WEST BOCA RATON
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Performing Arts

Visit our Prospective Student Open House
Visit the Campus!
Meet the Instructors!
Speak with Current Students!
As Questions about the Application and Audition Process
No Reservations Required

Tuesday, November 19th
6 PM – 8PM
Starts in the Theater

Ed Capitano, Principal
Jennifer Napuli
Phone: (561) 672-2932
Academy Coordinator
jennifer.napuli@palmbeachschools.org

AUDITIONS NOW REQUIRED
2020-2021

Dance
Music: Band
Music: Vocal Theatre

12811 Glades Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498

Apply today online at www.mypbchoiceapp.com
Performing Arts Deadline is December 13th, 2019
About our Performing Arts Academy

When West Boca High opened in 2004, the performing arts program was born. At its inception, the performing arts program consisted of band, chorus and theater. Over the past sixteen years, all three programs have experienced unprecedented growth and have become both nationally and internationally recognized. Each department has received countless accolades throughout the years including:

- All three departments have received hundreds of superior ratings at state festivals.
- Our students have performed at Carnegie Hall, in London’s New Year’s Day Parade and on the main stage at the State Thespian Festival.
- Numerous alumni are now working in the processional industry as composers, musicians, actors, sound technicians and/or traveling the world on national and international tours.

The Palm Beach County School District recognized the strength and success of our program by establishing us as a Performing Arts Academy in 2015. In 2019, the academy grew once more by adding a dance program under the tutelage of an accomplished ballerina. This next school year, the program will be evolving once more. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, in order to strengthen the core of our academy, the Performing Arts Academy will be requiring auditions for entry and placement. The purpose of this book is to give guidelines and expectations as to what to expect at those auditions for all prospective students and families.

Requirements for Admission for School Year 2020-2021

**Qualifying Scores**

Scores are averaged from three adjudicators and range from 1 to 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>4.25 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>4.50 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Grade</td>
<td>4.75 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Grade</td>
<td>4.90 or higher</td>
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- You must be a resident of Palm Beach County at the time of application and be entering 9th or 10th grade. We accept 11th and 12th graders, however, eligibility requirements are more competitive.
- You must participate in an audition process and earn a qualifying score. This process varies based on the strand preference for performing arts (vocal, band, dance, or musical theater). The qualifying scores listed below may need to be adjusted by art area depending on the number of available seats and score distribution of strand area applicants. If such an adjustment occurs, qualifying scores will not increase.
- Applicants who qualify in the audition process must also have a 2.0 grade point average at the time of assignment. Students who do not meet the grade point criteria will not be accepted. Private school students will be required to submit an updated transcript at the time of the audition.

**Theatre Audition Guidelines**

**Attire:** Applicants should dress comfortably and tastefully in clothing that does not inhibit or restrict free movement. Clothing should completely cover the thighs, mid-section, back and chest when moving. Shoes should allow for safe, grounded and comfortable movement. No hanging jewelry. Do not wear a costume!

**Acting Track:** Note: performance audition material must be memorized, be suitable to the applicant’s age, gender-identification and experience and should demonstrate range, versatility and truthfulness as a performer.

1. Applicant will verbally present two (2) contrasting monologues from published plays written in the last 100 years, neither should be longer than 45 seconds in length AND participate in a series of Physical Improvisation Exercises led by a member of the West Boca Acting Faculty.

   - **Evaluation of the monologue will be based on:**
     - Energy & emotional investment
     - Focus, concentration & control
     - Clarity of storytelling (sense of imagination, discovery, communicating the meaning of the words)
     - Specific & appropriate character choices (physical gesture, style of piece)
     - Honest & truthful behavior in performance
     - Vocal quality (volume, diction, breath support, inflection)

   - **Evaluation of the physical improvisation exercises will be based on:**
     - Ability to make clear, bod, specific physical choices that demonstrate freedom of movement, the ability to follow impulse and the willingness to take risks.

2. Applicant will be **challenged to a redirect** (perform in a different way with specific direction) on one of the prepared monologues.

   - **Evaluation of the redirect will be based on:**
     - Willingness to take direction & ability to follow instructions
     - Success implementing the requested direction

**Musical Theatre Track**

1. Applicant will present two (2) contrasting 16-bar cuts from musical theatre songs (legit & contemporary) AND a dance combination taught by musical theatre faculty in the audition room. Please bring a track of your accompaniment on CD or downloaded directly on a device (No Internet Streaming).

   - **Evaluation of the songs will be based on:**
     - Energy & emotional investment
     - Focus, concentration, control
     - Clarity of storytelling (sense of imagination, discovery, communicating the meaning of the words)
     - Specific & appropriate character choices (physical gesture, style of piece)
     - Honest & truthful behavior in performance
     - Vocal quality (pitch, intonation, rhythm, volume, diction, breath support)

   - **Evaluation of the dance combination will be based on:**
     - Retention (Learning movement quickly with little or no repetition of instruction) and execution (demonstrating coordination, dance technique and rhythmic accuracy of movement)

2. Applicant will be **challenged to a redirect** (perform in a different way with specific direction) on one of the prepared songs.

   - **Evaluation of the redirect will be based on:**
     - Willingness to take direction & ability to follow instructions
     - Success implementing the requested direction
Music-Vocal Audition Guidelines

1. Applicant will perform a prepared solo* chosen from standard music literature available through any middle or high school music department. The solo repertoire should showcase the student’s technical ability and well-produced tone at the highest level with which the applicant is comfortable. Selection must be memorized. A pre-recorded accompaniment CD is expected; no live accompaniment will be allowed.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   • tone quality
   • technique (posture, breath management, legato style)
   • pitch and rhythmic accuracy
   • intonation
   • diction (pure vowels, clear consonants, authentic diction)
   • expressiveness (dynamics, phrasing, tempo)
   • musical effect (6 elements: artistry, stage presence, appearance, emotion, memorization, choice of literature)

2. Applicant will sing a familiar song (e.g. “Happy Birthday.”) Applicant will also sing tones back from chords played on the piano.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   • aural memory (accuracy of pitch, range accessibility)

3. Applicant will sing back a series of notes from short melodies played on the piano. Five examples of progressive difficulty will be given.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   • aural memory, accuracy and intonation

4. Applicant will sight-read several measures after 20-30 seconds of visual study.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   • accurate performance of each measure

5. Applicant will participate in an interview.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   • motivation and communication skills demonstrated through participation in musical events, musical achievements, eagerness to learn and try new concepts, ability to communicate in an articulate manner with poise

*NOTE REGARDING SOLO SELECTION
Applicants may choose any song they wish for their solo. However, recommended selections appear in: 

General Outline of the Process for Admission to our Performing Arts

1. Fill out the application online with the Palm Beach County School District’s Department of Choice and Career Options prior to December 13th. www.pbchoiceapp.com

2. If the student has an IEP or 504 plan, please mail it or email it to the West Boca High School Academy Coordinator, Jennifer Napuli, immediately following submission of the application and no later than January 10th.

3. Each applicant is invited and encouraged to audition in his/her native language. Notify the West Boca High School Academy Coordinator, Jennifer Napuli, by January 20th, 2020 should an applicant choose to take advantage of this opportunity.

4. Approved applicants will be notified via email of the audition procedures and/or time and date of the student’s audition. Only students who have a verified application on file with the Department of Choice and Career Options will be assigned an audition. If audition notification is not received by January 10, 2020, please contact the West Boca High Academy Coordinator.

5. Auditions will begin the week of January 27th and will continue into mid-February depending on demand. Applicants must audition on the date they are assigned. Student’s audition dates can only be rescheduled in the case of a documented family emergency or if the assigned date conflicts with a day of religious observance. West Boca defines family emergency as the death of an immediate family member of the student. If a student becomes ill on the date of their schedule audition, he/she must provide the school proof of illness from that date from a doctor within (before or after) three (3) business days of the student’s scheduled audition. Once West Boca has verified the proof of illness, the student will be rescheduled only if there are more audition dates available. Students who have not auditioned before the scheduled lottery will not be eligible for the initial lottery selection process.

6. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early to accommodate the check-in process. Please do not arrive before 3:00 pm. The audition process will require that applicants be present and ready to perform at any point during the four hour audition time block. Remember to bring anything needed for the audition (note cards, instrument, music, etc.)

7. West Boca High will total and average each audition and enter those names who passed the audition into the lottery system. The Palm Beach County School District Department of Choice and Career Options will roll the random computer lottery to determine who receives seats in the academy. Families should expect to receive the lottery results in March 2020.

**A Note Regarding Appeals: West Boca High does not grant appeals. Appeals may be requested through the Director of Choice and Career Options by filing a Request for Appeal (Form 2418).**
Dance Audition Guidelines

Attire:

Female Applicants: Black leotard, pink convertible tights, pink ballet shoes with their hair neatly secured in a bun.

Male Applicants: Black convertible tights, solid white form fitting shirt, white socks and white ballet shoes.

1. Applicant will participate in a dance class that will consist of ballet and modern

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - Technical Execution: Body Alignment, Clarity of Movement, Strength, Stamina, Endurance and Flexibility
   - Coordination / Movement: Moving two or more body parts simultaneously in a cohesive manner
   - Artistic Ability: Performance quality, facial expression, dynamics, effective movement quality and projection
   - Retention Skills: Ability to learn combinations quickly and execute them accurately

2. Applicant will need to perform a prepared ballet, modern, contemporary or jazz solo no longer than one (1) minute in length. Female ballet solos may be on pointe but it is not required. Applicant will bring his/her music on a compact disc or media player (iPod) cued to the beginning of the selection. If applicant chooses to use an iPod/iPhone, please place the device on 'Do Not Disturb' and disable auto-lock. No costumes, accessories or props are permitted.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - Overall technique: Use of dance vocabulary, clarity of movement, proficient technical execution and musicality
   - Overall artistic ability: Performance quality, dynamics and projection

3. Applicant will be interviewed by the dance department faculty prior to their solo. Interview questions will be limited to 1 - 3 questions per dancer.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - current involvement in dance
   - ability to communicate ideas and goals
   - potential for professional success

Music-Band Audition Guidelines

1. Applicant will perform a prepared solo chosen from the state music list of standard music literature. Go to www.fimsud.org/fba/ann/Music-List/Solo-Ensemble for a listing. The chosen solo piece should showcase the student's technical ability at the highest level with which the applicant is comfortable. We recommend a level four solo or higher.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - pitch accuracy (discrimination and partials)
   - rhythmic accuracy (timing, tempos, actual written rhythm)
   - tone quality (characteristic for instrument)
   - technique (breath control, fluency, fingering, entrances, releases, tempos, articulation)
   - expressiveness (dynamics, phrasing, tempo, shaping)
   - musical effect (artistry, stage presence, appearance, emotion)

2. Applicant will prepare six (6) major scales in the keys of: C, F, B♭, E♭, A♭, and D♭. The judges will ask the student to perform 3 of the 6, selected at random. PLEASE NOTE: TRANSPOSITION IS NOT NECESSARY!

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - accurate performance of each scale asked to perform

3. Applicant will sight-read several measures after 30 seconds of visual study.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - accurate performance of each measure

4. Applicant will sing a familiar song (e.g. "Happy Birthday.")

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - Accuracy (pitch, rhythm and timing)

5. Applicant will sing a series of notes played on the piano in real time.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - Aural memory and intonation

6. Applicant will participate in an interview.

   Evaluation will be based on:
   - Demonstrated motivation through description of practice habits, lessons, festival participation, awards, eagerness to learn and try new concepts.

Note: West Boca does NOT offer a guitar program nor do we offer a drum set program. However, students who play legitimate percussion are encouraged to apply. Percussionists are expected to perform and sight-read on SNARE DRUM and MALETES. No Timpani is required.

After fulfilling the requirements for the Percussion audition, students may elect to demonstrate Drum Set skills.

Drum Set:
Prepare the following styles in 32 bar form
- Straight Ahead Swing at quarter note= 100-160 bpm
- Latin Style (samba, bossa, etc.) at quarter note= 100-140 bpm
- Funk/Rock at quarter note =100 bpm

Drum Set will be provided. Bring your own sticks.