

Instructions for Preparing Auditions for AGS

**Please furnish a copy of this packet to each student applying in
Choral Music, Drama, Instrumental Music, or Visual Arts.**

For more information or clarification contact:

**Arkansas Governor's School
Arkansas Tech University
(479) 968-0391
<https://www.atu.edu/ags/>
ags@atu.edu**

OR

**Office of Gifted and Talented Education
Arkansas Department of Education
Phone: (501) 682-4224
Fax: (501) 682-4220
krystal.nail@Arkansas.gov**

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL: AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Preliminaries:

- If you have any questions or need clarification about the instructions detailed below, contact the Governor's School Office 479-968-0391 or (ags@atu.edu) or Department of Education, 501-682-4224.
- If you are applying in Choral Music, Instrumental Music, Drama, or Visual Arts, you must submit an audition prepared according to the instructions detailed below. If your audition does not conform to these instructions, your application will not be considered in that area.
- **You must submit the link to a private file uploaded to YouTube (one file per area applied for) or a separate DVD for each of the arts areas for which you wish to apply.** Submit only DVD-R or DVD+R. Other formats will not be accepted. **Please remember that a student may apply for a maximum of two areas overall, including academic areas.**
- There should be nothing else on the audition recording(s) you submit besides your audition. Auditions must be made indoors to eliminate background noise.
- Please dress appropriately keeping in mind that the judges are professionals in their fields. Avoid anything that could distract from your performance.
- Each audition must be no longer than ten minutes in length.
- Each audition submitted becomes the property of the Department of Education and **will not** be returned.

It is your responsibility to preview your audition before you send it in. Be sure your audition has good audio and visual quality. Be sure that the link to your YouTube file works and that the file is private. DVD submissions should be tested to be sure they can be viewed using a DVD player or computer. If prompted in DVD recording, select NTSC as the format method. There will not be time to submit another audition if the audition does not work when the committee meets.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each audition must be previewed by a school official to verify clarity and appropriateness of material. After preview, school official must sign off on the student's application.

- Remember that all applications to Governor's School must be submitted by the school. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the school receives the audition in time to include it with the rest of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

URL for YouTube file:

- Be sure the correct link to your private, uploaded YouTube file is supplied on page 1 of your Student Information Form. The **title** of the file should include the following information:
Student Last Name, Student First Name, Area applying in, voice part (in Choral Music), instrument (in Instrumental Music)
In the description box include: **Name of High School, Student Phone #**

Labeling for DVD's:

- The following model details how to label each audition. Either write the following information in permanent marker on the DVD in the order shown or type the required information on a DVD label and affix it to the DVD.

Student Last Name, Student First Name, Student Phone #
Name of High School
Area applying in, voice part (if choral music), instrument (if instrumental music)

Content:

- Each audition must be composed of two sections. The first section must be the **artistic interview** and the second section must be the **artistic performance**. Remember that auditions can run no longer than ten minutes *total*. The performance (Section II) must not be shorter than five (5) minutes. However, unused time from Section I may be used in Section II. The requirements for each section are detailed below. (Note: If you submit more than one audition, each audition must include both sections.)

Please do not have someone “interview” you. The applicant should be alone. Be creative, within reason. Use this interview time to reveal your personality, interests, experiences, and passions. The judges want to know “who you are.” However, the material you include on your audition must be in good taste and viewed by a school official at your school. **Please speak clearly.**

The requirements of Section I and Section II vary according to the area for which you wish to apply. Please follow the instructions for your area listed below.

CHORAL MUSIC

I. Section One: The Artistic Interview: *(Approximately 5 minutes or less)*

- Each applicant should discuss the following statements conversationally on the audition:
 - State your name.
 - What vocal part do you sing? (If more than one, list them in order of preference.)
 - What do you find most interesting about choral music?
 - List your choral experience over the last two years, including school and community experiences.
 - What is your favorite piece of choral music? Why?
 - How well do you read music? Advanced? Intermediate? Beginner? Explain.

II Section Two: The Artistic Performance: *(Approximately 5 minutes)*

- Introduce and present two selections of contrasting style. Do not use ensemble literature. Each selection should demonstrate your musical proficiency, and neither should be parts from choral selections, all-region, or all-state tryout material. Choose pieces that are solo songs and preferably classical act songs or show songs that display your range and talent as a singer. You may be accompanied if you wish, but be sure that the vocal recording comes through clearly.
- State your vocal range and then vocalize to demonstrate range.

DRAMA

I. Section One: The Artistic Interview: *(Approximately 5 minutes or less)*

- Each applicant should discuss the following statements conversationally on the audition:
 - State your name.
 - Who is your favorite playwright? Why?
 - What interests you most about drama?
 - List your experience in drama over the past two years.
 - What role would you most like to play someday? Why?

II. Section Two: The Artistic Performance: *(Approximately 5 minutes)*

- Introduce and perform (from memory) a selection from a published two act play or full length play, not a collection of monologues, a poem, or a one act play. No props or costumes should be used. Choose a piece that displays your range and talents as an actor. Your performance should clearly demonstrate your acting ability. You should be the only person on camera. Duet acting scenes are not appropriate.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**I. Section One: The Artistic Interview:** *(Approximately 5 minutes or less)*

- Each applicant should discuss the following statements conversationally on the audition:
 - State your name.
 - What instrument do you play? (If more than one, list them in order of preference.)
 - What do you find most interesting about instrumental music?
 - List your instrumental music experience over the last two years, including school and community experiences.
 - What is your favorite piece of instrumental music? Why?

II. Section Two: The Artistic Performance: *(Approximately 5 minutes)*

- Introduce and present two selections of contrasting style. Do not use ensemble literature. Each selection should demonstrate your musical proficiency, and neither should be parts from all-region or all-state tryout material. Choose pieces that display your range and talent as an instrumentalist. You may be accompanied if you wish, but be sure that the instrument you are playing comes through clearly on the audition.
- Please note that only the following instruments should be used for auditions: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Harp, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Trombone, Tympani, Snare Drum, Mallets, Piano.
- Be careful not to stand too close to the recorder as it distorts the sound.

PLEASE NOTE: Students accepted to Governor's School in Instrumental Music playing euphonium, saxophone, piano, or harp should be aware that these instruments are not used in every piece. Students might be asked to play a secondary instrument if they play one, or they may be utilized in the percussion section. Pianists should be aware that although solo opportunities do exist at Governor's School, their primary function is to play keyboard parts in the large ensemble. Please also make sure the piano you are using is in tune.

VISUAL ARTS

I. Section One: The Artistic Interview: *(Approximately 5 minutes or less)*

- Each applicant should discuss the following statements conversationally on the audition:
 - State your name.
 - What media do you prefer to work in? Why?
 - What influences your art? (How do you get ideas?)
 - List your visual arts experience over the last two years, including school and community experiences.
 - What is your most successful artwork? Give reasons.
 - What is your favorite piece of art? Why?
 - Who is your favorite master artist of all time? Why? If a local artist, show an example of this artist's work.
 - Record in detail and briefly discuss at least five of your original works in a variety of media (e.g., watercolor, drawing, prints, paint, sculpture, etc.). No artwork older than two years should be included.

II. Section Two: The Artistic Performance: *(Approximately 5 minutes)*

- **First**, read about one of the following artists, paying equal attention to stylistic questions (e.g., How did they create their works? Why did they do it that way?) and philosophical questions (e.g., How do their works relate to other artistic creations of the time? What were they trying to express?). Do your research and be prepared to discuss the content of your artist's work.
 - Eligible artists: Diego Rivera, Francis Bacon, Jacob Lawrence, Isamu Noguchi, Carrol Cloar, Elaine de Kooning, Susan Rothenberg, Eva Hesse, Bob Colscott, Louise Nevelson, Nam Jun Paik, Alice Aycock, Judy Chicago
- **Second**, create some work of art that extends (but does not copy) the artist's ideas into a new work. You may choose your medium.
- **Third**, record a brief discussion of the work you created, explaining its connection to the artist you read about and the ways in which you chose to expand upon those ideas. Do not discuss the artist's biographical history. Discuss your choice of medium. Make sure that the artwork you created is recorded close up, so that the selection committee can see the details of the piece. This is very important for all works of art. Show two (2) views of 3D work.
- **Fourth**, emphasize the artwork. Focus the camera on the art, not you in your discussion. It would be helpful to have your artwork on a stand to minimize movement.