

HSPVA

HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS



DR. HERBERT KARPICKE, PRINCIPAL

**4001 STANFORD STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006**

713-942-1960 ★ 713-942-1968 (fax)

www.hspva.org

SCHOOL BOARD

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Abelardo Saavedra
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL BOARD

Manuel Rodriguez, Jr.
President

Harvin C. Moore,
First Vice President

Greg Meyers
Second Vice President

Arthur M. Gaines, Jr.
Secretary

Natasha M. Kamrani
Assistant Secretary

Trustees
Kevin H. Hoffman
Dianne Johnson
Lawrence Marshall
Diana Davila

CENTRAL REGION SUPERINTENDENT
Adriana Támez

FEEDER PATTTERN EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL
Jon Gundry

VISUAL ARTS

This audition may include a take home exercise and an interview with Art Department faculty.

The Visual Arts audition requires submission of a portfolio of work and the completion of a series of exercises assigned during the audition at HSPVA. These exercises may include:

- Drawing from imagination, memory, and observation.
- Creating compositions by responding to word images, phrases or narratives.
- Creating compositions and designs by drawing and/or manipulating various materials within a frame of reference.

ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS:

Your portfolio should include a minimum of ten (10) and maximum of twelve (12) pieces of work. Select your strongest work. ***These include:***

I. Two-dimensional works (drawings, paintings, etc.)

- Bring original work rather than slides
- Bring drawings done from observation instead of drawings based on photos or other artwork

II. Three-dimensional works (sculptures, mobiles, etc.)

- Small sculptures can be brought to the audition.
- If sculpture is large or bulky, a photograph of it, taken against a contrasting background, is acceptable.

III. Photography

label them as either “negative and print processed by a professional” or “negative and print processed by me”.

You may also include examples of other media that demonstrate the diversity of your talent. **We discourage portfolios consisting solely of cartoons or superhero images.**

TIPS:

- There is no need to purchase an expensive portfolio. A simple hand-made cardboard portfolio is adequate.
- Do not matt works; our focus is the quality of the work, not the matts.
- Please DO NOT bring your work in frames.

On the outside of the portfolio, place a label clearly lettered with your

**Name
Age
Address
Telephone number**

WHO'S WHO AT HSPVA

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Herbert Karpicke, Principal

Larry Trout, Assistant Principal

Mercy Alonso-Rodriguez, Assistant Principal

Ky Willson, Magnet Coordinator

Lisa Pearson, Lead Counselor

Melissa Earls, Counselor

Lillian Rose Chow, Registrar

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

Patricia Bonner

Instrumental and Vocal Music

Luanne Carter

Dance

Eileen Montgomery

Visual Arts

Suzanne Jennings

Cynthia Ogden

Theatre

Nerine Aspray

Social Studies

Chris Gibson

English

Dr. Robert Megna

Foreign Languages

Lisa Noyes

Career and Technology Education

Dr. David Sherron

Science

Tom Williams

Mathematics

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) of the Houston Independent School District evolved in 1971 from a realization that gifted young artists need highly specialized and rigorous training in the arts to be prepared for the intense competition they will meet in colleges, conservatories, and the professional arts world.

The creation of HSPVA represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. Also, it was one of only three public schools in the nation to offer programs in both the visual and performing arts, and the first such institution in the Southwest.

For HISD, the formation of HSPVA represented a dramatic departure from traditional comprehensive programs. Ultimately the school became the pilot school for today's magnet school concept.

HSPVA is fully accredited and offers the same academic curriculum and graduation requirements as all HISD high schools; the major difference in the academic program is that we offer the added ingredient of correlating the arts with academics, rather than treating either as isolated disciplines.

All students spend three hours per day in their art areas, and the remainder of the time in academics or electives. The arts offered for in-depth study are: Dance, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. In addition, HSPVA is committed to its role as a college preparatory school, making students aware of the variety of opportunities they have for future training at colleges or universities, advanced art institutes, and conservatories.

The school recognizes and values student individuality. It nurtures, without exception, the values of individual accomplishment and independence. Since individual creativity is integral to the production of art, our faculty and staff work with students on an individualized, human level that stimulates intellectual, artistic, and technical originality. By providing such an environment, we strive to graduate people who can work independently and creatively.

At the same time, HSPVA places high value on group responsibility, loyalty, and sense of community. In a country that is sustained by a democratic process, a sense of individual worth, coupled with a sense of responsibility to a society, is invaluable. It is to these ends that HSPVA devotes its energies.

THEATRE

Time: Approximately 3 hours

The HSPVA Theatre department accepts students in one of three focus areas: Acting, Theatre Design/Theatre Technology or Musical Theatre. The audition consists of the following items.

ALL APPLICANTS

- Under the leadership of a theatre teacher, the student will take a theatre class with other applicants. The class will include a physical and vocal warm-up followed by improvisational, imagination and team building activities.
- During the audition process the student will take a drawing (visual arts) exercise that checks the applicants ability to find creative and theatrical solutions to given problems. There will also be a playwriting exercise.
- Following the prepared performances, a personal interview may be required if the student will not be an entering Freshman.

Since the work is very physical, the applicant should dress in clothing that allows free movement: full length pants that are not tight, T-shirts, shirts or blouses without logos or graphics and close toe, flat shoes. Please, no dresses.

Applicants who sing should be prepared to sing a few bars unaccompanied and spend individual time with a musical director to determine their range and skills.

During the process, applicants will have a drawing exercise to demonstrate visual creativity and artistic skills. The students will be given the option to analyze a short excerpt from a play or to write a short one or two-person scene.

ACTING AND MUSICAL THEATRE

After the class, the applicants in ACTING and MUSICAL THEATRE will perform TWO PREPARED and MEMORIZED monologues from PUBLISHED PLAYS. The length of each piece should be about 60 seconds. Applicants may be stopped before they finish each piece. The monologues (suitable to their age and experience) should show the actor's range and flexibility. Modern material is preferable to classic material. An applicant who sings should be prepared to sing a few bars unaccompanied.

MUSICAL THEATRE ONLY

Applicants for MUSICAL THEATRE focus are required to prepare a song from a published Musical to be performed without accompaniment. NO pop or church songs. Students will be asked to match pitch and will be checked for vocal range.

TECHNICAL THEATRE / DESIGN

Applicants in TECHNICAL THEATRE / DESIGN will be required to perform ONE PREPARED and MEMORIZED monologue from a PUBLISHED PLAY. The length of each piece should be about 60 seconds. Applicants may be stopped before they finish the piece. The monologue should be suitable to their age and experience. An interview will be a part of the process.

- A technical theatre résumé
- A portfolio of design (drawings, paintings, photographs of sets, costumes, props or other subjects)
- A scrapbook of programs, photos, reviews of theatre work done.

TIPS

- Prepare your two monologues **CAREFULLY**. They should be from two **different** published plays. Your work should show that you can perform and feel very differently from one monologue to the other. One may be sad and the other funny. Or, one may be a quiet character and the other louder. Remember that we want to see the **RANGE** of what you can do.
- As you perform your piece, you should see the person you are talking to in your imagination. Know who you are talking to and why you are talking to them.
- Choose only from plays written within the last 40 years, (no classical, no Shakespeare) and choose a character that you could be cast to play. That person would be close to your age and life experiences.
- Get help with your preparation. Ask your school drama teacher or a local community theatre for help finding someone to coach your work. To avoid conflicts of interest, our department will not recommend specific coaches. However, we hope you will talk to students already in our department. They would be very helpful as coaches.

MUSIC

JAZZ PIANO, JAZZ GUITAR AND JAZZ BASS

PREPARED MUSIC: applicants **must bring one copy of their music for the panel and perform one or more of the following:**

1. A standard tune from "The Real Book" or a similar collection of traditional jazz tunes (e.g. "Autumn Leaves," "Take the 'A' Train," etc.) The student should play the melody with appropriate chordal accompaniment. And, if possible, improvise on a portion of the selection.
2. A selection (piano/guitar part) from the student's school jazz band repertoire. The selection should include both "comping" (from chord symbols) and "written-out" melodic material.
3. Bassists should perform one or more tunes from the school jazz band repertoire. The part should include both "walking bass" lines and "written-out" melodic material.

SCALES

Students should be prepared to play by memory major scales in keys of: C, G, D, F, A, B-FLAT, E-FLAT. All instruments should perform scales for at least two octaves and perform a two-octave chromatic scale by memory. Knowledge of minor scales and/or modes is not required, but will enhance the audition. Pianists should perform scales two hands with correct fingerings.

CHORDS

Students should display familiarity with the following chord structures: Major 7th, Dominant 7th sus4, Minor 7th, Minor #7, Minor 7th b5 (half-diminished), Diminished 7th, Major 9th, Dominant 9th, Dominant 9th Sus 4, Minor 9th.

SIGHT READING

Students will be asked to sight read two selections to demonstrate reading ability.

VOCAL MUSIC

Each student should have some degree of background and experience in choral music singing and be able to follow a score. **The student MUST select from the following and bring the sheet music/book to the audition.**

Be prepared to sing, from memory, one of the selections listed. **Entering 11th grade students should select from "24 Italian Songs and Arias".**

"Jesus, Jesus Rest your Head"	"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"	"Edleweiss"
"Little Road to Kerry"	"The Willow Song"	"Oh What a Beautiful Morning"
"Love will Find Out the Way"	"When Love is Kind"	"Soon It's Gonna Rain"
"Passing By"	"Wayfaring Stranger"	"Wouldn't it be Lovely".
"Pastime With Good Company"		

Sources: Art Songs for School and Studio, English Reliquary of Song, Pathways of Song, Spirituals of H. T. Burleigh, or solos available at local music stores. Your choir director or voice instructor can assist you. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ONE OF THE SONGS ON THIS LIST, YOU MAY SING "AMAZING GRACE" FROM A HYMNAL.

Be prepared to sight sing a part of an easy choral score using solfege, numbers, or words. Be prepared to answer questions about key and time signatures, intervals and other basic theory. An interview to determine interests, potential and background will follow.

HOW'D WE DO?

COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORIES

Institutions accepting HSPVA graduates

Art Center, Pasadena, California
 Austin College
 Barnard College
 Baylor University
 Belmont University
 Berklee College of Music
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Bryn Mawr College
 California College of Art—Oakland/San Francisco
 Carleton College
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Chicago School of the Art Institute
 Cleveland Institute of Art
 College of Santa Fe
 Cooper Union, New York
 Corcoran School of Art
 Dartmouth College
 Davidson College Duke University
 Dillard University
 Eastman School of Music
 Harvard Colleges
 Howard University
 Juilliard School
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kansas City Art Institute
 Maryland Institute College of Art
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
 Minneapolis School of Art and Design
 Morehouse College
 New England Conservatory of Music
 New York University
 Northwestern University
 Oberlin College/Conservatory
 Parsons School of Design, New York
 Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
 Pratt Institute, New York
 Princeton University
 Reed College
 Rhode Island School of Design
 Rice University
 San Francisco Art Institute
 San Francisco Conservatory of Music
 School of Visual Arts, New York
 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 Smith College
 Southern Methodist University
 Southwestern University
 Spelman College
 Stanford University
 Swarthmore College
 Texas A&M University
 Texas Christian University
 The Juilliard School
 Trinity University
 Tufts University
 University of California Berkeley
 University of Chicago
 University of Houston
 University of St. Thomas
 University of Texas-Austin
 Washington University
 Xavier University

RECOGNITION

Nationally Recognized
Blue Ribbon School

Grammy Award winning
Music Department

ACHIEVEMENT

2006-2007 Senior Class

NFAA Semi-Finalists:

NFAA Finalists:

National Merit Semi-Finalists: 10
 National Achievement Scholars: 2
 National Hispanic Scholars: 4

SAT Mean Scores:

Reading: 583

Writing: 583

Mathematics: 568

ACT Mean Score: 23.2

PSAT Mean Scores:

Reading: 50.2

Writing: 49.8

Mathematics: 49.1

Awarded Scholarships:

More than \$5,000,000

FACULTY PROFILE

Total Staff Members: 50

with Doctorates - 9%

with Master's - 50%

STUDENTS

Total enrollment - 670

Attendance Rate - 97%

Active Alumni - 3,650

HSPVA PTO

School Store

Parent College Night

Staff Appreciation events

HSPVA Friends

Newsletter

Staff and student support

Alumni Organization

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

DANCE

Dance Survey
Ballet*
Modern Dance*
Pointe Technique*
Musical Theatre*
Jazz Dance*
Tap Dance*
Composition*
Dance History
Dance Photography
Dance Production*
Dance Project **
Repertory*
Body Conditioning
*levels I - IV
**Seniors only

THEATRE

Voice & Diction
Acting**
Theatre Movement/Dance*
Introduction to Theatre
Introduction to Design
Design(Design Tech focus)**
Stagecraft
Showcase Production
Speech
Theatre History
Stage Makeup
Introduction to Directing
Theatre Business
Theatre Production Lab
* levels I - II
** levels I - IV

VISUAL ART

Art Awareness
Art History
Artists & Issues Workshop
Conceptual Concerns
Digital Animation/Photoshop
Design Foundations
Drawing
Figure Drawing*
Mixed Media
Painting (Figure)
Photography*
Printmaking
Sculpture
(ceramic, metal, woodworking)
Video
Visual Communications
* Beginning & Advanced

MUSIC

Composition
Music Theory I & II
AP Music Theory
Music Literature
Music History
20TH Century Music Literature
Sight Singing
Ear Training
Chorale
Madrigal Singers
Young Performers
Girls Chorus
Mixed Chorus
Beauty Shop Singers
Handbells
Chamber Singers
Men's Ensemble
Senior Lab (Recital Preparation)*
Jazz Ensemble I & II
Jazz Combo
Jazz Improvisation / Fundamentals
Jazz History
String Ensemble
Symphony
Chamber Orchestra
Woodwind Techniques
Percussion Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Wind Ensemble
Bass Techniques
Rhythm Section
(jazz, drums, piano, guitar)

Classical Piano
Piano I & II
Piano Master Class

Harp Ensemble
Mariachi Ensemble

*Seniors only

MUSIC

WIND INSTRUMENTS

PREPARED MUSIC

Students should perform a solo that is at least UIL Class II in difficulty, or perform a selection from the All-Region tryout music. Most music stores have the UIL list. It is strongly suggested that students consult their middle school band director or private teacher concerning choice of materials. **Students must bring two copies of their music for the audition panel.**

Piano accompaniment is not necessary.

SCALES

Students should be prepared to play **by memory** major scales in the keys of: C, G, D, A, F, B-flat, E-flat. Keys specified are transposed for the instrument, not "concert". (If a student is asked to perform a "C" scale. It should be performed in the student's key of "C", not concert "C") All instruments should perform scales for at least two octaves, except where not practical for brass instruments.

All students should perform a two-octave chromatic scale **by memory**. Knowledge of minor scales and/or modes is not required, but will enhance the student's audition.

SIGHT READING

Students will be asked to sight read two selections to demonstrate reading ability.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION (optional)

If the student has experience in jazz improvisation, he/she may perform an improvised solo. For the accompaniment, a "play-along tape" (such as Jamey Aebersold) is suggested. Playback equipment will be provided.

PERCUSSION

Applicants **MUST** bring the following:

- own sticks/mallets
- two copies of music for audition panel

PREPARED MUSIC

Percussionists must perform solos on snare drum, mallet instruments, and timpani. It is strongly suggested applicants prepare All-Region etudes rather than material from the UIL list. Percussionists should perform scales on mallets. **Percussion instruments will be provided.**

SIGHT-READING

Students will be asked to sight read two selections to demonstrate reading ability.

MUSIC

STRING INSTRUMENTS

Bring one copy of solo music for the audition panel. Piano accompaniment is optional. The accompanist may not be the parent.. The school will not provide accompanists.

Students should be familiar with all clefs in common use for their instrument, i.e. tenor and treble clef for cello. This will be tested during sight-reading. A solo of choice will be performed. The difficulty of the solo will be taken into consideration, so the student should choose a solo that demonstrates their highest level of achievement. The student will also be asked to demonstrate up to four Major scales (all keys) in as many octaves as the student can play.

Callback Audition: The solo piece performed in the first round may be asked for again. All major and minor scales (melodic form) must be prepared. Up to four of each kind of scale will be required.

The student will be asked to sight-read an excerpt of the audition panel's choosing.

CLASSICAL PIANO

Students auditioning for the Classical Piano Program will:

- Perform BY MEMORY two or three solos from different periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic or 20th Century) and **bring the score to the audition.**
- Play major and harmonic minor scales, four octaves and hands together.
- Sight read

JAZZ DRUM SET PLAYERS

Candidates must bring drum set and arrive at least thirty minutes prior to audition time to set up the equipment. Utilize brushes and mallets in addition to sticks.

Audition will consist of the following:

- Demonstrate the following “beats” in an imaginative manner: medium jazz, fast jazz, medium rock, Latin (Bossa Nova, and/or jazz Samba).
- Perform an extended free solo, utilizing the entire set to the fullest capacity and including as many different musical styles as practical.
- Sight reading (snare drum only).

MARIACHI

Applicant will choose and perform two standard Mariachi pieces in contrasting styles with the auditioning teacher. The student will also be asked to sight read and transpose a new piece. There will be a brief interview

ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

ENGLISH

English I - IV *†

MATH

Algebra 1
Geometry*
Algebra 2*
Calculus A & B*†

SCIENCE

Integrated Physics & Chemistry
Biology,*†
Chemistry,*†
Physics *†

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography Studies*
World History Studies†
U.S. History†
U.S. Government & Politics†
Economics†

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish I & II
Spanish 3*
Spanish 4†
French I & II
French 3*

TECHNOLOGY

Business Computer Information Systems
Webmastering

HEALTH EDUCATION

SPEECH

* *Pre-Advanced Placement Courses offered*
† *Advanced Placement courses offered*

EXTRACURRICULAR

HSPVA has a vast array of productions, clubs and organization with which to participate. These include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ American Leadership Forum | ▪ International Thespian Society |
| ▪ Black History production | ▪ Junior Achievement |
| ▪ Business Professionals of America | ▪ Name That Book |
| ▪ Camerata | ▪ National Honor Society |
| ▪ Club Terpsichore | ▪ Parliament |
| ▪ Composition Club | ▪ Radio PVA |
| ▪ FOCUS | ▪ Spanish Honor Society |
| ▪ Gallery Committee | ▪ Students for Social Responsibility |
| ▪ Hispanic Heritage production | ▪ Synergy (Yearbook) |

HOW DO I BEGIN?

- I. Access the Houston ISD Website at www.houstonisd.org to print the **Magnet Application**. Complete each line of the application, indicating the first and second choices for the art area in which you are interested in auditioning. **Instrumentalists must indicate the instrument on page 2 of the application.**
- II. Attach the following documents:
 - A copy of this year's report card
 - Last year's final report card
 - A copy of the permanent transcript
 - A copy of standardized test scores (*TAKS, Stanford, ITBS, etc.*)
 - A copy of your updated immunization record
 - Proof of residency (utility bill or lease agreement)

NOTE: Auditions will not be scheduled without ALL documentation.

- III. Mail the application and attached documents to
Magnet Office, Attention Ky Willson
HSPVA
4001 Stanford
Houston, TX 77006
- IV. Access the HSPVA website at www.hspva.org to review audition requirements. Submission of your application indicates you understand the requirements and are prepared for the audition.
- V. You will be notified by mail of the date and time of your audition. Please contact the Magnet office to reschedule for **extenuating circumstances only**. Auditions for an alternate art area choice will be scheduled after determining qualification in the first area.
- VI. Call back auditions are listed on the HSPVA website for students who pass the first audition. A call back audition does not indicate that the student has been accepted.

Notice of final acceptance will be mailed to qualified students in Houston ISD on March 28, 2008. Parents must complete and submit the Intent to attend form by April 11, 2007.

Students who live outside of Houston ISD will be considered for acceptance in June, provided space is available. The audition time is the same as in-district students. Tuition for out-of-district students is \$8,304.00 for the 2007-2008 school year, payable in 10 monthly installments. Tuition has not been set for the 2008-2009 school year.

DANCE

The emphasis of the HSPVA Dance Department is in both ballet and modern dance. This is in keeping with the audition requirements of professional dance companies, as well as the requirements for college and university dance major programs. **Due to the vigorous physical demands of a concentration in dance, students with chronic health problems and/or injuries (bad knees, weak ankles, bad back, etc.) are not encouraged to apply for the HSPVA dance program.**

Students do not need to prepare a solo.

AUDITION ATTIRE:

Girls: leotards and tights

Boys: T-shirts with gym shorts or tights

PHOTOGRAPH:

Bring a recent, non-returnable photograph.

POINTE:

Students with ballet pointe experience must bring pointe shoes for a pointe audition. Pointe work is a prerequisite for entry into all upper-level, advanced ballet classes. Previous training is not required to be considered for the beginning level class.

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE EVALUATED USING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Potential for a career in dance
- Physique & body alignment
- Coordination and flexibility
- Rhythmical accuracy
- Body weight conducive to dance as a major or career
- Ability to sight-read and reproduce movement combinations given by a panel of dance judges.