

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

School Profile 2016-17

The School: Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) is an urban public high school established in 1980 to create opportunities for talented students who aspire to careers in the arts. BSA offers pre-professional training in dance, music, theatre, theatre production, and the visual arts, along with a rigorous college preparatory academic program. BSA was designed to meet the need for in-depth training at an early age.

BSA has been recognized as one of the top five public arts high schools in the country by the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Doris Duke and Surdna Foundations. BSA has been ranked as one of the Best High Schools in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* and one of the Top High Schools by *The Daily Beast*.

Admissions & Program of Study: Students are admitted to BSA solely on the basis of an audition or portfolio review to one of five major areas of study: music, theatre, theatre production, visual arts, or dance. The program of study includes a curriculum of college preparatory academics and intensive arts training. Participating in an extended school day – 8:30 am to 4:15 pm – students each day spend half a day, four or five periods, in academic study and half a day, four periods, in an art discipline.

Student Body: Each year, approximately 75% of BSA's students come from Baltimore City and 25% from the seven counties surrounding Baltimore and from the District of Columbia. In 2016, 47% of students are African American, 41% are white, 3% are multiracial, 5% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 3% are Latino. About 32% of our students are eligible for free and reduced lunches. The diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and racial mix of students is a special quality of the school.

Enrollment: In 2016-17, Baltimore School for the Arts has an enrollment of roughly 400 students in grades 9 to 12. Class of 2017 enrollment is 94. Academic classes average 20 students.

Faculty: There are about 40 full-time and 70 part-time faculty members who together provide rigorous training in the arts and academic programs. The core of the arts faculty is composed of distinguished professional actors, dancers, musicians, and visual artists who teach at the school on a part-time basis, providing a critical link between the BSA students and the professional arts world.

Curriculum & Requirements: A minimum of 21 credits is required by the State of Maryland for graduation. In order to be eligible for a Baltimore School for the Arts diploma, a student must meet the annual requirements of the specific arts department and complete the following academic courses:

- 4 credits in English
- 4 credits in Mathematics
- 3 credits in Science
- 3 credits in Social Studies
- 2 credits in a foreign language
- 1 credit in Technology
- ½ credit in Health
- ½ credit in Phys. Ed.

The academic program includes honors-level courses in English, Spanish, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. In addition, advanced seminars include American Studies and Art and Culture. AP classes in English Composition, English Literature, Calculus, and Spanish IV are also offered. Each arts department has an intensive pre-professional program designed to give the student a broad-based background. Courses include Music Theory, Music Literature, and Art History. Students in Music Theory and Art History are prepared for the AP exams.

Grading: A 100-point and 4.2 scale is used with a passing grade of 60. The academic grade scale is as follows:

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| • A+: 97-100 | • B: 83-86 | • D+: 67-69 |
| • A: 93-96 | • B-: 80-82 | • D: 63-66 |
| • A-: 90-92 | • C+: 77-79 | • D-: 60-62 |
| • B+: 87-89 | • C: 73-76 | • F: below 60 |
| | • C-: 70-72 | |

The arts grade scale:

- | | |
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| • A+/A/A-: consistently exceeds expectations | • D: inconsistent/unsatisfactory work/warning of potential failure |
| • B+/B/B-: often exceeds expectations | • F: consistently fails to meet expectations |
| • C+/C/C-: consistently meets expectations | |

Classes are weighted and students are not ranked.

Honor Roll & Other Recognition: To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must have no academic grade lower than 80 and no arts grade lower than B-. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have academic grades of 90 or above and arts grades of A- or above at the end of each quarter. BSA students also regularly receive recognition in national arts competitions. In 2015, three students received recognition in the prestigious National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Young Arts Competition.

SATs: In the Class of 2016, one student is a semi-finalist and three are commended students in the National Merit Scholarship competition. In May 2016, BSA students scored an average of 1111 on the SAT (1600-point scale), as compared to 876 for Baltimore City, 1037 for the State of Maryland, and 1095 nationally.

Advanced Placement Tests: In 2016, BSA students took a total of 112 AP exams in English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Spanish Language and Culture, and Art History. 68% of tests were scored a 3 or higher, as compared to 64% for the State of Maryland and 61% nationally.

Performances and Exhibitions: As part of the pre-professional arts program, students in the Dance, Music, and Theatre departments participate in an array of both public and non-public performances throughout their tenure at the school. The Visual Arts Department mounts four public exhibitions a year. Master classes are also conducted each year by nationally and internationally renowned visiting artists. In addition, students are provided with a variety of opportunities in professional collaborations with cultural and civic institutions. These include the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Centerstage, Everyman Theatre, Hippodrome Theatre, Maryland Historical Society, Maryland Institute College of Art, Peabody Institute Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Walters Art Gallery, National Parks, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, and others.

Outreach Programs: A further mission of the Baltimore School for the Arts is to function as a resource for the promotion and development of arts education for younger students. This is accomplished through TWIGS, BSA's free after-school arts instruction program for 700 city students in grades 2-8; a school performance program that brings school kids to BSA for matinees; as well as other programs including demo/run-outs to area schools. BSA high school students have the opportunity to participate in the school's outreach efforts.

Baltimore School for the Arts

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