

## Baltimore School for the Arts: A resource for thousands of BCPS students each year

BSA is devoted to increasing access to opportunities in the arts for all Baltimore City children. Through a variety of initiatives, both established and new, the school reaches thousands of students each year, many of them underserved. BSA is always open to new partnerships and collaborations to help it reach more kids with meaningful arts experiences.

### Established Programs

#### **TWIGS (To Work In Gaining Skills)**

##### **Who:**

- 700 Baltimore City kids in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- TWIGS students come from about 70 city public schools, the majority eligible for Title I funding.

##### **What:**

- Free entry-level instruction in acting, dance, instrumental and vocal music, stage production and design, visual arts, and arts technology.
- Classes are held after-school and on Saturdays at BSA from September through April each year.

#### **School Performance Programs at BSA**

##### **Who:**

- About 4,000 Baltimore City School students annually attend free BSA performances and other special programs

##### **What:**

- **Performances** feature BSA musicians, dancers, and actors who perform as well as narrate. Student educational guides accompany all performances. Our guests connect well with the performers as they are fellow BCPS students.
- In **First Look**, middle school students join high school visual arts students and a faculty member for a tour of studios and a gallery walk. Students complete a writing activity to reflect on the one of the student art works.
- For **Final Dress**, middle school students are invited to tour the scene shop, ballroom, and then to observe a final dress rehearsal of a theatre performance. Students participate in a Q&A session after observing the director's notes to actors.

#### **Audition Preparation**

- City-wide workshops are offered to non-TWIGS students to help them prepare for auditions to the high school program.

### Newer Partnerships

- **HelloTWIGS!** is aimed at reaching students from the 21205 zip code of East Baltimore. Each Saturday, BSA brings by bus about 45 students from Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle School and Armistead Gardens to the school to attend a class in dance, visual arts or theatre, and to eat a healthy lunch.
- In its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, our partnership with **Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Baltimore** has enabled both organizations to enhance their services to kids in need. About 60 students in grades 1-5 rotate through four arts classes over the course of 20 weeks at BSA and at BGCMB's Webster Kendrick and Brooklyn O'Malley locations.

### Education in the community

- **Fire/Disaster Safety Education.** Through educational plays developed by BSA students in conjunction with a professional playwright, BSA provides critical safety information to about 1,000 students in Baltimore City Public Schools. The entertaining program conveys simple, direct and essential information on how to prevent tragedies and what to do in emergency situations.
- **Living History with the National Park Service.** In this exciting collaboration, BSA students, faculty, and scholars create short plays that literally bring history to life through the re-creation of the lives and situations of real Maryland figures. The plays are geared to be educational and entertaining for middle and high school audiences, and free performances occur in different venues around Baltimore. BSA students are the actors in the plays which are fully costumed.

### Unique collaborations

- Each year, BSA participates in programs at the school and in the community that reach BCPS kids with meaningful experiences in the arts.

**In the 2015-16 TWIGS program, students come from the following  
Baltimore City Public Schools**

Armistead Gardens  
Baltimore Design School  
Baltimore International Academy  
Baltimore Leadership for Young Women  
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter  
Barclay Elementary/Middle  
Belmont Elementary  
Brooklyn Park  
Calverton Elementary/Middle  
Calvin M. Rodwell Elementary  
Cecil Elementary  
City Neighbors Hamilton  
City Neighbors Charter  
City Springs  
Crossroads School  
Commodore John Rodgers Elem/Middle  
Cross Country Ele/Mid  
Dickey Hill  
Dr. Nathan A. Pitts-Ashburton Elementary  
Dr. Rayner Browne Elem  
Empowerment Academy  
Federal Hill Preparatory  
Franklin Square Elementary/Middle  
Gardenville Elem  
Garrett Heights Ele/Mid  
Govans Elementary  
Green School of Baltimore  
Green Street Academy  
Guilford Elementary/Middle  
Gwynns Falls Ele  
Hamilton Elementary/Middle  
Hampden Elementary  
Hampstead Hill Elementary/Middle  
Henderson Hopkins School  
Highlandtown Elementary/Middle  
James Mosher Elementary  
John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle  
KIPP Harmony  
Kipp Ujima Village Academy  
Leithwalk Ele/Mid  
Lockerman Bundy  
Lyndhurst Elementary

Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle  
Mary Ann Winterling Elementary  
Mary E. Rodman Elementary  
Medfield Heights Elementary  
Midtown Academy  
Monarch Academy  
Mount Royal Elementary/Middle  
Mount Washington School  
New Song Academy  
Northbend Elem/Middle  
Northwood Appold Community Academy  
Patterson Park Public Charter  
Roland Park Ele/Mid  
Roots & Branches  
Samuel B. Morse Elementary  
Southwest Baltimore Charter School  
Thomas Jefferson Elem  
Thomas Johnson Ele/Mid  
Turnbridge Public

**More about TWIGS:**

TWIGS, founded in 1982, continues to provide an essential opportunity for city kids, many of whom would not otherwise have access to arts instruction.

TWIGS is a vital feeder for BSA as the high school strives to continually increase the number of city kids in its programs. The TWIGS program provides training that prepares students for a BSA audition. In January 2015, 47% of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in TWIGS who auditioned for the high school were admitted. At this time they comprise 48% of BSA's freshman class, the highest ratio of TWIGS students at BSA to date. TWIGS has proven to be a crucial preparatory program for the BSA – statistics indicate that our retention rate for TWIGS students in high school is excellent.

Each year that schedules permit, BSA high school artists, accompanied by arts faculty members, visit BCPS elementary and middle schools in “run-outs” to build awareness about TWIGS.