



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS

January 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

This booklet contains information about how to apply to Rochester's School of the Arts and School Without Walls for ninth grade in the 2010-2011 school year. It also contains an application for applying to these schools.

Please return the SOTA application in the enclosed envelope to SOTA by **January 29, 2010**. Please mail the SWW application, along with your regular high school application (if you are applying to other schools) by **February 28, 2010**. Private, parochial, and charter school students must also include a copy of their most recent report card.

Please note that students applying to School of the Arts must audition, and students applying to School Without Walls must participate in an interview. See inside for more details.

If you have questions about the schools, call:

- School of the Arts at **242-7682, ext. 1860**
- School Without Walls at **324-3111, ext. 1010**

If you have questions about the application process, please call the Office of Student Equity and Placement at 262-8241. Thank you!

School of the Arts Audition Process

ALL AUDITIONS will be scheduled for March 6, 13 and 20, 2010.

Please visit www.sotarochester.org for more details.

- **Be available on audition dates.** Auditions will be scheduled by School of the Arts. Applicants cannot request specific dates or times.

- **Auditions CANNOT be rescheduled for any reason.**

- **You must select ONE art area in which to audition.** Applications will not be processed if you choose more than one art area. Do not call School of the Arts to schedule an audition. All applicants will receive a letter with an audition date.

- **Each audition will resemble a typical class**—a lesson will be taught and an in-class assignment will be given. Students will complete/perform their assignment during the class in front of their teachers and peers. Every audition will be measured according to a standard rubric. Each student will receive a numerical score from 1-10, 10 being the highest.

All students are required to bring:

- 1 **A written essay** (5-7 sentences in length) explaining why they want to attend SOTA.
- 2 **A letter of recommendation** from a previous or current teacher (enclosed; also available online at: www.sotarochester.org).

Additional Audition Requirements by Art Area:

CREATIVE WRITING

Please bring:

- A full portfolio of your written work reflecting different modes and styles. Each portfolio should have a varied selection of poetry (rhymed and unrhymed), a varied selection of fiction (short stories, plays) and a variety of non-fiction work (essays, book reports, journalism, reviews, class projects that reflect research, etc.) Additionally, please include original drafts of work that has been revised.
- Pencil, pen (blue or black ink only). Paper will be provided.

You MAY be requested to:

- Participate in a writing workshop.

DANCE

Please bring:

- Dance attire (leotard, tights) or close-fitting athletic wear (no shorts – no bare legs).
- For safety, use dance shoes or bare feet.
- A cassette or CD of music for the piece you will perform.

- A list of any private lessons (past or present) or school extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.) in which you participate.

You MAY be requested to:

- Present a short dance sequence (at least 30 seconds to 1 minute in length).
- Respond to teacher-directed combinations.

DRAMA

Please bring:

- A brief (approximately 100 words) memorized monologue from either a play, book or speech in the first person (do not use a rhyming poem). Your English teacher or librarian might be a wonderful resource.

You MAY be requested to:

- Do some improvisation.
- Do a short reading of our choice.
- Demonstrate ability to convey stage presence, emotion, body movement and response to direction.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Band & Strings)

Please bring:

- Your instrument.
- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet-music sample(s) or book(s) of music you are playing at this time.

You MAY be requested to:

- Play three major scales from memory.
- Play at least one prepared piece.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Set drummers will be requested to play at least three (3) of the following styles: swing, samba, funk, rock, bossa nova, disco, shuffle, jazz or waltz.

PIANO

Please bring:

- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet music sample(s) or book(s) of music that you are playing at this time

You MAY be requested to:

- Play three scales with both hands from memory.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Play a simple arrangement of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'
- Play at least one additional prepared piece.

VOCAL MUSIC

Please bring:

- A copy of the sheet music for your prepared song.

You MAY be requested to:

- Sing one major scale.
- Sing "America" (My Country 'Tis of Thee). Diction is an important part of this segment.
- Sing one prepared song of your choice. An accompanist will be provided.
- Sight-sing a simple four measure melody.

THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Please bring any three of the following:

- A Drawing, Painting or Paper Mache project that you created at home or in your art class that you are proud of.
- Your ideas for a Dollhouse Ground Plan (living room, kitchen, bedroom, etc.)
- Something built from wood, like a box or bird house.
- A list of sets and props from an episode of your favorite TV show, movie or cartoon.
- Your ideas or plans about how you would build a bookshelf.
- An example of Computer Art or Computer Drawing you created.

You MAY be requested to:

- Do measuring activities with a standard ruler.
- Draw pictures based on moods/emotion/words, problem solve in a group activity, follow instructions to build a simple object.
- Work with basic hand tools.
- Learn to use a computer for drawing.

VISUAL ARTS

Please bring:

- #2 pencil
- Sample drawing (pencil drawing of an old shoe on a piece of 8.5" x 11" white paper that will be left at the audition)
- Portfolio consisting of either Option A OR Option B

Option A

Student Portfolio: A portfolio which includes 6-8 examples of your best 2-dimensional art work which may include a sketchbook (no cartoons, anime or super heroes). You may also bring examples of 3-dimensional work (a sculpture, a ceramic piece, etc.).

OR

Option B

Create a Portfolio: A portfolio that you have prepared for this audition. This should include three drawings: one self-portrait drawing (of your self), one landscape drawing and one drawing of the inside of your bedroom. Each drawing should be created on its own piece of white paper and fill the page (no cartooning, anime or super heroes).

You MAY be requested to:

- Participate in a 3-4 hour long Visual Arts class. Class activities will include creativity, problem solving and writing exercises as well as creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork.
- Respond to questions about your art work and art processes during an interview.

School Without Walls Interview Process

**All interviews will be scheduled for March 2010
between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.**

School Without Walls is housed at two locations. Grades 7 through 9 are located at 111 N. Clinton Avenue. Grades 10 through 12 are located at 480 Broadway.

All students who plan on being interviewed are strongly encouraged to schedule a full-day visit to SWW before their interview through school counselors or parents/guardians. Call 324-3111 extension 1010 to schedule a visit at the SWW 7th-9th grade Clinton Avenue location.

The school will contact you to schedule your interview.

For your interview, please remember to bring something you have created at school, or through some other activity, that you are proud of.

School Without Walls Interview:

Concepts that you will be asked to talk about ...

- School likes and dislikes
- Personal interests in and out of school
- Reasons for wanting to attend SWW
- Community service
- Responsibility, freedom, and independence
- Working cooperatively
- Using the community for learning
- Writing
- Research
- Reading and books
- Working with adults
- Citizenship and working with others
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Career interests
- Personal behavior
- Learning styles
- Taking part in the management of a school
- Academic/school projects
- What motivates you to learn
- Being part of a team
- Hard work
- Attendance
- Art, music, video, photography
- Tolerance and respect for others
- Grades vs. progress reports

School Without Walls Foundation Academy

We are a unique learning community—an Expeditionary Learning school that emphasizes high academic achievement through active learning, character development, growth, using the community to learn, and teamwork.

Literature and comprehension strategies are taught across the curriculum. We help students become active and collaborative learners that:

- Make connections.
- Find patterns.
- See events from different perspectives.
- Experiment.
- Go beyond information given.
- Have empathy and compassion for others.

Our school culture is intentionally positive; characterized by a climate of physical and emotional safety, a sense of adventure, an ethic of service and responsibility, and a commitment to high quality work.

Our school schedule is flexible, allowing for student groupings and longer time blocks based on student needs and community work. Our teachers serve as Advisors to students and have daily team meetings where they are able to discuss student progress, plan interventions, develop expeditions, and support each other. Our teachers also loop with the same students for two years in order to strengthen the relationships in the classroom and improve the likelihood of academic success.

We have an extensive partnership with the Center For Youth that offers in-school, after school, and weekend activities for students, as well as character development and conflict resolution skills. We have a variety of after school clubs open to all students, and academic tutoring services.

All School Without Walls Foundation Academy students are required to:

- Learn by using community resources.
- Exhibit high standards through classwork, portfolios, and quarterly projects.
- Participate in community service.
- Exhibit responsible citizenship, complete daily homework.
- Complete daily journal writing.
- Participate in daily silent reading.
- Attend bi-weekly conferences with Advisors.

Application for School of the Arts

Student Identification Number: _____
(get this from your teacher)

Student Name: _____

Address: _____
Street No. Street Apt.

City State Zip Code
Telephone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Current School Counselor's Name

I am applying to: **School of the Arts** Current Grade _____

Check the ONE area in which you will be auditioning:

- CREATIVE WRITING DANCE DRAMA INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC _____
(ONLY ONE INSTRUMENT)
- THEATRE TECH VISUAL ARTS VOCAL MUSIC PIANO

Waiting List: Any student not chosen through the selection process will be placed on a waiting list that will expire August 2010. In the event of placement from the waiting list, a letter of acceptance will be mailed to the student's home.

Sibling Preference: Students will be given preference for admission if they pass the school's audition and have a sibling who currently attends the school and will be attending the school next year. While sibling preference increases a student's chances of admission, it does not guarantee placement.

My brother/sister currently attends the school to which I am applying.

School name _____

Brother/sister's full name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 29, 2010
Return in the enclosed envelope to School of the Arts

Application for School Without Walls

Student Identification Number: _____
(get this from your teacher)

Student Name: _____

Address: _____
Street No. Street Apt.

City State Zip Code

Telephone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Current School Counselor's Name

I am applying to: **School Without Walls**

Waiting List: Any student not chosen through the selection process will be placed on a waiting list that will expire August 2010. In the event of placement from the waiting list, a letter of acceptance will be mailed to the student's home.

Sibling Preference: Students will be given preference for admission if they pass the school's interview or placement exam and have a sibling who currently attends the school and will be attending the school next year. In addition, the district tries to place siblings together, who are moving to a new school at the same time, if both siblings qualify. While sibling preference increases a student's chances of admission, it does not guarantee placement.

My brother/sister currently attends the school to which I am applying.

School name _____

Brother/sister's full name _____

My brother/sister is currently applying for the same school(s).

School name(s) _____

Brother/Sister's full name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2010

**Return this application along with your regular high school application
(required if your current school does not have a 9th grade.)**

**SOTA APPLICATION DEADLINE:
January 29, 2010**

Please mail your SOTA application directly to School of the Arts in the enclosed envelope.

**SWW APPLICATION DEADLINE:
February 28, 2010**

Please mail your School Without Walls application along with your regular high school application (required if your current school does not have a 9th grade.)

NOTE: You do not need to fill out any of the 9th grade applications if you wish to continue at your current school.