

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
CICELY L. TYSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF
PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS**

35 Winans Street

East Orange, New Jersey 07017

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www.eastorange.k12.nj.us

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Principal

Mr. John English

November 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2020-2021 audition requirements and selection process for the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts. You will find on the back of this letter the Application Process for the 2020-2021 school year. Tyson Middle/High School challenges students academically, socially and emotionally through a course of study that includes advanced training in a specific arts discipline within the context of a comprehensive college preparatory middle/high school, which will provide students with the skills necessary to compete in our global market.

Please be advised of the following:

- The audition process is open to all East Orange residents in Grades 5 and 8.
- The Arts majors that are open for audition for all 5th and 8th grade students include the following: Dance, Theater Arts, Fine Arts, Animation, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music. Please note that there are a limited amount of spots available in each of these majors.
- The Arts majors that are open for audition for only the 8th grade students include the following: Television/Film and Musical Theater. Please note that there are a limited amount of spots available in each of these majors.

Spots available for each discipline are noted in the parentheses and can be found in the Audition Requirements Pages. Numbers may have a slight variation based on the ability to fill each Arts major. The MS represents Middle School and HS represents High School. The numbers beside Instrumental Music encompasses all instruments.

- Students **WILL BE** selected for admission based on the weighted numerical score for the following three rubrics:
 - a. Performance Task = 60%
 - b. Teacher Recommendation Form = 10%
 - c. Academic Achievement Form = 30%

Teacher Recommendation Form and student's most recent report card should be submitted on the day of audition. Teacher Recommendation Forms will be available on the schools website
- **All applications should be submitted online.** Any incomplete parts of the application process will be reflected in the overall scoring.
- **Online applications will close on Friday, January 10, 2020.** *Incomplete applications may impact ones ability to receive an audition.*

Sincerely,

John English
Principal

Application Process for 2020–2021 School Year

- Auditions will be held this year for students currently in grades five (5) and eight (8) only.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or accepted. No Exceptions!!
- Both in district and out of district students should submit an online application. The online application can be found on the District’s website at www.eastorange.k12.nj.us.

➤ **The Audition Schedule is as follows:**

- Theater (Grade 5):** Monday, February 3, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Animation (Grade 5 and 8):** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Visual Arts (Grade 5 and 8):** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Musical Theater: (Grade 8)** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Theater/Tech (Grade 8):** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Vocal (Grade 5):** Monday, February 3, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Vocal (Grade 8):** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Instrumental Music - Brass, Woodwind & Percussion (Grade 5 and 8):** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Dance (Grade 5 and 8):** Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 8:00am – 4:00pm
- Instrumental Music: Harp and Strings (Grade 5 and 8):** Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Piano (Grade 5 and 8):** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm

- An Appointment Letter and a Teacher Recommendation Form will be mailed to you. The Teacher Recommendation Form **must** be completed and returned on the day of your scheduled audition along with a copy of your most recent report card. Late or incomplete Teacher Recommendations **will** reflect in the final score.
- Auditions will take place from 4:00pm to 7:00pm during the weekdays and 8:00am to 4:00pm on the weekend for the dates specified above. Students should report to the Cicely Tyson School Performing Arts Center, 35 Winans Street, where prospective students will be auditioned during their specified audition window. If there is a need to add additional days due to the number of responses, parents will be notified in advance.
- **Students who do not submit an online application by Friday, January 10, 2020 will not be able to audition.**

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must show a strong interest in their selected performing arts discipline. The staff selection committee will review all applications. Each student will have a general interview as well as an Audition/Interview with the Arts Selection Panel. Specific program criteria are listed in the “Audition Requirements” section of this application, which can be found on the reverse side of this form and online on our school’s website. **The Audition/Interview Selection Panel will provide a rubric score for the following: Teacher Recommendation Form, Performance Rubric and the Academic Achievement Form.**

Only Students in grade five (5) and grade eight (8) will be allowed to audition. The student selection process is designed to identify students who can best meet the rigor of a high performing Visual and Performing Arts Program.

The following criteria have been established as guidelines for the selection process:

1. Students **MUST** be residents of East Orange, New Jersey.
2. Students **MUST** complete the Online Application and submit the Teacher Recommendation Form along with a copy of their most recent report card on the scheduled audition date.
3. **Students MUST report for an audition in one of the following areas: Fine Arts, Vocal Music, Dance, Theater Arts, Musical Theater (High School Only), Instrumental Music, TV/Film (High School Only) or Animation.**
4. Students **WILL BE** selected for admission based on the weighted numerical score for the following three rubrics:
 - a. Performance Task = 60%
 - b. Teacher Recommendation Form = 10%
 - c. Academic Achievement Form = 30%

Teacher Recommendation Form and student’s most recent report card should be submitted on the day of audition.

****All Scores are CONFIDENTIAL and WILL NOT BE SHARED with individuals who are not part of the audition process.***

If selected both *parent/guardian(s)* and student **MUST** sign and adhere to the CTS Contract:

- A) Acknowledging their understanding of school policies
- B) Agreeing to the expected Code of Conduct, mandatory Uniform Policy, GPA Requirement and Attendance Policy.

**AUDITIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS
IN GRADES FIVE (5) AND EIGHT (8) ONLY**

Auditions will begin on Saturday February 1, 2020

Audition Location: Cicely Tyson School Performing and Arts Center, 35 Winans Street, East Orange, NJ 07017

DANCE (15MS/10HS)

Students will participate in a technique class consisting of a ballet barre, center floor exercises and a modern/jazz combination.

Students will demonstrate flexibility, a natural sense of movement, musicality, and an innate ability to follow directions.

- Students should arrive 15 minutes prior to their appointment time to check in, change and stretch.
- During each window, students will be taking a dance class for the first hour while the second hour is reserved for solo auditions.
- Parents should know that their child will be expected to participate in the audition process for up to 2-hours.
- ***If any student is late for his/her designated appointment, they must then attend the make up session.***

Recommendations for dress attire:

- **Females:** leotards, tights, ballet slippers, hair pulled back off the face
- **Males:** fitted T-shirt, footless tights and ballet slippers. ***ABSOLUTELY NO GUM OR JEWELRY***



Recommendations are required from your English and Mathematics instructors. Prior experience is not required for acceptance to this program.

THEATER ARTS (15MS/15HS)

Students should prepare to present a 1 to 2 minute memorized monologue demonstrating pronunciation, projection, articulation and characterization. Candidates are required to bring a writing sample explaining their interest in theater arts to be submitted at the time of audition to the theater arts teacher. **Students may be asked to present a “cold” reading to be distributed at the audition.**



MUSICAL THEATER (GRADE 9 ONLY) (10HS)

Students should have a strong interest in singing, acting and dancing. Students will be asked to sing a song by memory and perform a one-minute monologue by memory. Students have the choice of singing one of the following for their audition:

- A Broadway Solo
- The Star Spangled Banner
- Lift Every Voice and Sing

Students should be able demonstrate clear pronunciation, projection, articulation and characterization. Candidates are required to bring a writing sample explaining their interest in musical theater to be submitted at the time of audition to the musical theater teacher.

FINE ARTS (10MS/10HS)

Students must present ten (10) to twelve (12) art works which demonstrate basic and/or traditional techniques. These artworks should include linear perspective. **CARTOON DRAWINGS will not be accepted in the portfolio of the Fine Arts Candidates.** Please remember that the presentation of art will be taken into consideration. A personal interview will be conducted to obtain information about the candidate and students will be asked to do a work sample during the audition. They also must attend the on-site audition and arrive on time.



ANIMATION (12MS/10HS)

Students must present eight (8) to ten (10) artwork demonstrating basic/traditional art techniques. In addition, 5th Grade students must present five (5) pencil drawings of cartoon characters, (only one Japanese character) and one piece done in one and two point perspective. Candidates can bring any drawings that they have done in the past. A personal interview and short drawing test will be given.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (48MS/36HS)

Students are being asked to bring their own instruments, sticks, reeds and sheet music, if they have them.

Students must 1) perform an etude or prepared selection of their choice that best reflects their musical ability and sections of a selected piece that will be given to their band instructor(s) in advance; 2) demonstrate the ability to verbally discuss and perform on their instruments; and 3) illustrate their knowledge of musical symbols (staves, clefs, bars, measures, repeats, endings, double bar, accidentals i.e. sharps, flats, natural signs), primary note values and rests (whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth with corresponding rests), basic time and key signatures, and dynamic markings (*p*, *mf*, *f*). Sight reading and an interview will be part of the audition.

(Continued)
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-2021



Additional criteria by instrument:

***Brass:** Treble clef -- Perform ledger line C to top space G and C, F, G Key Signatures.
Bass clef -- Perform 2nd line Bb to ledger line D and Bb, Eb F Key Signatures.
Understanding of 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4, 6/8 time.
Ties and slurs, tempo markings (*andante*, *allegro*, *maestoso*) Accidentals, and terminology (*d.c.al fine*, *fine*). Dotted quarter and eighth notes.

Harp: Aspiring students who have no experience on harp will be evaluated on tonal memory (through singing), rhythmic memory, and the interview process.

Piano: Play two major scales with proper fingering. Short written test and an ear training assessment will be part of the audition.

Strings: One octave scale for Middle School (G & D) major scale, Two octave scales for High School (G, D & C) major scale, two note slurs, slurs with three notes per bow, slurs with 4 notes per bow, tied notes and sight-reading.

] ***Students must be able to read letter names from the staff**

***Percussion:** Aspiring students should be able to maintain a steady beat and be prepared to play a call and response.

***Woodwind:**
Flute: Perform a range of D below the staff to ledgerline A3. All dotted half, eighth, and sixteenth notes. 3/4 and 6/8 time signatures

Clarinet: Perform a range low G to ledger line C. 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8 time signatures. Ties and slurs, tempo markings (*andante*, *allegro*, *maestoso*) dotted half and eighth notes.

Saxophone: Same as clarinet except
Performance range-Low E to high C.

VOCAL MUSIC (15MS/15HS)

Student's vocal range and quality of musical ear will be assessed through vocal exercises, sight singing, and their selected solo.

Prepare a musical selection chosen from the list below:

- Lift Every Voice and Sing
- The Star-Spangled Banner (O, Say Can You See)
- America (My Country Tis of Thee)

Students who are studying with a private voice teacher may opt/choose to sing an art song in English, Italian, German or a spiritual. Bring 3 photocopies of music for the panel.

To present yourself in the best light possible:

- Decide exactly what song you will present and PREPARE it (memorize it, singing in tune).
- Your piece will be performed acappella with the exception of students who are performing an art song or spiritual.
- Say your name and answer questions clearly and completely.
- Be ready to talk about yourself, your past musical experiences, your goals for the future.
- Dress appropriately – look like a professional.

We are looking for:

- **Vocal potential** – Your voice has the potential to be developed.
- **Performance and musical potential** – You have the personality to be a performer and succeed in other areas of musical study (composition, recording technology, teaching, etc.).
- **Passion about music** – You are truly excited about music and/or singing.



APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

STUDENT INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Last First Student ID#

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ Present School _____
Month/Day/Year M/F

AUDITION AREA: (check one)

- ANIMATION DANCE FINE ARTS MUSICAL THEATER (8th Grade only)
 VOCAL MUSIC THEATER ARTS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – (If auditioning for Instrumental Music, check one specific instrument below)

- HARP STRINGS PIANO TRUMPET TROMBONE CLARINET PERCUSSION
 FLUTE SAX OTHER INSTRUMENT (Name of Instrument) _____

CURRENT GRADE: (check one) 5th Grade 8th Grade

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Please Print Clearly

Home Address _____
Street Apt #/Flr City State Zip Code

Telephone (Home) _____ Telephone (Cell) _____

Parent's Email Address _____

**All Sections MUST be completed before submitting to your
school Guidance Counselor**

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts
Teacher Recommendation Form

Student Name: _____	Current Grade: _____
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Please complete the following information:
School Currently Attending: _____
Do you currently perform or have you previously exhibited your work? Yes No
If so, where? _____

The next section is to be filled out by a teacher chosen by the student applicant. One (1) recommendation is required. The recommending teacher must know the student's potential and degree of commitment.

The student must submit:

➤ **Completed Teacher Recommendation Form**

Please utilize the scoring rubric on the back to complete the form.

	Below 1	Approaching 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4	Total Score
Commitment					
Attendance					
Respect for Others					
Discipline (Referrals, Suspensions, etc...)					
Completes Assignments					
TOTAL SCORE					
Total Average Rubric Score					
<i>Please Note: Total Score divided by five equals Total Average Rubric Score</i>					
TOTAL SCORE/5 = Total Rubric Score					

Comments:

Print Teacher's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Subject: _____

**THE TOTAL AVERAGE RUBRIC SCORE IS WORTH 10% OF THE
OVERALL AUDITION SCORE**

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts

	Below 1	Approaching 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4
Commitment	Student displays a negative attitude and does not work towards a goal.	Student attempts to display a positive attitude and works hard sometimes.	Student displays a positive attitude and works hard to accomplish a goal most times.	Student always displays a positive attitude and works hard to accomplish a goal.
Attendance/ Punctuality	Student seldom attends class and is considered chronically absent/tardy	Student is present in class, late more than once every two weeks and prepared sometimes.	Student is present, on time and late once every two weeks and prepared most times.	Student is present, regularly attends class, always on time and prepared.
Respect towards others	Student seldom follows directions, struggles to listen to others and respond inappropriately.	Student attempts to follow directions, listen to others and respond appropriately.	Student follows directions, listens to others and responds appropriately.	Student takes initiative and follows directions, listens attentively and responds appropriately with care and consideration.
Discipline	Student has more than 5 days suspended or disciplinary referrals for the current school year	Student has less than 5 days suspended or disciplinary referrals for the current school year	Student has less than 2 days suspended or disciplinary referrals for the current school year	Student has zero suspensions, referrals and disciplinary actions
Completes Assignments/ Preparedness	Student seldom completes assignments and is never prepared.	Student attempts to complete assignments and is rarely prepared.	Student sometimes completes assignments and is usually prepared.	Student always completes assignments and is always prepared.

**THE TOTAL AVERAGE RUBRIC SCORE IS WORTH 10% OF THE
OVERALL AUDITION SCORE**

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts

Academic Achievement Form

This form is to be completed by a Cicely L. Tyson Administrator or his/her designee.

Student Name:	Current Grade:
School Currently Attending:	

Categories	1	2	3	4	5
NJSLA	Did not yet meet score of proficiency on the PARCC, Level 1 for both Math and Reading (650-659).	Partially met score of proficiency on the PARCC, Level 2 for either Math or Reading (700-724).	Approaching the score of proficiency on the PARCC, Level 3 for either Math or Reading (725-749).	Meets score of proficiency on the PARCC, Level 4 for either Math or Reading (750-809).	Has exceeded score of proficiency on the PARCC, Level 5 for both Math and Reading (810-850).
Report Card	OR Has received an overall grade of F, as well as receiving an F in both Math and ELA.	OR Has received an overall average grade of D, as well as receiving no lower than a D in either Math or ELA.	OR Has received an overall average grade of C, as well as receiving no lower than a C Math or ELA.	OR Has received an overall grade average of B, as well as receiving no lower than a B in Math or ELA.	OR Has received an overall average grade of A as well as receiving an A in all major content areas.

Grade Scale Key

- A= 90 -100 or 4.0
- B= 80 – 89 or 3.0
- C= 70 - 79 or 2.0
- D= 65 – 69 or 1.0
- F= 64 or below

CATEGORY/TOTAL SCORE (Select the best score between 1-5)

Comments:

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

THE TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE IS WORTH 30% OF THE OVERALL AUDITION SCORE