



*John F. Kennedy Center Creative Ticket
National School of Distinction Award Recipient for
Outstanding Achievement in Arts Education*

HAVE A QUESTION

What are the requirements to enter the Palmetto Center for the Arts?

Students must be rising freshmen in Richland School District Two and complete an application process that includes acceptance to a specific arts area by audition.

Where is the school located?

Palmetto Center for the Arts (PCA) is the District's only fine arts magnet, and it is housed at Richland Northeast High School, located in Richland School District Two at 7500 Brookfield Road, Columbia, SC 29223.

Is transportation provided?

No, transportation is not provided unless the student lives in the area zoned to Richland Northeast. Students living outside the Richland Northeast zone must provide their own transportation.

For what art areas may students audition?

Students may audition for dance, music (vocal, band, and strings), theatre and visual arts.

What does the audition process involve?

Audition requirements are based on state guidelines for each arts discipline, and require completion of an application and an audition that includes a performance or portfolio demonstration of the student's potential, as well as recommendations from a teacher and a guidance counselor. Auditions will be adjudicated by a panel of professionals. The decision of the judges is final. Natural talent, prior training, level of interest in and commitment to the arts are evaluated. Previous training or experience is not required to be accepted.

When and where will the auditions be held?

All PCA Auditions will be held at Richland Northeast High School. Students will be assigned a specific audition time upon receipt of their application. The audition schedule is as follows:

Friday, February 10 – PCA Dance, Saturday, February 11 – Band, Theatre, Visual Arts and Vocal auditions will be held. PCA String auditions will be held after school, Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

Are students permitted to audition for more than one art area?

Yes, students may audition for as many as three art areas, but can be accepted into only one. Students auditioning for multiple art areas must indicate their preference on the application by ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd) their choice of art areas.

What is required of students accepted into the arts magnet?

Students accepted into the arts magnet must earn a minimum of 6 arts credits in their major arts area. They must also complete a senior project and an extended-hours requirement to be determined by instructors in each arts discipline. PCA students who complete all requirements of the arts magnet will receive a fine arts certification with their diploma upon graduation.

Can students maintain a full academic schedule while studying the arts?

Yes. As a fully accredited, twice-named Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Richland Northeast offers a rigorous and challenging academic program of studies which includes honors-level and 25 Advanced Placement courses, as well as a college preparatory curriculum. **In addition, all PCA students will automatically have the extraordinary benefit of being enrolled in the prestigious and world-renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) programme through the upper level arts courses. All PCA students will complete an IB level arts course, for which they will receive an IB Arts Certificate upon successful completion. PCA students will also have the opportunity to pursue the IB Diploma.**

Richland Northeast has received significant recognition for its accomplishments. In 2005 RNE was named a Creative Ticket National School of Distinction by the John F. Kennedy Center, one of five schools in the nation to receive this honor. *Newsweek* Magazine has recognized Richland Northeast for the seventh consecutive year as one of the top 1,000 high schools in America. Richland Northeast was also selected by *Redbook* Magazine as the winner of "America's Best School" for Innovative Programming. Richland Northeast, named a Palmetto Gold School, was also selected as a National School of Promise. The total SAT scores for students exceed the district, state and national average by demographic subgroups. Many colleges and universities across the nation look to our school for potential students.

There is also mounting evidence that the arts benefit student achievement on standardized tests. According to the *College Board, Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*, "Students of the arts continue to out perform their non-arts peers on the Scholastic Achievement Test. The scores for students who studied the arts more than four years were 59 points higher on the verbal and 44 points higher on the math portion than students with no course work or experience in the arts."

Can students in another RNE magnet participate in the arts magnet?

Yes. Richland Northeast High School offers dual magnet participation. Students in Horizon, iLink or Convergence Media may also participate in PCA. Students wishing to participate in two magnets at RNE, however, must audition for the arts and academic magnets as rising freshmen.

How can I become a candidate for the Palmetto Center for the Arts?

Admission is by application and audition. Interested students are asked to apply for the Palmetto Center for the Arts online at www.richland2.org. Online applications will be accepted from January 3 through January 27, 2012. A link to PCA audition requirements is available on the application site. **Be sure to check the audition requirements of each art area for which you wish to audition.**

Audition requirements are also listed on the PCA website at www.palmettocenterforthearts.org. **For more information, please attend one of our Magnet Orientations to be held on January 19th and 24th at Richland Northeast High School in the Richland Two District Auditorium at 6:30 pm.** You may also call Donna Wilson, Director of the Palmetto Center for the Arts, at 699-2800 ext. 79833, or e-mail her at dowilson@richland2.org.