

# The Chicago Academy for the Arts

## ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The nation's premier performing and visual arts high school. Preparing future leaders in the arts and beyond.

1010 W Chicago Ave, Chicago IL, 60642 • 312.421.0202 • [chicagoacademyforthearts.org](http://chicagoacademyforthearts.org)

# QUICK FACTS

- The Academy is among the top-ranked private high schools and is the **#1** arts high school in Illinois (Niche, 2019).
- The 113 students comprising the classes of 2017-2019 collectively earned over **\$25 million** in college scholarships, and are currently attending the best colleges, universities, and conservatories in the world, including Juilliard, Stanford, and Princeton.
- Academy students routinely outperform their peers in standardized testing. In the 2017-2018 school year, Academy students scored an ACT Composite average of 25.9, **25% higher** than the national average. *(2018-2019 scores will be available in the fall).*
- About **50%** of Academy students commute from outside the City of Chicago.
- Students participate in more than **100 productions** throughout the course of the school year, including concerts, plays, readings, screenings, recordings, and exhibitions.
- About **2/3** of Academy graduates go on to careers in the arts, while **1/3** pursue the sciences, the humanities, business, and more.

## ARTS DEPARTMENTS

Spring Jazz Concert at Jazz Showcase, 2019



*The Comedy of Errors*  
Shakespeare Festival, 2018

### DANCE

The Academy Dance Department is recognized as one of the leading preparatory institutions for the top dance companies in the country. Students take a foundational class in ballet every day, delving deep into classical technique. Students also study jazz, modern, pointe, and pas de deux. Academy dancers will have the opportunity to audition for The Academy's repertory company, and perform in Chicago and beyond.

### MEDIA ARTS

Media Arts majors explore their vision within the following distinctive disciplines: as animators, writers, and filmmakers. The program includes classes in animation, poetry, fiction, screenwriting, cinematography, and fictional, documentary, and experimental video. Above all, the Media Arts Department focuses on storytelling. The process-based program values workshop, a weekly critique session, and is designed to hone a student's voice and ideas—and their ability to communicate both to an audience.

### MUSIC

The Music Department curriculum is firmly rooted in the traditions of classical music, jazz, and composition, and is comprised of high-level private study, academic music courses, chamber ensembles, jazz ensembles and performances, and masterclasses with world-renowned artists. The focus of the Music Department is private instruction, and each student has two weekly 45-minute private lessons.

“There are so many rewarding aspects—the hands-on education, the extra tutoring, the artistic training. I would tell any other parent that **The Academy is a place where kids can be themselves, and they will learn to believe in themselves as well.**”

—Patrick, Visual Arts Parent



Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert at The Athenaeum Theatre, 2019

### MUSICAL THEATRE

In the Musical Theatre Department, students master storytelling in three different disciplines: voice, dance, and acting. Performance is a key part of learning, and students have ample opportunity for it. The Musical Theatre Department produces three to four mainstage shows per year, including two musical productions and several plays as part of the Shakespeare Festival collaboration with the Theatre Department.

### THEATRE

The Theatre Department engages students in a unique project-based curriculum that focuses on theatre and performance studies. In addition to regular and intensive work in acting studio, Theatre students will explore up to twenty topics in the discipline, including all facets of stagecraft and scene design, directing, makeup, auditioning and professional business, dialects, stage combat, improvisation, on-camera, playwriting, circus, and more.

### VISUAL ARTS

Within the Visual Arts Department framework of studio practice, critique, and exhibition, students develop skills to articulate their ideas and process, and are encouraged to become self-directed in pursuing their own subject matter and concept areas in their artwork. Each student takes classes in drawing and design, and selects from electives in printmaking, painting, sculpture, and interdisciplinary arts.

“Besides the dance education, which has been top notch, it's the people. You have so many people who work in other art forms that can inspire you, and in turn **inspire your own art.**”

—Lillie, Dance



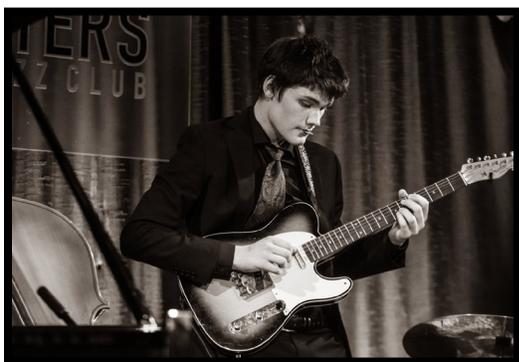
“ The artistic development through intensive training and opportunities to perform every month, along with the ability to work on her art 15 - 20 hours per week has been instrumental to her growth. But the engagement of the faculty, both academic and artistic has created a **real bond between her and her teachers.**”

-Joe, Music Parent



“ The commitment The Academy makes to its students and their families is everlasting. I would like more parents considering this school to realize that the full potential of their teenager can be achieved with the patience, acceptance, and inclusion found within this very special place.”

-Michelle, Visual Arts Parent



Fall Jazz Concert at Winter's Jazz Club, 2018



Merrily We Roll Along, 2018



Maxine Zhou '19

“ The faculty are unique because you really know them. You have teachers that you consider friends. And the amount of training they can provide you — **I don't know anywhere else like it.**”

-Jacob, Theatre

# ADMISSIONS

The Academy's admissions process consists of two-phases: an audition for one of the school's six arts departments, and—for students who pass—an academic review. We know the process can be daunting, but also exciting, and we are here to help your family every step of the way. The best place to start is by simply getting to know us better.

Please contact the Academy Admissions Office at **312.421.0202** with any questions, and keep the important dates below in mind.

Find more information, news, and important registration details at [chicagoacademyforthearts.org](http://chicagoacademyforthearts.org).

**Kitsana Salyphone**  
Director of Enrollment Management  
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“ The academic faculty is comprised of remarkable individuals who embrace the experience of teaching young artists to be great thinkers, too. The students are equally as remarkable, each not only supporting their friends but also pushing them to **work hard and follow their dreams.**”

-Laura, Dance Parent



22nd Annual Student-Produced AIDS Benefit, 2019

## ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

### AUGUST

6 Application Open for 2019-2020 School Year

### SEPTEMBER

14 Saturday Program Begins  
20 & 21 23rd Annual AIDS Benefit

### OCTOBER

4 Music Department Concert with Open House  
19 Dance Department Rehearsal with Open House  
19 Musical Theatre Department Fall Production with Open House  
24 Academic Night

### NOVEMBER

1 Midyear Consideration Applications Due  
2 Dance Department Rehearsal with Open House  
8 Visual Arts Department Exhibition with Open House

9 Theatre Department Fall Production with Open House  
14 Conversation with the Head of School  
16 Media Arts Department Fall Showcase with Open House

### DECEMBER

5 Academic Night  
7 Audition Day #1  
14 Independent School Entrance Exam

### JANUARY

3 Independent School Entrance Exam  
4 Secondary School Admission Test  
10 Priority Consideration Application Deadline  
10 FACTS Application Deadline  
11 Audition Day #2  
16 Academic Night  
18 Independent School Entrance Exam

31 Priority Application Academic Paperwork Due  
31 Visual Arts Department Exhibition with Open House

### FEBRUARY

1 Independent School Entrance Exam  
8 All-School Showcase  
21 Round Two Application Deadline

### MARCH

6 Priority Admission Decision Notifications Sent  
14 Saturday Program Begins  
27 7th Grade Preview Day

### APRIL

17 7th Grade Preview Day

### MAY

7 Conversation with the Head of School

“ You don't often get to pick the community where your child grows up. This is an opportunity to do that, and **there is no other community I would choose.**”

-Liz, Media Arts Parent

Photos by Thomas Mohr Photography

