or guardian. We will not even start an application file for you until that signed form has been received.

Recommendation forms that arrive in the NESAs Office prior to an application signed by a parent/guardian will be filed in an alphabetical folder. When your application signed by a parent/guardian arrives, we will complete your file with the recommendation forms.

How soon after the audition will I know if I have been selected to attend NESAs?

We will call all accepted students within a week after all of the auditions have been completed. (Sometimes we have to schedule multiple audition dates because of the number of applicants.) We call accepted students to make certain that they know about special registration dates at Lee High School. All students who audition will receive a letter within two weeks after all of the auditions have been completed.

What if I miss the application deadline?

We accept applications throughout the year. Applications not submitted by a published deadline will be added to the applicants for the next audition date.

Can I transfer to NESAs during the school year?

No. Because our classes have a sequential curriculum, we only accept new students at the beginning of school in August.

The only exception is for a student who is moving to San Antonio from out-of-state or out of the San Antonio area during the school year and who has extensive prior experience in the arts discipline for which s/he wishes to audition. Students in that situation should call the NESAs Office and speak with the Director to arrange for an

application and audition. Students moving into the area must realize that they will be coming into programs that are already in progress, and they may not be able to accomplish the same goals as students, who have been in the program for the entire year (i.e., all Musical Theatre productions for the season are cast before school starts; Dance numbers by outside choreographers may have been choreographed; Technical Theatre assignments for productions will have been made, etc.)

Do you have a program for middle school or elementary school age students? Do you have programs for adults?

No, we do not.

Do you offer summer camps?

We do not offer summer camps for the general public.

What are your Box Office policies?

Tickets can be purchased on-line two weeks prior to the opening of a production. The schedule for on-line ticket sales can be found on the NESAs website under the Tickets heading. [Link to Ticket Information](#)

Our regular Box Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, the week of the show, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. **The NESAs Box Office phone number is 442-2510.** Ticket reservations will not be made through the regular NESAs Office phone number.

The Box Office reopens on performance days for WILL CALL and AT-THE-DOOR-TICKETS at 6:30 PM. At that time, **ONLY tickets for that day's performance will be available.** You will not be able to pick up or reserve tickets for any other show within one hour of a performance. If you need to purchase tickets for more than one show at one time, please come during regular box office hours.

Please do not call for reservations on Saturday or Sunday, as no one will be able to retrieve your information at that time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as our parent volunteers strive to provide efficient and courteous service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:45PM.

Complimentary tickets: Each student performing or working on a production (name should be in the program or on a list provided by a teacher) will receive one complimentary ticket. The student's name will be marked when a complimentary ticket is reserved. A person picking up the complimentary ticket will be asked to sign for it.

Volunteers from pARTners for the concession stand and ticket office are allowed to sit in unreserved seats for the performance for which they work. The volunteers are not issued a ticket for a reserved seat.