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Dear Family,

I am excited to share information about the Lang Arts Scholars program at Exploring the Arts (ETA) with you!

ETA was founded in 1999 by legendary American singer and painter Tony Bennett and his wife Susan Benedetto, a former public school teacher, with a mission to transform the lives of young people through arts education.

Each year we welcome a cohort of 15 students from our New York City network of ETA Partner Schools to participate in free, after-school training in one artistic discipline (instrumental or vocal music, dance, and theatre), coupled with Saturday sessions meeting once a month for college prep and career readiness support. Students apply in 9th grade and if accepted, must make a three-year commitment to the program through 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.

This opportunity is one of a kind in New York City and made possible by generous funding from the Eugene M. Lang Foundation at no cost to your family.

I encourage you to take the time to read through this packet. It contains information about the arts training component, post secondary curriculum, eligibility requirements and more.

Your understanding of the commitments required to be a Lang Arts Scholar is vital for your child’s application and success in this program.

If you have any questions after reviewing this packet, please reach out to me! My E-Mail is dalper@exploringthearts.org.

Sincerely,

Dori Alper
ETA'S LANG ARTS SCHOLARS WILL:

- Make significant technical progress in music, dance, or theatre
- Acquire the skills and support necessary to identify, apply to, and feel prepared to attend college, including conservatories and/or with an art major or minor;
- Gain a broad and deep understanding of career pathways in the arts;
- Develop financial literacy, with a particular focus on college financing; and
- Form trusting, professional relationships with caring adults.

THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOLS THAT ARE PART OF OUR NYC PARTNER SCHOOL NETWORK:

**Bronx**
- Bronx High School for Writing & Communication Arts
- Bronx Studio School for Writers & Artists
- Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music
- Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters
- Urban Assembly School for Applied Math & Science

**Manhattan**
- Chelsea Career & Technical Education High School
- High School of Art & Design
- Lower East Side Preparatory High School
- Lower Manhattan Arts Academy
- Professional Performing Arts School
- Talent Unlimited High School
- Urban Assembly Media High School
- Urban Assembly School of Design & Construction
- Urban Assembly School for the Performing Arts

**Queens**
- Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
- High School for Community Leadership

**Brooklyn**
- Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School
- Brooklyn High School of the Arts
- Brooklyn High School for Law & Technology
- Brooklyn Institute for Liberal Arts
- Gotham Professional Arts Academy
- Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice
- Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice
- Urban Assembly School for Music & Art
- Victory Collegiate High School

**Staten Island**
- Susan E. Wagner High School
- Port Richmond High School
TO APPLY FOR ETA’S LANG ARTS SCHOLARS, A STUDENT MUST BE:

- On track to pass all of their 9th grade classes.

- Passionate about the performing arts and have some level of experience in dance, music (instrumental/vocal) or theater.

- Excited for this special, multiyear opportunity.

- Eager to commit to weekly, after-school arts training throughout the school year in grades 10, 11 and 12.

- Interested in attending Saturday sessions, once each month, for college prep and career readiness support.

- Available for short-term summer programming after grades 10 and 11.

- Otherwise unable to afford to participate in this level of artistic and college prep programming.

- Not already part of another college prep intensive or program.
DOES THIS MEAN MY STUDENT MUST COMMIT TO PURSUING A MAJOR IN COLLEGE OR A CAREER IN THE PERFORMING ARTS?

No, this program is for students with a passion for the arts and the desire to improve their artistic craft, regardless of whether they wish to pursue a career in the performing arts.

This initiative will help your student make those decisions by allowing them to explore different opportunities in college, and career pathways for after high school.
Post-secondary planning refers to preparing for life after high school graduation. Whether students decide to apply for college, conservatory, or go into the workforce, this program will help them make informed choices that fit their educational and personal needs. The college prep and career readiness curriculum will be grade appropriate.

NYC IS OUR CLASSROOM

ETA’s Lang Arts Scholars will gain exposure to New York City’s cultural landscape and artistic industry. Our Saturday curriculum will include viewing music, dance and theater performances; museum visits, conversations with influential professionals in the performing arts; and explorations of career options on and off stage.

HELP APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Our goal is to supplement the services that your student already receives in high school.

Outsourcing these services can be costly. The average price of a college counselor is $200/hour but we are pleased to provide this support for free.

Counselor-to-student ratios in the average high school are more than 250-to-1, but the ratio for ETA’s Lang Arts Scholars will be 15-to-1 for more personalized attention.

ETA has teamed with CATES, an education company, to create a personalized program for Lang Arts Scholars.

ETA and CATES will provide rigorous SAT/ACT test prep and critical writing skills workshops in grades 10, 11 and 12.

ETA will also assist your student:
- Research and create a list of programs/colleges
- Apply to a range of schools
- Understand and apply for financial aid
- Build a resume
- Write their personal statement
- Prepare for auditions
- Participate in a pre-college arts intensive the summer after 10th grade
- Place in a paid office internship in arts administration the summer after 11th grade
- and more!
HOW TO APPLY FOR LANG ARTS SCHOLARS

THERE ARE THREE PARTS TO THE APPLICATION

1 ONLINE APPLICATION

The online application includes:
- Applicant Information
- Family/Guardian Contact Information
- Three Short Answer Questions
- Two Teacher Recommendations

The online application will go live on February 3, 2020. It will be available on our website: https://www.exploringthearts.org/network

If you need a paper application or any assistance with the online application, please contact Dori Alper at dalper@exploringthearts.org

2 IN-PERSON AUDITION

Selected students will be notified of their audition date, time and location via E-Mail. Auditions will take place between March and April, 2020.

This E-Mail will outline all of the information for students and families, but a breakdown of what to expect by discipline can be found in the next few pages.

Students are advised to speak with their art teacher for selecting pieces and help preparing for their audition.

3 IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

On the same day of the audition, students will meet with ETA staff for a brief interview, along with their family/guardian.

Students and families will be asked about their ability to commit to the program, and what they hope to learn as a Lang Arts Scholar. This is also an opportunity to ask questions about the program.

The family/guardian attending will be required to complete a form with basic household financial information prior to the interview.
The School at the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) offers community-based dance and music programming in a fully inclusive and nurturing environment, located in the heart of the Brooklyn Cultural District. The School’s diverse and professional faculty provides progressive instruction and all classes are accompanied by live music.

AUDITION
The audition will be a group class for the School Director and faculty.

It will include:
- Modern dance warm-up
- Across the floor exercises that emphasize musicality
- Improvisation
- Modern dance combination

The MMDG faculty member will guide you through the movements and will be looking for how well you take direction, your ability to learn new movement, and your curiosity about and interpretation of music and movement.

You should wear comfortable dance clothes for the audition. If you do not own dance clothes (ex: leotard and tights), you should not buy clothes for this audition; you may wear any form-fitting workout clothes (ex: tank top and leggings). The audition will be in bare feet; you will not need to wear ballet slippers.
All students will audition for GHMS staff and faculty members.

There will be a room available for warming up.

**Pianists**, prepare:
- One piece of your choice, memorized, if possible.
- Two scales (one major, one minor), one to four octaves with hands together, if possible.

**Brass and Strings Players**, prepare:
- Two scales of your choice, one in a major key and one in a minor key, with as many octaves as you can.
- One short piece or movement of your choice, or exposition of a larger movement (3 minutes or under).
- The audition may include some sight-reading.

**Vocalists**, prepare:
- 16-32 bars from a song of your choice. All vocal styles/genres are welcome. Be prepared to sing the entire song, if requested.
- You can sing the selection “a cappella” or with a provided piano accompanist.
- The audition may include a short sight-reading excerpt.
It is strongly recommended that you come in memorized for the audition. BBK staff will provide guidance and direction, similar to what you will experience in class to see how you respond to feedback and take direction. This is an opportunity to see how you interact with new material and a scene partner. There is no need to prepare anything for this part of the audition.

All students should come prepared with a monologue that is no more than two minutes. A contemporary monologue is preferred, but any monologue, with the exception of Shakespeare, is acceptable.
- It is strongly recommended that you come in memorized for the audition.
- BBK staff will provide guidance and direction, similar to what you will experience in class to see how you respond to feedback and take direction.

BBK staff will also ask you to read a scene, with a professional reader in the room.
- This is an opportunity to see how you interact with new material and a scene partner.
- There is no need to prepare anything for this part of the audition.

There is no dress code for the audition, though comfortable and professional clothing is suggested. No costume is necessary.
A BREAK DOWN OF THE THREE YEAR COMMITMENT:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>September-June</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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| 10th Grade 2020-2021 | Post-Secondary Planning  
- Exposure to New York City's cultural landscape and artistic industry  
- 3 writing intensives through an arts lens  
- Synthesize career planning, education, and personal interests as it relates to their career interests in the arts | Students will spend the summer between 10th and 11th grade on a college campus attending pre-college, arts intensives, allowing for continued training in their craft and an introduction to college life. |
| 11th Grade 2021-2022 | Post-Secondary Planning  
- Exposure to New York City's cultural landscape and artistic industry  
- SAT/ACT prep (2 mock exams in addition to five 3-hour sessions) | Students will spend the summer between 11th and 12th grade in a paid, office internship in arts administration. |
| 12th Grade 2022-2023 | Post-Secondary Planning  
- Exposure to New York City's cultural landscape and artistic industry  
- 3 writing intensives through an arts lens  
- Individualized college counseling |  |

This program is made possible by a generous gift from the Eugene M. Lang Foundation in celebration of the life of its founder, Eugene M. Lang. Mr. Lang was a pioneering businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist who deeply loved the arts and believed that education is the key to solving society’s most difficult challenges.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

ETA's Lang Arts Scholars program serves talented, college-bound youth from our NYC Partner School network who are interested in the performing arts and otherwise unable to afford to participate in this level of artistic and college prep programming. This is the reason we request information on household income, which will be kept confidential. We will ask for this information on a parent/guardian form, which we will send to you if your student is selected to audition and interview.

ETA requires every student and parent/guardian who participate in an audition and interview to fully complete this form. A student will not be able to audition or interview for the Lang Arts Scholars program without being accompanied by a family member or guardian.

By signing below, you grant your child permission to apply to ETA's Lang Arts Scholars program, and participate if selected.

This form must be returned to Dori Alper at dalper@exploringthearts.org after your student submits his or her application. You may scan/email the form, or take a picture and email it from a smart phone.

Without this signed form, your student's application will not be complete and will not be considered.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: ____________________________

STUDENT NAME: _______________________________________

DATE: ______________________________________________