

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 2nd through 8th 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 2nd 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 8th 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.