Thank you for your interest in New York City Charter School of the Arts (CSA). The following is a snapshot of CSA that hopefully will answer some of your questions.

CSA’s mission is to inspire a diverse community of young people to engage with the arts as a pathway to rich and rigorous academic scholarship and a creative purposeful life.

At CSA, we focus on three domains of learning: Create, Learn, and Thrive.

The Create domain involves artistic study and the utilization of creativity to engage students in learning. Each grade participates in a Core Arts class; 6th grade studies Piano, 7th grade studies Visual Art, and 8th grade studies Creative Connections.

Students entering CSA start with 6th grade piano, which is largely a beginning piano class taught in a piano lab setting where each student has an individual keyboard and headphone setup. While the bulk of the class are beginners, where appropriate, students with significant experience can work separately from the class. In addition to playing the piano, students learn about all the fundamentals of reading music and music theory concepts. They also listen to various types of music and composers. As the year progresses, students have several opportunities to perform, culminating in a recital at the end of the year where many former 6th grade beginners perform their first piano solo, along with more advanced 7th and 8th graders. In addition, they can go to the NYSSMA festival at NYU and get an evaluation/certificate and medal, or play a piano jury at school which counts as their final exam.

The Learn domain refers to our academic program, spanning Humanities, Math, and Science.

Students have an extended block of Humanities which follows the Great Minds’ Wit and Wisdom curriculum. This award-winning curriculum is thematically connected to both social studies and science, and is strongly enhanced with visual arts and music. In 6th Grade Humanities, students are introduced to the themes of courage and resilience, and the journey into the unknown through the study of The Great Depression, The Hero’s Journey, The Jamestown settlement of 1607, and acts of courage in the face of crisis. In 7th Grade Humanities, students engage in an understanding of identity politics and language, closely studying identity in The Middle Ages, World War II, Post-Revolutionary America, and the impact of language, rhetoric and expression in the Information Age. In preparation for highschool, 8th grade broadens the scope of personal identity and political speech, leading students through a year-long exploration of what it means to be a part of a larger community, either in harmony or conflict with society at large. 8th graders begin by studying storytelling.
across cultures, examines the soldier’s experience in World War I, questions what it means to
experience love, and finally, focuses on the possibilities for teenagers to act as strong agents of
social change.

Math utilizes a problem-based approach to enable students to master complex mathematical
skills. In 6th grade, students learn about ratios and proportions, arithmetic operations, rational
numbers, expressions and equations, area and volume, and basic statistics. In 7th grade,
students learn about proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions
and linear equations, problem-solving with scale drawings, and geometric constructions. We
aim to prepare all students for Regents-level algebra in the 8th Grade where students deepen
their logical thinking and problem-solving skills, expand their understanding of algebra, and
move into functions and geometric applications.

The science program is designed to give students a solid foundation in all of the disciplines and
build through numerous hands-on activities and investigations, a sense of discovery, curiosity,
and fascination with the world. Students in the 6th and 7th grades are introduced to multiple
topics in physics, biology, and geology. By the 8th grade, students prepare for the Living
Environment Regents exam.

Each grade also has at least one ICT class to support our diverse learners, providing additional
support and differentiation in all core subject areas.

The **Thrive** domain regards our social-emotional work with students. In the advisory program,
students engage meaningfully with one another and with teacher guidance grapple with
challenging topics related to health and wellness, adolescent development, anti-bullying, digital
citizenship and social activism.

General Questions and Answers About CSA:
- **Application** – Want to apply? Please go to [https://cityschoolofthearts.schoolmint.net/signin](https://cityschoolofthearts.schoolmint.net/signin)
- **After-School** – Is provided by Manhattan Youth from 4:20pm to 6:15pm from Monday
  through Thursday and 2:20pm to 6:15pm on Fridays. After-school is available for free to all
  CSA students.
- **Application Process** - If you have questions about the application process, please reach out
to the admissions team at Admissions@cityschoolofthearts.org
- **Arts Program** - If you have questions about CSA’s art program, please contact the Artistic
  Director, Geoffrey Kiorpes at geoffrey@cityschoolofthearts.org
- **Authorizer** - CSA’s authorizer is the State University of New York (SUNY).
- **Calendar** – The 2021/2022 school calendar is yet available. Traditionally we start the last
  week of August.
Cell Phone Policy – In order to decrease distractions and assist students to focus on learning, all students turn in their phones to the main office in the mornings and collect them at dismissal.

Chromebooks – There is a Chromebook provided for every student.

CSA’s Family Handbook - [HERE].

Culture - If you have questions regarding student culture at CSA, please contact the Dean of Students, Donald Barnes at Donald@cityschoolofthearts.org

Curriculum - If you have questions about the curriculum, please contact the Head of School and Director of Teaching and Learning, Elisa Murphy at Elisa@cityschoolofthearts.org

Ensemble Classes - In addition to Core Art classes, CSA offers Ensemble classes 3 days a week, (4 for eighth graders who declare an Artistic Major). Students have the option of continuing in a former Ensemble from a previous year, or selecting a new one for their current year. CSA tries to place students in one of their top choices. Ensemble is a year-long commitment. Disciplines include Piano, Vocal, Strings, Music Tech, Journalism, Filmmaking, Visual Art, Creative Writing and Theater. Students participate in smaller in-school showcases/recitals, as well as the full school showcases in December and April at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Eighth Grade Core Arts Class - Creative Connections is for CSA’s 8th Graders. The course integrates artistic and academic learning in cross-curricular projects. The first trimester focuses on the intersection of Visual Art, History, Personal Narrative Writing and Performance with the work of Black Gotham, an arts collective based in Lower Manhattan. Subsequent topics in the second trimester include interdisciplinary connections in music, art, math and the sciences, linking natural forms with fundamental principles of music theory, visual art, and architecture. In the last trimester, students delve into the work of artists who use their creativity to address climate change. The interdisciplinary nature of this class is designed to support students’ development as powerful creative practitioners, thinkers, writers, speakers, and community leaders.

First Day of School - The 2021/2022 school calendar is yet available. Traditionally we start the last week of August.

Food - The school’s food is provided by Regina’s Caterers and includes breakfast and lunch. The school provides vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options and also has a salad bar. There is no charge for meals at CSA. If you have questions about CSA’s meals please contact the Food and Facilities Manager, Marcus Nowell at Marcus@cityschoolofthearts.org

High School Placement - Families are assisted with high school placement and receive coaching for High School auditions and portfolio submission. 73% of CSA’s 8th grade students were accepted by their top 3 High School choices and 42% of the graduating class was accepted to an Arts High School. If you have additional questions about high school placement please contact CSA’s Director of Student and Family Support (Enrollment and High School Placement), Desiree Jones at Desiree@cityschoolofthearts.org

Hours – 8:20am to 4:00pm from Monday through Thursday and 8:20am to 2:20pm on Fridays. The doors open to the school for breakfast at 7:30am.
● **Lockers** – Students are provided with a locker and a lock for their locker.

● **Music Program** - If you have questions about the music program at CSA, please contact the Artistic Director, Geoffrey Kiorpes at Geoffrey@cityschoolofthearts.org

● **Nurse** – The school has a nurse on the premises from 8:15am to 4:30pm from Monday through Thursday and 8:15am to 2:20pm on Friday.

● **Parent Involvement** – CSA has an active Families Association that organizes monthly meetings, a multicultural potluck, a film festival, end of the year picnic and guest speaker events.

● **Security** - The school has a security guard on the premises from 8:00am to 6:15pm, and during all after-school events. In addition, the school has security cameras in all entrances, hallways and classrooms.

● **Seventh Grade Core Visual Art** - In 7th grade Core Visual Art, students discover the language of art known as the elements and principles of art. These fundamental concepts then manifest through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, 2D design and sculpture. Most importantly, CSA’s Core VA class is designed as a portfolio prep class, so that as students matriculate through the grade, they have a substantial high school audition portfolio, should they find they are interested in pursuing the visual arts in a specialized High School. Students create projects according to a rubric aligned with the standardized portfolio review process and complete artistic juries at the end of the 7th Grade year.

● **Shows** – The school has a winter and spring showcase, piano recitals and several smaller showcases throughout the year for each ensemble class. We also have a schoolwide Shakespeare production in the fall and a whole school musical in the spring. CSA averages about one artistic student showcase per month.

● **Space** - CSA has 14 classrooms, a dance studio, a multi-purpose space, an art studio, three breakout spaces, a reading room and a commons/cafeteria space. The space is modern, clean, and full of colorful artwork and natural light.

● **Special Education** - If you have questions about special education and IEPs, please contact the Special Education Coordinator, Laura Neenan at Laura@cityschoolofthearts.org

● **Student Information System (SIS)** – Parents are provided an account to keep track of their children’s grades, attendance and communicate with their teachers.

● **Swipe System** – Students utilize an ID card and swipe in as they arrive at school. Parents are sent a text alert notifying them that their child has arrived.

● **Transportation** – Students are provided with a MetroCard. Busing is provided if a child’s IEP requires transportation. CSA’s students come from all five boroughs and the Families Association helps link up families so they can share the commute as their students are getting used to using the subway. If you have additional transportation questions, please reach out to the Operations Team at CSA_Ops@cityschoolofthearts.org

● **Tutoring** - Afterschool Regents math tutoring is provided once a week, general tutoring is provided twice a week and teachers provide at least one after school tutoring session per week.

● **CSA’s Wellness Policy** - [HERE](#).
● **What if Schools Do Not Open in the Fall** – CSA will continue its robust remote learning plan which includes many live synchronous classes per week in Humanities, Math, Science, Music, Core Art and Ensemble.

● **Uniforms** - consist only of a CSA top that includes a T-shirt, Polo shirt, Oxford shirt, sweatshirt or track jacket. You can purchase uniform shirts on the school's website. CLICK [HERE](#) TO ORDER YOUR CSA UNIFORM SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS!

If you have additional questions about CSA, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [Admissions@cityschoolofthearts.org](mailto:Admissions@cityschoolofthearts.org)

[https://www.instagram.com/cityschoolofthearts/](https://www.instagram.com/cityschoolofthearts/)
[https://www.facebook.com/cityschoolofthearts/](https://www.facebook.com/cityschoolofthearts/)

YouTube CSA Piano channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSB2YeupYXygGu6xLsv8Cg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSB2YeupYXygGu6xLsv8Cg)