

An At-A-Glance New Trier Guide for College Bound Students Interested in the Performing and Visual Arts

You can find the following resources on the Post-High School Counseling website at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/phsc>:

- *An At-A-Glance New Trier Guide for College Bound Students Interested in the Performing and Visual Arts*
- *Helpful Advice for Students Interested in College Programs in the Performing and Visual Arts*

In addition to the guides recommended by your PHS counselor, the following may be helpful:

- *Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actor Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers*
- *The College Finder: Choose the School That's Right for You!*
- *College Guide for Performing Arts Majors*
- *College Guide for Visual Arts Majors*
- *Admit One: Ten Steps to Choosing Your Acting or Musical Theatre College Program*

Information on auditions or submissions of DVD, CD, or portfolio can be found at:

- www.portfolioday.net
- www.unifiedapps.org

WEBSITES, DIRECTORIES & OTHER RESOURCES

Visual Arts

www.artschools.com
www.film-maker.com
www.aicad.org (Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design)
www.rivalquest.com/schools
www.nasad.arts-accredit.org
www.artsschoolsnetwork.org
www.portfolioday.net
www.collegeart.org

Music

www.nafme.org (Nat. Association for Music Education)
www.musicschoolsearch.com
www.mtna.org (Music Teachers National Assoc.)
www.astaweb.com (American String Teachers Association)
www.americanorchestras.org (League of American Orchestras)

Dance

www.dance-teacher.com
www.dancemagazine.com

Theatre

www.theatredirectories.com

Film

www.film-maker.com
www.rivalquest.com/schools

Graphic Design

www.whatintheworld.aiga.org
www.aiga.org (Professional Assoc. for Design)
www.artschools.com
www.portfolioday.net

3-D Animation

www.cgsociety.org (Society of Digital Artists)

A listing of performing arts college fairs can be found at: www.nacanet.org/fairs

COLLEGE DEGREES AVAILABLE

ASSOCIATES DEGREE—A two-year degree that is often awarded for programs that are intended for transfer to a four-year college or university, but may be awarded as a terminal degree. Examples include Associate of Arts, Associate of Fine Arts, and Associate of Arts in Teaching.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)—A liberal arts degree in which the concentration of coursework in a chosen field of the arts is 35%-45%.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)—A professional degree, which can be earned in most of the performing and visual arts disciplines, and in which approximately 65% or more of the student's coursework will be in the chosen field.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC (BM)—A professional music degree in which approximately 65% or more of the total coursework will be in music and related fields such as performance, theory, composition, history and/or literature.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION (BME)—A degree that prepares students to teach instrumental, vocal or general music. Depending on the school, the performance rigor may be equal to or less than that of the BM degree.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)—A degree that can be earned at a liberal arts school, university or conservatory, depending on the school. Some schools are chartered to give only BA or BS degrees, but have the same requirements as a professional degree program.

A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM—A specialized program that combines additional coursework within two or more departments. Students completing the course work receive a "certificate" that confirms their completion of such programs.

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM—A program in which a student is able to earn two full degrees, for example, music administration and dance therapy. If arts comprise at least 50% of the coursework, the arts degree would be considered professional.

CONSERVATORY—A school whose primary focus is artistic training. Some conservatories are independent entities, some are contained within a four-year college or university. Several types of degrees may be available: BFA, BM, BME, BS

"INTRA-ARTS" PROGRAM —A degree which combines disciplines in two arts programs, without requiring a double major, accepting a senior thesis in one.

So You're Starting to Think About College...

Many New Trier students choose to continue their involvement in the arts in college. Just as no two students are exactly alike, each art student's college search will be an individual process. The desire to stay involved can range from extracurricular involvement to attending a conservatory or a fine arts program, where most of the student's curricular time is spent studying his or her particular art form. Here are some tips on what New Trier art students can do along the way to help facilitate the college application process.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

- *Explore the arts and extracurriculars at New Trier.* This is the best way to build your skills and get to know other students and teachers who share your interests.
- *Practice your craft.* Whether it's a musical instrument, dance, singing, photography or another art form, training develops both discipline and skill.
- *Archive your artwork photography, playbills, programs, newspaper clippings, etc.* Keep track of any exhibitions or publications mentioning your work. These will be helpful when you're creating a resumé and/or portfolio later on.
- *Theatre students, create a monologue library.* Save audition monologues for all shows, even if you didn't audition for all of them.
- *Voice students, create a repertoire binder.* Include art songs, arias, Broadway, and Pop songs used in class, in auditions or with private teachers.
- *Music students, consider taking piano lessons and/or music theory classes.*
- *Visual art students, take a self-portrait or life drawing class.* A self-portrait will be a portfolio requirement.
- *Continue your arts exploration outside of New Trier.* See as many professional dance companies, theatre shows, art exhibits, etc. as you can. Ask your teachers about reputable workshops for enrichment. Continue your arts exploration throughout high school.
- *Have fun and enjoy what you're doing.*

JUNIORS

- *Communicate your interests in arts.* Talk with your post high school (PHS) counselor, arts teachers and parents about your interest in continuing your involvement in the arts, your goals and plans. Your teachers expect to assist you in this process.
- *Visit the websites of colleges.* Research types of degrees and programs at specific schools (see other side). Ask yourself questions such as: Does the visual art program you're applying to have a concentration in your desired media? Can you participate in the program without majoring? Is the program's acceptance based on auditions or academics or both?
- *Identify targeted schools and programs.* Create a list of targeted colleges/programs with your PHS counselor, teachers and parents. Identify professors and obtain their addresses and e-mails. If you are applying to conservatories, include at least one liberal arts college or university on your list.
- *Make a file of your materials.* Collect your old programs, playbills, monologues, newspaper clippings, videos and projects to refresh your memory for your resumé.
- *Begin work on your resumé.* Present your history, including all relevant information related to your art. For example, camps attended, private lessons, curricular and extracurricular activities, repertoire list, exhibition summary, accomplishments and awards. Record your teachers' and private instructors' names and e-mail

addresses. Show your resumé to teachers for suggestions on presentation and content.

- *Write e-mails of interest to schools.* Ask for information and attach your resumé. Be ready to provide additional information upon request.
- *Visit schools.* If possible, visit the schools you are most interested in and talk with the teachers there. Try to schedule a lesson or a class before you go.
- *Create DVD, CD, portfolio or head shot.* Depending on type of degree and schools, you may need a DVD, CD, portfolio or headshot.
- *Videotape or record performances.* Ask a friend to videotape or record shows, concerts, contests, dance performances and recitals. Check with show directors regarding copyright regulations.
- *Take college-level classes.* Take a college level class or early college program during the summer between junior and senior year.
- *Plan senior year college visits.* At the end of junior year, look at the senior year school calendar to plan visits, auditions, portfolio presentations, etc. Your application may have more impact if it includes a personal visit to the school.

SENIORS

- *Obtain recommendations.* If you are asking your arts teachers (or others) to write recommendations, make your requests early in the year.
- *Investigate deadlines.* Deadlines for auditions can be as early as October 15th. Check the policies of schools on your list.

- *Schedule auditions/portfolio reviews.* Most auditions take place from January to March. If possible, schedule in-person portfolio presentations. Some schools require applications or acceptance before auditions can be scheduled. Check the policies of schools on your list.
- *Practice.* Schedule extra time to work with teachers and/or private instructors for audition and portfolio preparations.
- *Plan school visits.* The priority should be the schools and programs that interest you most. It might be useful to also visit after acceptance when schools have "accepted student" programs.
- *Communicate with mentors.* Stay in touch with your PHS counselor, arts teachers and parents about your plans, especially if they change.
- *Communicate with schools.* Keep an open dialogue with the schools that continue to interest you.
- *Update materials.* Update your resumé, DVD, CD or portfolio as needed.
- *Complete the Common Application Arts Supplement.* Many schools require the completion of the Arts Supplement to the Common Application. This is where your DVD, CD or portfolio comes in handy. You may decide to submit the Arts Supplement (even if it is optional) in order to provide a more complete profile through Slideroom.com.
- *Apply to safety schools.* Select one or two schools where you are confident of getting in and can picture yourself being happy.
- *Pick a school where you feel comfortable.*