

Bak Middle School of the Arts

2012-2013

Admission & Audition Guidelines

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www.edline.net/pages/Middle_School_of_the_Arts
or
www.bakmsoa.com

Admission for 2012-2013 School Year

Please read this entire packet completely.

In order to be eligible to become a part of the student population at the Bak Middle School of the Arts (MSOA), students and their families must submit an application to the Palm Beach County School District's Department of Choice Programs and Career Options by the due date AND successfully audition for one of the Bak MSOA art programs. Only students whose parent(s) currently reside in Palm Beach County are eligible to apply. Bak Middle School of the Arts considers students for sixth, seventh and eighth grade admission; however, the majority of student openings are for incoming sixth graders.

Please follow the procedures described on the following pages carefully. The entire process for application into Bak MSOA includes the following steps:

1. **Submit an application**, either as hardcopy or web-based format, to the School District of Palm Beach County Office Department of Choice Programs and Career Options by Friday, **December 16, 2011**.
2. **Prepare for your audition** by following the audition guidelines as listed under each art area in this Admissions & Audition Guidelines information. **Students should be prepared to audition as early as January 21, 2012.**
3. **Come to Audition Registration** at Bak MSOA between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on one of the following dates: **January 11, or 12, 2012** (See details on page 3.) During this orientation session you will be able to reserve an audition appointment. In order to audition, you must reserve an audition appointment at Audition Registration.
4. **Come to your audition** at the appointed time. Auditions will be held beginning January 21, 2012 running into February 2012 by appointment only.
If a student becomes ill and is unable to audition, written verification documenting the illness from a doctor must be presented to the school within three (3) school days of the date of the student's scheduled audition. A new audition date and time will be selected for the student by the school ONLY if there are additional audition dates and times available.
5. **Receive notification by mail**, no later than **April 10, 2012**, regarding the status of student's acceptance. Some students will be placed in an applicant wait pool when there are more eligible applicants than available seats. Students will be selected on a random basis as openings occur.

Appeals Process: Parents who believe their child was not allowed an equitable opportunity to a Choice school or program during the audition or eligibility process because of a technical problem or inequity may request an appeal. An Application for appeal of Choice Program Eligibility (Form #PBSD 2418) must be submitted to the Choice and Career Options Director within ten school days from the date of the lottery notification letter indicating the child's program assignment, wait pool status, or program ineligibility.

For more information about Choice and Career Options Programs please access <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms>.

Applications must be submitted by December 16, 2011.

Late applications are accepted at the Department of Choice Programs and Career Options after December 16, 2011. However, they are **NOT** included in the March 2012 Selection Lottery and may be entered **ONLY** after all applicants in the wait pool have been placed.

Choice Program Applications are available at:

- Complete online: www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms
- OR**
- Print from website and complete: www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms then mail or deliver by deadline date to the School District of Palm Beach County Department of Choice Programs and Career Options, 3308 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite C-124, West Palm Beach, FL 33406 - *Phone Number: (561) 434-8755*

Completing and Submitting an Application:

- Only one application may be submitted per student.
- Either one or two choices are allowed on the application and should be rated as first and second preferences.
- The parent **MUST** reside in Palm Beach County at the time of application submission.
- Student **MUST** have obtained a student number if they attend PBCSD schools.
- The address on the application **must match** the address on file at school or the application will be voided.
- No program selection changes are allowed once the application has been submitted
- Parents are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application online prior to deadline date for faster entry. A receipt number will be your confirmation.
- If hard copy application is submitted, the original must be delivered or mailed to the department of Choice and Career Options with a postmark no later than December 16, 2011.

Important BAK MSOA Contact Numbers:

Magnet Office	(561) 882-3801
Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Coordinator	(561) 882-3852
ESOL Admissions Contact	(561) 882-3819



The School District of Palm Beach County is an equal education opportunity provider and welcomes applications from ESE, ELL, and 504 students to all Choice Programs.

The District prohibits discrimination against applicants on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, marital status, age, parental status, and disability in any of its programs, services or activities.

ALL STUDENTS MUST PASS A PERFORMANCE AUDITION before they can be considered eligible for admission to Bak Middle School of the Arts. Higher audition eligibility scores are required for ascending grade levels.

Audition Registration Dates At Bak Middle School of the Arts For Fall 2012 Admission

Audition Registration is a session set aside for applicants to **reserve an audition appointment!** A parent, guardian, or an adult representing the student **MUST** attend to make the audition appointment. It is not necessary to call ahead; a parent of the applicant may attend any one of the two audition registration sessions.

Students should be prepared to audition as early as January 21, 2012.

The Audition Registration Session dates are:

Wednesday

January 11, 2012: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday

January 12, 2012: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

You may arrive at Bak MSOA anytime between 9:30a.m. and 11:30a.m., but not prior to 8:45a.m., as appointments will be reserved in a continuous process.

ESE / 504 /ELL Students:

If your child has a current **IEP or 504 plan**, please bring a copy to the **Audition Registration session** in order to request allowable audition accommodations. Parents will need to stop at the ESE table on that date to meet with an ESE representative.

ELL students please stop by the ELL table during the **Audition Registration Session** in order to request a translator.

Private school students without a District IEP or a District 504 Plan may also request allowable audition accommodations if the parent provides appropriate documentation of the student's disability to the school at the Audition Registration session.

Parents of students identified as Gifted do NOT need to bring the student's Educational Plan (EP) to the Audition Registration session.

If you have questions about accommodations, please contact Bak MSOA's ESE Coordinator at (561) 882-3852.

If your child is an ELL student and has translation needs, please contact the ESOL Admissions Contact at (561) 882-3819.

Audition Process for 2012-2013

Admission

All auditions are held on the Bak MSOA campus. Parents are welcome to bring their auditioning child on the scheduled date; however, parents may not accompany their children into the audition room. All students applying to Bak MSOA must meet the eligibility criteria set by the school through its audition process in order to be part of the random lottery system for admission into the school. Higher audition eligibility scores are required for ascending grade levels.

There are many people at your current school who can guide and assist students as they prepare for their auditions. Talk to your art and music teachers, your media specialist, your guidance counselor, and your language arts teacher. If you have questions, call Bak MSOA at (561) 882-3801.

On the following pages are the **specific audition requirements** for each art area. Please read these carefully, so that your child will be fully prepared for his/her audition. Auditions are scored using a rubric and an incomplete audition presentation will result in a loss of points. Students who are well prepared with all audition requirements and who are motivated to attend Bak MSOA will enjoy the audition experience.

For Choice Programs Application, Choice Programs Booklet, Choice Program Procedures Manual and additional information please access www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms.

[Read on for important details
about the audition process.](#)

Communication Arts Audition

Bak MSOA Communication classes include creative writing, newspaper, yearbook, broadcast & photojournalism, public relations/marketing advertising, television/video/film/radio production, and speech & debate.

Students need to come to their audition prepared with:

1. An original, student-created, **memorized sixty second “BREAKING” LIVE NEWS REPORT** on location, on any topic. Judging is based on creativity, expression, interaction with the audience, and evidence of preparation. Students are required to submit their **handwritten news report** to the adjudicators on the day of their audition.
2. An example of an **ORIGINAL** media work that is an **original magazine advertisement created for an original** product or service that the student invents. (Think fantasy; be an inventor.)

Media production criteria:

8 ½” x 11” sized paper (no larger/no smaller)

2 dimensional only

Student’s complete name and current grade level should be written on back.

NOTE: Judging is based on creativity, use of the elements of design (titles, pictures, slogans, product information, etc.), and attention to overall appearance of project. The ad must have a clear message. Students are the *producer* of their product and print advertisement. This means they create their own product/service and they are solely responsible for the design, layout and making of their print advertisement. **Student media work will not be returned.**

FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS: Points will be taken off for any part of the adjudication process where the written directions are not followed. Please read the directions carefully several times.

At the audition students will also:

1. **Write a short fiction piece based on a photo** at the beginning of their audition. They will have fifteen minutes to prepare and creatively compose a short fiction story based on the content of a photo. Students will be scored on creativity, fiction writing techniques, narrative content, focus, organization and supporting details.

Dance Audition

Bak MSOA 6th grade dance classes include ballet and modern; 7th & 8th grade dance classes include ballet, modern, and jazz.

Students will:

1. **Participate in a dance class** that incorporates ballet and modern. Judging is based on technical ability, movement quality, flexibility, coachability, and overall potential. Though prior training is not required, an aptitude for dance and physicality is.
2. **Perform a prepared solo dance** that is no longer than one minute in length. This will be performed alone in front of the judges. No costumes, accessories, or props are allowed. The solo should focus on the dancer's strongest qualities. Consider including turns, jumps, and level changes. Please include the full use of the studio space and your body. Judging is based on movement, musicality, and expressiveness. Do not lip sync.

Suggested attire: Girls should wear a solid color leotard and convertible or footless tights. Hair should be in a bun. Boys should wear a white or black t-shirt with leggings or convertible tights. Please wear form-fitting clothing (no oversized t-shirts or pants). Students who have ballet shoes should wear them. All students should also be prepared to dance barefoot. Do not wear skirts, jeans, or jewelry.

Music: Applicants should bring a CD of their music, labeled with the dancer's name and number of the selection. If the CD is a copy, make sure it has been finalized properly. If a cassette tape is used, it must be cued to the beginning of the solo. Students should know if the song is on side A or B.

If accepted, 6th graders will take daily classes in ballet and modern dance. All 7th and 8th grade dancers will take daily classes in ballet, modern, and jazz.

Music Auditions

Band, Strings, Vocal & Keyboard/Piano

Applicants will need to bring their own instruments for band and strings auditions. For vocal auditions students may bring a CD for vocal accompaniment. Pianos and string basses will be provided. Bak MSOA does not provide drums. While students may audition using any legitimate instrument, Bak MSOA does not offer Art Major instruction in all musical instruments. For example, guitar, drum set, hand bells, or non-orchestral instruments are not offered as majors.

Band (Brass, Percussion, and Woodwind)

Students will:

1. **Perform a solo** that demonstrates your highest level of ability. An accompanist isn't required. Students need to bring **two (2)** copies of their sheet music for the judges.
2. **Audition requirements will also include:**
 - ◆ responding orally to questions about note recognition for their own clef, note, and rest values;
 - ◆ hearing a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and singing them back;
 - ◆ performing a major scale of his/her choice;
 - ◆ sight-reading.

Applicants will be judged on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, expressiveness, technique, sight-reading, tone matching, musical effect and the ability to produce a major scale.

Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, & Bass)

Students will:

1. **Perform a solo** that demonstrates your highest level of ability. An accompanist isn't required. Students need to bring **two (2)** copies of their sheet music for the judges.
2. **Audition requirements will also include:**
 - ◆ responding orally to questions about note recognition for their own clef, note and rest values, and musical symbols;
 - ◆ hearing a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and singing them back;
 - ◆ performing a major scale of the applicant's choice, one or two octaves;
 - ◆ sight-reading.

Applicants will be judged on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, expressiveness, technique, sight-reading, tone matching, musical effect, and ability to produce a major scale.

Vocal

Students will:

1. **Perform a memorized solo***. Students need to provide **two (2)** copies of their sheet music for the judges. Students will be judged on ability to vocalize, tone matching (hearing a series of 3-5 pitches on the piano and singing them back), solo pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, tone quality, expressiveness, and musical effect.

Accompaniment: Students may sing with or without accompaniment. If accompaniment is desired, it must be a CD. Student must sing without recorded voices on the CD.

Please be aware that it may not be necessary for the student to finish the solo for the assessment to be completed by the judges.

*Suggested Literature for Vocal Audition, which may be purchased at local music stores, includes:

(These are only suggested, not required.)

- Folk Songs for Solo Singer, Volumes 1 & 2 - Jay Althouse
- The Young Singer – Richard Row
- Easy Songs for the Beginning Soprano, Volume 1
- Easy Songs for the Beginning Mezzo-Soprano, Volume 1
- Easy Songs for the Beginning Tenor (for boys with changed voices only), Volume 1
- Easy Songs for the Beginning Bass, Volume 1

All above listed vocal literature are available with CDs for rehearsal and performance purposes.

Piano/ Keyboard

Students will:

1. **Prepare a memorized solo**, which demonstrates their highest level of ability. Solos and basic scales (at least one octave) should be performed with hands together. Students need to bring **two (2)** copies of their sheet music for the judges. Applicants will be judged on rhythmic accuracy, technique, expressiveness, musical effect, sight-reading, and ability to produce a major scale.

Theatre Audition

Bak MSOA Theatre students will study and explore all aspects of the theatre process. Through classroom study and studio work, students will be trained in the areas of acting and musical theatre performance; set and costume design; stagecraft and technical theatre; and stage management. Additionally, they will learn the principles of theatre production, theatre history, playwriting and audience appreciation.

To prepare for the audition students will:

Prepare and memorize a monologue from a published play not more than one minute (60 seconds or less.) Students must create a character; not deliver a speech or poem. The Character may be any age as long as the words and the subject matter are age-appropriate and understood by the student. Props or costumes must not be used. Going overtime will not negatively impact a score but must be avoided.

At the Theatre Audition Students will:

1. Present the prepared one-minute monologue. The student will be given re-direction by the adjudicators.
2. Participate in a creative acting exercise. There is no specific preparation for this activity. The student's goal is to listen, follow directions and freely express his/her creativity.

Students will be judged on the criteria as listed below. We are assessing each child on his/her potential as a theatre student. We apply the audition criteria to the whole child rather than to simply the monologue preparation or presentational skills.

- Readiness (Teamwork, leadership, courtesy, responsibility)
- Voice (Informed involvement and control of the voice)
- Movement (Justified involvement and control of body)
- Theatrical Presence (Stage energy and focus)
- Creativity (Originality, freedom of expression)
- Courage in Acting (Willingness to take risks)
- Taking Direction (Responsiveness to coaching)
- Justification (Articulation of ideas: the character's wants)
- Honesty in Acting (Creates a believable character)
- Artistic Skill (Creates and sustains 'the theatrical moment')

OPTIONAL: If a student has a strong interest or talent in singing and/or set or costume design, he/she may elect to do **ONE, BOTH** or **NONE** of the following options. Opting out will not have a negative effect on a student's score.

Song: Students may memorize and prepare a **song from a Broadway show**. The song should be 16 bars (about 30 seconds) and must be sung without accompaniment. Students should sing only if comfortable singing; it is not required and does not count against students if they elect *not to sing*.

Drawing: Students may prepare a **drawing of a costume** for a character inspired by their monologue or a **drawing of a scene** inspired by their monologue. The drawing should be done using colored pencils on a sheet of 8.5" x 11" plain white paper. Again, this is an option; it is not required and does not count against students if they elect *not to submit a drawing*.

Advice for Preparing for the Audition:

- You will find the perfect monologue but you have to look around. Public libraries, local bookstores, www.dramabookshop.com, and www.playscripts.com are a few suggested sources.
- Avoid monologues that are not from plays. (There are many that are written only as stand-alone audition or classroom monologues that don't always provide the actor with what they need to create a strong character.) If possible, read the play that is the source of your monologue.
- Avoid classical material. (Shakespeare, Moliere, Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov, etc.)
- Avoid the challenge of doing accents or dialects (unless you do them really well!)
- Avoid getting coaching or direction from a variety of sources as this can confuse the young actor.
- No props and no costumes. Wear loose, comfortable clothing suitable for movement to your audition.
- Prepare early: memorization of the monologue is just the beginning of the actor's work.

Visual Arts Audition

Bak MSOA Visual Arts Department classes include ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, mural painting, and printmaking.

There are **three (3)** parts to the Visual Arts audition. The work demonstrated should show a basic understanding of **the elements of art** (line, shape, space, form, color, texture, and value) and **principles of design** (balance, rhythm, contrast, proportion, movement and center of interest). Additionally, the student's work will be judged on both creativity and skill level. Applicants are encouraged to present work regardless of how complete the piece may be. Applicants are limited to bringing only work produced in the 4th and 5th grade and no framed work. **Portfolio artwork is mandatory and must be produced and created by the student only.**

Part One:

Prepare your portfolio before the audition.

The portfolio should include:

- ◆ **A self-portrait in black and white** drawn by looking in a mirror, not a photograph. Use pencil, paint or charcoal.
- ◆ **One 3-D sculpture** constructed out of any material.
- ◆ **A drawing of a plant, flower, or tree** from observation using color and shading. The most important part of this drawing is how you use the color.
- ◆ **A sketchbook, folder or bound collection of recent work**, including observation drawings from life (please, **ONLY** 4th and 5th grade work!). Art in this collection can be any media. There is no recommended number. Go for quality, not quantity. Again, recent work only!

Part Two:

Observation drawing test at the audition:

At the audition, students will participate in an art class where they will be given a group of objects prearranged in a still life. Students will then complete a 2-D observation drawing of the still life they have been given. Applicants are judged on their ability to create an accurate likeness of the still life provided. This would include their understanding of proportion, placement (correct spatial relationships between objects), compositional layout on the page, quality of line and /or markmaking, and rendering to create volume. We expect students to have a basic understanding of values and shading, but not complete the drawing with full shaded rendering. This would include a good range of values (at least six) and the ability to transition between them. They will be allowed 45 minutes to complete the work. The assessment of the drawing will include the student's ability to sustain the work for the amount of time given, the accuracy of their image and completeness of the work.

Part Three:

Creative exercise at the audition:

At the audition, students will be asked to design a toy that will include specific design criteria. We will provide prompts and examples. An example of design criteria might be a toy that swims, flies, digs, etc. Emphasis will be placed on the creative process. We will ask all applicants to document their design process through the following choices: sketches with written explanation, comic strip (storyboard), and/or models (prototypes). A written explanation of the student's design solution could include its functions, age appropriateness, possible benefits (such as an educational toy) and/or warnings. Materials will include drawing materials as well as assorted building materials (i.e. tape, tin foil, thin wire, etc.) Students will be assessed on originality, creative vision and personal expression. The emphasis of this exercise is to measure creativity as opposed to observational skill and technique.

Some facts about Bak Middle School of the Arts

- Bak MSOA is a public school serving 1360 talented students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- Bak MSOA selects students from all areas of Palm Beach County using an application, audition, and lottery process.
- Bak MSOA provides an extensive arts education in the areas of Communication Arts, Dance, Theatre, Vocal Music, Strings, Band, Piano/Keyboard, and Visual Arts.
- Bak MSOA follows the general core curriculum guidelines that are used in all Palm Beach County middle schools.

Instructional Program

Bak Middle School of the Arts develops the interests and talents of students in the visual, performing, and communication arts. Simultaneously, it is designed to enhance the academic disciplines through an integrated, interdisciplinary approach, stressing creativity and artistic expression. Visiting artists, artists in residence and guest speakers regularly interact with and support the professional arts faculty and students in providing a cutting edge arts program. Performance opportunities are offered at all levels. A student at Bak Middle School of the Arts experiences a balance of incomparable arts instruction and exceptional academic experiences. The total of their day is spent pursuing academic excellence. In addition, Bak Middle School of the Arts offers a full slate of activities from sports, to clubs, to after-school programs. Free transportation is available for all admitted students.

Core Curriculum

Language Arts
Mathematics
Honors Algebra I
Honors Geometry
Science: Life, Physical, Earth
French
Spanish
Computers
Arts Exploration
Reading
Physical Education
World History
United States History
Civics

Sports & Clubs

Volleyball
Basketball
Baseball/Softball
Track
Soccer
Golf
Math Academic Games
Math Counts
Social Studies Academic Games
STEP Team
Chess Club
Dance Team
Cheerleading
National Jr. Honor Society
Book Club
Jr. International Thespian Society
Recycling Green Team
Student Government
S.E. Consortium for Math & Engineering

Commonly Asked Questions....

Q. Where is Bak Middle School of the Arts located?

A. Bak MSOA is located five blocks south of 45th Street, just east of I-95.

Q. What are the requirements for admission?

A. Bak Middle School of the Arts (Bak MSOA) considers students for sixth, seventh and eighth grade admission. The parent of the applicant must be residing in Palm Beach County at the time of application submission. Applicants must participate in an audition for the year applied for in one of eight art areas. The audition process varies from art area to art area. Audition criteria must be carefully followed in preparation for an audition. Applicants must pass Bak MSOA's audition in order to be eligible for the admission selection lottery.

Q. What is the timeline for the application and audition process?

A. Applications are accepted from October through December 16, 2011. Only one application may be submitted per student. The applicant's address noted on the application must match the address on file at the student's school or the application will be voided.

Appointments for auditions must be obtained in person during the Audition Registration session (see page 3). Students should be prepared to audition as early as January 21, 2012. Auditions are held by appointment in January and February. Student notification will be mailed no later than April 10, 2012.

Q. How many choices are allowed on the Choice Program Application?

A. Either one or two choices are allowed on the Choice Program Application. Applicants rate choices as first and second preferences. Two program choices may be selected for Bak MSOA.

Q. Will students that have not had extensive arts training be able to qualify for Bak Middle School of the Arts?

A. Students with potential or undeveloped talent are sought as well as students with more developed technical skills.

Commonly Asked Questions....

Q. Is there a required grade point average for entrance into Bak Middle School of the Arts?

A. No. Students are admitted solely on the basis of their audition.

Q. Are there audition accommodations for students with current IEP or 504 plans?

A. Yes. At the Audition Registration session you MUST bring a copy of your child's current IEP or 504 plan and visit the ESE table in order to request allowable audition accommodations. Private school students without a District IEP or a District 504 Plan may also request allowable audition accommodations if the parent provides appropriate documentation of the student's disability to the school at the Audition Registration session.

You may contact the school's ESE Coordinator at (561) 882-3852 if you have questions.

Q. What if a student speaks English as a second language?

A. Translation services can be provided to students who speak English as a second language. The parent should contact the school's ELL Admissions Contact at (561) 882-3819.

Q. Does Bak MSOA's academic program offer varied level courses?

A. Yes, Bak MSOA offers special education, gifted, advanced, and regular classes, as well as high school level courses in math and foreign language. Students leaving our school after 8th grade are academically and artistically ready for many high school programs.

Q. Are there any classes offered to students who have been identified as ESE?

A. Yes. There are students who attend the Bak Middle School of the Arts who have been identified as ESE. We offer a variety of exceptionality resources to students depending on their Individual Education Plans.

Tour

Bak Middle School of the Arts

**1725 Echo Lake Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33407**

**When: September – December 2011-Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:45 am to 10:30 am
By Appointment Only - Call (561) 882-3801- Space limited, so call early**

On select Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in September you can come and see what our school is all about. See arts classrooms in action as we move through Dance, swing into Jazz Band, brush by Visual Arts, zoom into Communications, and direct your way to the Theater Department. Along the way you will hear our voices in Chorale, see our bows fly in Strings, watch our skills sharpen in the Keyboard Lab and get all the information that you need about our school.

Tours begin at 8:45 a.m. and are scheduled by appointment only. Please call Bak Middle School of the Art's Magnet Office at (561) 882-3801 to schedule your arts experience. You'll be glad you came.

Directions:

Take I-95 to 45th Street, go east 1 mile to North Shore Drive (across from the Tri-Rail Station); go south on North Shore Drive. At the end of North Shore Drive, turn right onto Echo Lake Drive. The school's entrance is on your right.

When visiting Bak MSOA, please follow all traffic laws and respect the neighborhood driveways, lawns and especially the swale areas. The city of West Palm Beach prohibits parking upon the swales and visitors could be subject to fines. Please park where directed and be patient with school police officers and/or parent volunteers.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHOICE AND CAREER OPTIONS

2011 SHOWCASE OF SCHOOLS

October 18, 2011

4:00 pm- 8:00 pm

Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds