Academy for Fine Arts and Academics
Application Instructions for the 2017-2018 School Year – Current Grade 8 Private or Non-BBOED Public School Student Applicants

The Academy for Fine Arts and Academics is seeking applicants that demonstrate motivation, responsibility, and a strong dedication to academic achievement. Visit www.bhsafa2.com for more detailed information.

Application Timeline/Important Dates
Please carefully review all important deadlines.

November 4th, 2016 – Submission Deadline for all 8th Grade Applicants AND all supplemental materials. (Application must be emailed or postmarked by this date).

November 4th, 2016 – Deadline to Register for Arts Track Auditions (Arts Track Applicants Only) at www.bhsafa2.com. (You will NOT be considered for the Arts Track without registering for auditions).

December 10th, 2016 – ARTS Track Audition/Portfolio Review Day*

*Review audition requirements & details at www.bhsafa2.com to prepare. Be sure to register online for your audition. Auditions will be held between 9AM – 3PM in the Bayonne High School Auditorium. Plan to report to BHS at 8:45 AM on December 10th.

Admissions Criteria
The following criteria will be reviewed to determine admission:

1. Submission of a complete application by the application deadline, along with submission of all supplemental materials via mail or email by application deadline.
2. Minimum of two teacher recommendations (see page 5 for more details)
3. Student Transcripts/Grades (grades 6, 7 and 1st MP of grade 8*)
4. Standardized Test Scores as available (i.e. PARCC, Terra Nova)
5. Student Audition and/or Portfolio Review (Arts Track Only)
6. If necessary: Placement assessments in Math and/or Language Arts

*First MP or Trimester grades from Grade 8 can be sent after the application deadline once posted.
**Assessments would be scheduled individually with parent/student if needed, after application submission.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of educators and administrators. Applicants will be notified of admission decisions by mid January, 2017. Applications submitted after the November 4th deadline may not be considered.
Application Guidelines

8th grade applicants may apply to any of the following tracks (for more information on each track, please see “Academy Tracks” at www.bhsafa2.com. Additionally, review the “FAQs” page for answers to frequently asked questions regarding the application process).

**Scholars Track**: Scholars Track students must be accepted into the honors program in English, History, Math and Science.

**STEM Track**: STEM Track students must be accepted into the honors program in both Math and Science.

**Humanities Track**: Humanities Track students must be accepted into the honors program in both English and History.

*Students accepted into the Scholars Track (all honors) may designate a STEM or Humanities focus within their learning plan. Students interested in both STEM and Humanities should apply to SCHOLARS only.*

**Fine & Performing Arts Track**: Arts Track students must be accepted into AfA^2 on an academic basis, and may select no more than two majors within the Fine & Performing Arts Track to audition for.

- Instrumental Music
- Vocal Music
- Drama
- Musical Theater
- Dance
- Visual Art
- Creative Writing
- Musical Theater

*Applicants must audition on December 10th, 2016 for admission into the Fine & Performing Arts Track. Please Review audition/portfolio requirements at www.bhsafa2.com prior to selecting your major(s) and don’t forget to REGISTER for your audition!*

**Applicants may apply to BOTH an honors track AND the Arts Track.**

Applicants that apply to multiple tracks will be reviewed for each track. Acceptance notifications will be made for the track or tracks to which the student is admitted. For a more detailed explanation on the notification process, please see the “FAQs” section on www.bhsafa2.com or contact Laura Craig at lcraig@bboed.org.
Student Application
Application for the 2017-2018 School Year – Current 8th Grade Non- Bayonne Public School

Please print clearly in blue or black ink. Fill out all fields.

Student Name: ___________________________ School: ___________________________ Age: __________
Current Grade: __________ Guidance Counselor (if applicable): ____________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Name(s): __________________________________________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: ____________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Parent Email: __________________________________________________________________

Which TRACK within the Academy for Fine Arts and Academics are you applying to? (Applicants may apply to both an honors track and the arts track. Applicants interested in more than one honors track should apply to the Scholars Track only. Students will be granted admission into STEM, Humanities or Scholars based upon admission criteria).

☐ SCHOLARS TRACK – Honors level English, History, Science and Math
☐ STEM TRACK – Honors level Science and Mathematics only
☐ HUMANITIES TRACK – Honors level English and History only
☐ FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS TRACK: Select Major (no more than two)
  ☐ Instrumental Music (Instrument: ____________________)
  ☐ Vocal Music
  ☐ Drama
  ☐ Musical Theater
  ☐ Dance
  ☐ Visual Art
  ☐ Creative Writing

Parent Permission (mandatory for all applicants)

I, __________________________________________, give _____________________________________
Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Student Applicant Name (Print)
(permission to apply for the Academy for Fine Art and Academics and certify the above information is accurate.

__________________________________________________________   __________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature Date
Personal Essay (Mandatory for all Applicants)

Use your personal essay as an opportunity to express yourself in a way that may not be evident simply by looking at your report cards or test scores. The AfA2 Admissions Committee wants to know WHO you are and WHY you are passionate about your education and the track to which you are applying.

Select the personal essay prompt that you would like to respond to. Compose an essay between 500-750 words. Your response must be typed in 12 pt. font and double-spaced, labeled clearly with your name. Attach your essay to the application packet.

Personal Essay Prompts:

1. What do you hope to be doing the year after you graduate from college, and how do you plan to get there?

2. What movie, poem, musical composition, work of art, or novel has most influenced your life and the way that you view the world? Why?

3. Choose the invention that you think has had the most positive impact on our world and explain why you chose that invention.

4. If you were given the capacity to travel back in time to any period in history, where would you head to and why?

5. What do you wish your teachers knew about you?

Academic Essay (For HUMANITIES or SCHOLARS Track Applicants ONLY)

Academic Writing Sample (additional writing submission - mandatory for acceptance into the Humanities or Scholars Track)

Writing Prompt:
How can literature contribute to an understanding of history? Choose a book you've read (fiction or nonfiction) that has helped you to understand a historical time period better.

Your response must be written in the form of an organized, academic, 5 paragraph essay. Your essay must be typed in 12 pt. font and double-spaced, and labeled clearly with your name. Attach the completed assignment to the application packet.
Teacher Recommendations

Please submit two written teacher recommendations from educators that have worked with the applicant within the past 1-2 years, and can speak to the student’s academic work, responsibility, work ethic, personal attributes, etc. It is recommended that you acquire recommendations from teachers in subject areas specific to the track applied to (for example, Math & Science teachers for students applying to STEM).

Recommendations can be submitted via email to lcraig@bboed.org OR in a sealed envelope to the applicant, and mailed along with the complete application packet.

School Record Information – Instructions for Non-Bayonne Public School Students

Applicants that do not currently attend a public school in the Bayonne school district must submit copies of any/all of the following items, as available:

- Student Transcripts/Report Cards from Grade 6, 7 and the 1st Marking Period of Grade 8 (this can be mailed separately after the due date if necessary – please note in your application that it will be sent when available).
- Standardized Test Scores (if available) – including NJASK, Terra Nova, PARCC, ACT Aspire, or any other standardized tests the student took in grades 6 or 7.

Please note – the more information we have on the applicant’s academic history, the better informed our decision can be. Non-public school applicants may be contacted to arrange for placement exams if the admissions committee needs additional information.
Application Checklist

Please review this checklist to ensure all components of the AfA² Application for the 2017-2018 year are complete.

All Applicants:

___ Student Application with Parent Agreement Signed (page 3)
___ Personal Essay (see page 4)
___ Academic Writing Sample (Humanities & Scholars Applicants Only - see page 4)
___ Two Teacher Recommendations (emailed to lcraig@bboed.org or included in application packet)
___ School Records (See page 5 for details)

Arts Track Applicants:

___ Register for the Arts Track Auditions at www.bhsafa2.com by November 4th, 2016.
___ Visit www.bhsafa2.com to review the audition/portfolio requirements for your selected major(s) and begin preparing now! Be sure to REGISTER online for the December 10th audition. Plan to report to Bayonne High School at 8:45 AM on December 10th. Auditions are from 9AM to 3PM.

Please email Laura Craig at lcraig@bboed.org if you have any questions about the application process.

Application Submission Instructions

Please mail all of the materials below in one packet/envelope to the address listed below. Applications must be postmarked by November 4th, 2016.

All applications should be submitted to:

Laura Craig
Supervisor of Special Programs
Bayonne High School
667 Avenue A
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Applications may also be scanned and emailed in PDF form to Laura Craig at lcraig@bboed.org. Be sure to include ALL application components in ONE email, and use the subject line: AfA2 Application – Student Name.

Please email Laura Craig at lcraig@bboed.org if you have any questions about the application process.