



COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET

CAPITAL AREA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

**150 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17101**

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

**Administered by
The Capital Area Intermediate Unit
55 Miller Street, P. O. Box 489
Summerdale, PA 17093-0489**

**Amy C. Morton, Executive Director
in partnership with
Open Stage of Harrisburg**

www.casa-arts.org

November 2009

Dear High School Student:

If you're talented in the arts, hard working and ready to try a new approach to learning, then the Capital Area School for the Arts is the program for you! The school will begin its tenth year in 2010-11, and we invite you to participate in this unique learning experience.

The Capital Area School for the Arts was designed in 2001 by local superintendents, teachers, community leaders, and professional artists, and is administered by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. Any 9th through 12th grade student in or outside the CAIU service area may apply, as long as he or she receives permission from the home school to attend. There are two daily sessions, from 7:45 to 9:45 AM and from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, and classes are held in the school's new home in Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg. The curriculum is tied to national and PA standards in the arts, and the staff is comprised of professional artists who are certified teachers. Credit will be granted according to the policy established by your school district, and tuition charges also vary by school district.

Interested in applying? Then see your guidance counselor for audition information and application materials or call the school at 717-732-8450.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Morton, Executive Director
Capital Area Intermediate Unit



THE PROGRAM

Entering its tenth year in 2010-11, the Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) is a high school program for highly motivated students in the Central Pennsylvania area who wish to expand their education in the arts in innovative ways. Offering accelerated experiences in five major art areas: **visual art, dance, film and video, music, theatre**, and a brand-new **creative writing** program, the school is located in a new facility in Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg. Some highlights of the CASA program:

- It brings together talented students in 9th through 12th grades from school districts in Central Pennsylvania
- It places students in classrooms in the heart of the downtown Harrisburg arts and education corridor
- It holds classes from 7:45 to 9:45 AM and 12:30 to 2:30 PM to accommodate classes and activities in home schools
- It employs certified PA teachers and professional guest artists as instructors in advanced courses in the arts, including master classes, lectures, concerts, performances, workshops, and symposia
- Its student population is small, so that students receive individualized instruction in arts
- Its afternoon curriculum is based on a yearly unified theme: students work with similar content, but with different media
- It offers opportunities for independent project work, portfolio development, and community service
- Its admission process is competitive, and is based on academic and artistic performance standards
- It encourages and facilitates internships with local arts organizations
- It provides career counseling, including college and university admission and audition/interviews for arts conservatories
- It offers professional development opportunities for teachers
- It attracts adult volunteers in professional careers to serve as mentors and consultants to its student body
- It provides preparation and coaching for special programs like the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and college and university auditions
- It uses the city of Harrisburg and the Central PA region as a “classroom,” providing access to the area’s artistic, educational, governmental, and corporate resources as tools for learning



Mayor of Harrisburg Stephen R. Reed and community leader Lois Lehrman Grass officiate at the formal ribbon-cutting at CASA's 2009 Grand Opening in Strawberry Square

THE CURRICULUM

Morning students spend approximately ten hours a week exploring their chosen art form in a studio setting. Emphasis is placed on skill development and growth of knowledge and appreciation of the individual art discipline. Each school year ends with an exhibit and performance for the public.

The afternoon curriculum at the Capital Area School for the Arts is unique. Each year is based on a theme relating to the city of Harrisburg (i.e., its geography, architecture, government, and history). Students in all art areas research the theme, interpret it, collaborate with peers in other areas, and create art connected to it. The school year ends with a celebration of the theme at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, featuring a Gala reception, an award presentation to outstanding community arts leaders, an exhibit, and a student-created performance.

In addition to receiving quality instruction in skill development and technique, all students applying to the program will have the opportunity to connect with the arts in an extraordinary way, and make discoveries that will stay with them for a lifetime.

COURSES OFFERED



Visual Art (AM and PM)

Visual Art provides an introduction to Philosophy of Art, Art Criticism and Art History, while Art Production classes in drawing, painting, and mixed media build knowledge and technical skill for creating artworks. Introduction to a variety of drawing and painting media, compositional techniques, color theory, critiques, and reflections upon the work provide skills needed to move from a realistic image to personal expression and significant meaning. Through opportunities to study the urban landscape, still lives, and personally meaningful subject matter, students develop a strong foundation of observational skills and a portfolio of artworks for college reviews. The focus is on the individual development of each student's personal style. Artwork displayed in local venues is used as a resource for study. Field trips and visiting artists provide connection to the real world of art. Students also exhibit their work and collaborate with their colleagues in other art areas.

Interview Requirements in Visual Art:

- A portfolio of 8-10 pieces of artwork, three of which are observational drawings
- A sketchbook
- An informal presentation of the artwork by the student
- A copy of the student's most recent report card attached to the completed application



Dance (AM and PM)

Creativity and individuality as well as precise technical skills are the focus of the dance curriculum at Capital Area School for the Arts. Emphasis is placed on modern dance due to its expressive nature, classical ballet for its discipline and structure and classical jazz techniques to achieve a well-rounded experience. Cultural forms such as African, Folk, and Latino dance are also introduced through guest artists and contact with community organizations. Harrisburg Area Community College partners with the CASA dance program by providing master classes, workshops and internship opportunities through the Performing Artists Series of the college.

The academic thrust of the program is based on the study of dance history from prehistoric times to the present, as well as the study of anatomy and kinesiology emphasizing health and body awareness. The craft of choreography and performance production is explored both through academic study and active participation in the creation of original dance compositions and formal performance. Resume and portfolio development as well as audition preparation is emphasized with a focus on each student's future aspirations. It is recommended that applicants have prior dance experience in order to exhibit a solid basic technique for acceptance in the afternoon program.

Audition Requirements in Dance:

- Participation in a 1-hour class involving the basic principles of ballet, modern and jazz dance styles as well as improvisational movement
- Performance of a short choreographed piece in the style of ballet, modern dance, jazz or ethnic dance
- Brief interview
- Photograph of the applicant, showing a creative dance position in the style of their choice along with a traditional photograph in the 1st Arabesque position
- A copy of the student's most recent report card attached to the completed application



Film & Video (AM and PM)

This course introduces the student to the creation of expressionistic and realistic video and film productions. Students are given theoretical and practical experiences in traditional and state-of-the-art video equipment. Using digital video cameras and Final Cut Pro editing software, the students create short narrative, artistic, documentary, and music style films and videos. The film and video department has an updated editing lab, which allows each student to edit independently on Final Cut Pro. Emphasis on composition, camera angles, creative content, and effective editing allow the student to create a strong body of work. They use this body of work to create a personal DVD that can be shown at college visits, internships, job interviews, film festivals, and to friends and family. Film and video students also collaborate with dance, music, theatre and visual art students to create film and video pieces for incorporation into live performances.

Interview Requirements in Film & Video:

- A three-to-five-minute original video (on DVD or VHS) of artistic value (please, no “music videos,” and no data files, ie. '.wmv', '.avi', '.mov')
- Brief interview
- A copy of the student’s most recent report card attached to the completed application



Music (AM and PM)

Individual and collective creativity are the focus of both the AM and PM music programs. Combining study in content-based (music theory, ear training, solfege, music analysis) and performance-based (improvisation, technique, expression) areas, Vocalists and instrumentalists collaborate with each other to create original compositions and arrangements in a variety of styles. Additionally, AM music students develop skill in reading music for his or her voice or instrument, and PM music students engage in interdisciplinary collaboration. All music students receive study and training to better prepare them for post-secondary music study and/or a career in the music industry.

All music applicants must exhibit proficiency in a specific performance area in order to be accepted into either the AM or PM music program.

Applicants must exhibit fundamental abilities in music theory and music literacy to be accepted into the PM program.

Audition Requirements in Music:

- Performance of two contrasting pieces of music literature, 1- 3 minutes each, in the student's major performance area. (NOTE: Vocalists *must* provide their own live or recorded accompaniment or sing *a cappella*. Except for piano, all instrumentals *must* provide their own instruments and equipment necessary to perform.)
- Sight reading, ear training, and basic theory evaluation
- Improvisation
- Brief interview
- * A copy of the student's most recent report card attached to the application



Theatre (AM and PM)

Theatre students study acting technique, improvisation, voice, movement, styles of acting, and performance. The history of theater from the ancient Greeks to the present is also explored. Technical theatre is offered with opportunities to learn in the CASA black box theatre/classroom as well as other venues in the Harrisburg area. Special master classes taught by performing arts professionals are held throughout the year in such areas such as stage combat, auditioning, and theatre as a career. Students also collaborate and create with their peers in multi-disciplinary projects. Collaborative educational opportunities have been shown to develop and broaden skills that are valued in the work place-- whether arts related or not.

Audition Requirements in Theatre:

- Performance of a one minute monologue from a published play, performed from memory, for acting students
- Portfolio of materials (i.e., sketches, photographs, stage manager's book) for technical students
- Brief interview
- A copy of the student's most recent report card attached to the completed application
- Recent headshot of any size; resume if available



NEW for 2010 - 2011!

Writing (PM only)*

CASA's new Writing program will offer students an intensive program in various forms of writing and communication, including prose (fiction, personal essay and opinion, writing for new media---blogging and other technological formats) poetry, and writing for the stage and screen.

Students will participate in the creation and publication of works done in class in various print and technological applications, will create screenplays, song lyrics, and stage scripts, and will collaborate with students in other art areas. Writing students will also present public readings of their works throughout the year, and will be encouraged to work in apprenticeship positions with local media outlets.

Audition Requirements in Writing:

- Portfolio of materials (i.e., at least five examples of varying styles of writing, ex. poetry, personal essay, narrative fiction, opinion, news article)
- Brief interview
- A copy of the student's most recent report card attached to the completed application

****NOTE: This class will be offered only if sufficient enrollment is reached.***



CASA window sponsored by Capital Blue Cross and designed by the Neiman Group

THE CLASSES

Studio Class (7:45 - 9:45 AM)

The Studio classes offer introductory instruction in the art forms offered at CASA. Students work closely with their teachers to develop skills, understanding and appreciation in their chosen art form. Performances and shows are scheduled throughout the school year at the discretion of the teachers. Underclass students who have completed the Studio program may apply for admittance to the Interdisciplinary program. Students are assigned to the Studio program through teacher evaluation of their auditions/portfolios.

Interdisciplinary Class (12:30 - 2:30 PM)

Interdisciplinary classes offer both advanced studio work and collaborative experiences based on a theme. All afternoon students work toward the development of a yearly performance in May at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. Meeting regularly together throughout the school year in research and development of the project, they also participate in field trips and workshops with visiting and resident artists. Students are assigned to the Interdisciplinary program through teacher evaluation of their auditions/portfolios.

CREDIT

High school credit is offered for each course at the discretion of each individual school district. Students should consult their guidance counselors for credit information.

TUITION

Tuition is charged for each student at CASA. Individual school districts set tuition policy. Guidance counselors and administrators have this information.



ABOUT THE STAFF

ROSEMARY BATTISTA (Dance) is a master teacher, performer and choreographer in the areas of classical and contemporary ballet, classical jazz and modern dance. She is the former Artistic Director of the Harrisburg Dance Conservatory, and its pre-professional company, the Harrisburg Dance Ensemble, and has served as an annual judge for Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts. A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, Ms. Battista is one of the few teachers to hold a Pennsylvania state certificate in the area of Dance, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Education. She is a member of the CASA faculty since the school's first year.

T. J. BOYER (Music) is a classical and rock guitarist who graduated *summa cum laude* in Music Education from West Chester University. He has performed in numerous ensemble and solo performances in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, West Chester, and Allentown. He has been a Musical Director and performer at Open Stage of Harrisburg, has performed with the Harrisburg Dance Conservatory, and teaches private guitar lessons. Mr. Boyer has been with CASA since its inception.

RENATA L. KAGLE (Visual Art) has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting from Edinboro University of PA as well as doctoral credits in Art Education from the University of North Texas. She has been teaching art for over twenty years, including college teaching at Bloomsburg University, Kutztown University, HAAC, and a teaching fellowship at the University of North Texas.

CALEB SMITH (Film and Video) is founder of Moviate, a not-for-profit arts organization that promotes artistic film and independent music in the Harrisburg area. He is also founder and artistic director of the annual ArtsFest Film Festival in conjunction with the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council, and the Side Street Cinema summer outdoor film series. He also has worked professionally with numerous local television stations and media producers creating television commercials and industrial programs. Smith holds a degree in Marketing from Albright College and is currently working on a master's degree from Penn State University.

LISA L. WEITZMAN (Theatre) holds a Master's degree in Drama from Villanova University, and is a professional actor in Harrisburg and Philadelphia areas. She has worked for the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire and for several local video companies, and is co-founder of the Wow! Theatre-in-Education Company that used drama as a tool for conflict resolution. She has been teaching at CASA since its founding.

ANNE ALSEDEK (Program Director) developed the Capital Area School for the Arts in 2000-01 in conjunction with its steering committee. She is presently Education Director at Open Stage of Harrisburg, and taught for twenty years at the former Harrisburg Arts Magnet School. Alsedek was also chair of the Theater Department at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, and is a member of the Theatre and Arts-in-Education panels of the PA Council on the Arts. She has acted professionally with numerous theatres in the Central PA area.

CHERYL GILES-RUDAWSKI (Principal) holds a master's degree in Educational Administration from Shippensburg University and is currently working towards a doctorate in Systems Leadership at Widener University. She has been in education over 23 years as a teacher, consultant, staff developer, supervisor, and curriculum specialist. She has been with CASA for the past six years.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested students may procure applications for CASA from their guidance counselors or may download them from the school's website at www.casa-arts.org . Counselors and/or students may make audition/interview appointments by phoning 717-732-8450.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne Alsedek, Program Director
Capital Area School for the Arts
150 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-732-8450
aalsedek@yahoo.com
www.casa-arts.org

CASA TEACHER EVALUATION FORM

Student name _____

Art area _____

is applying to the **Capital Area School for the Arts** for the upcoming school year, and requests that you complete the form below. Please complete in ink, sign, and return to the student. Thank you.

<u>Low</u>				<u>High</u>	<u>Cannot Evaluate</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
1	2	3	4	5	N	Creativity
1	2	3	4	5	N	Problem solving ability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Positive Attitude
1	2	3	4	5	N	Conscientiousness, reliability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Attendance
1	2	3	4	5	N	Arts ability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Self-discipline, ability to work independently
1	2	3	4	5	N	Academic grades
1	2	3	4	5	N	Sense of humor
1	2	3	4	5	N	Ability to get along with others

Subject _____

Teacher Signature/Date _____

School _____

Phone _____

<u>Low</u>				<u>High</u>	<u>Cannot Evaluate</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
1	2	3	4	5	N	Creativity
1	2	3	4	5	N	Problem solving ability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Positive Attitude
1	2	3	4	5	N	Conscientiousness, reliability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Attendance
1	2	3	4	5	N	Arts ability
1	2	3	4	5	N	Self-discipline, ability to work independently
1	2	3	4	5	N	Academic grades
1	2	3	4	5	N	Sense of humor
1	2	3	4	5	N	Ability to get along with others

Subject _____

Teacher Signature/Date _____

School _____

Phone _____