



## Frequently Asked Questions about ASA

### How do I submit an application to ASA?

- You will find our application on our website ([goasa.org](http://goasa.org)) under the ADMISSIONS tab on the homepage.
- Applications submitted online between December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup> will receive a lottery number.
- Applications submitted on or after January 19<sup>th</sup> will automatically be placed on our waitlist. All lottery applications are processed first.

### What prevents a student from being accepted?

- ASA uses the lottery process to admit students.
- Students must have successfully completed their prior academic coursework to enroll in the next grade level at ASA.
  - No Ds (or equivalent)
  - No Fs (or equivalent)
  - High school students:
    - Need to have completed 1 full year of college prep English, math, science, social studies, and either Spanish or French
    - Earn C- or higher in all classes (semester/ year end grades)

### What are the skill assessments and are they required?

- Yes, skill assessments are required to complete the application process.
- All grades take a math skill assessment.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade also takes the reading and writing skill assessments.

### Can I take a tour of ASA?

- Yes, we have tours available the week of December 5-9 at both 8:15am and 9:15am. If you would like to attend one of these tours, please RSVP to [mrusticus@goasa.org](mailto:mrusticus@goasa.org) with the date and time you would like to attend.
- We also have 2 Parent Informational Evenings which will include tours of the ASA campus. These evenings are December 8 and January 12 from 5:30-7:00pm. There is no need to RSVP for these evenings.

### **What if my child didn't take any standardized tests?**

- If your student did not take any standardized tests the past 2 academic years, you will simply indicate this on the online application. Make sure to check the appropriate box when prompted for information about private school/home school/illness/ etc.
- If you don't have AIMS/ Stanford 10 results to submit, but have ITBS or other testing, please submit the test information you have.

### **What is the tuition at ASA?**

- ASA does not charge tuition.
- Funding for the academic programs is provided by the state. However, the school relies solely on the generosity of individual donors, the business community, and foundations to fund the conservatory arts program of ASA.
- The school must raise more than \$1 million each year – approximately \$1,800 per student – to offer its nationally recognized and comprehensive performing arts program.

### **How are students selected for enrollment each year?**

- ASA selects students through a lottery system; ASA does not select applicants on first-come, first-served basis.
- Siblings of current ASA students, siblings of ASA graduates, and children of ASA Board members receive priority for openings that are available.
- At the board meeting, each applicant family receives one lottery number. All grade level applications are then re-ordered in numerical order according to those lottery numbers. This list then becomes the working list of applications.
- Lottery numbers for all applicants that applied by the January 18<sup>th</sup> deadline will be drawn at the board meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. No lottery information is shared at this meeting.

### **How and when do I find out my lottery number?**

- The process: Lottery numbers are used to create a numerical order of all applications. Openings in each grade level are offered to applicants starting at the lowest lottery number for the grade level. For example, if there are 25 openings for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the lowest 25 lottery numbers on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade list receive those spots. The 26<sup>th</sup> applicant on that list then becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> applicant on the waitlist.
- Once the initial openings are filled (end of February for 5<sup>th</sup> grade/ end of March for all other grades), all other applicants are put on the waitlist and remain there in lottery number order through 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
- Applicants who do not receive an opening in the first wave of admissions can contact Missy Rusticus at [mrusticus@goasa.org](mailto:mrusticus@goasa.org) after April 1<sup>st</sup> to find out their position on the waitlist.

### **Can my student be a beginner in the arts?**

- Students entering ASA in 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade can be beginners in music (choral arts and instrument).
- Students entering in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade can be beginners in ballet.
- Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade will start the theatre arts sequence of classes. Due to class limits, they will only receive one theatre arts class.
- HS piano program is for experienced pianists only. Audition is required.
- Students are placed in arts classes by skill level, not by grade.

**What paperwork do I need to submit on the assessment dates (January 7 or January 21)?**

- Current 2011-2012 report card
  - ASA accepts grades of C- or higher for credit
- Final report card for 2010-2011 school year
- Standardized testing results from 2010-2011 and 2009-2010 school years
- Deadline for all paperwork: Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

**What are ASA's school hours?**

- School hours are 7:45am-2:55pm for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- School hours are 7:45 am-3:00pm for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders except for those taking a 9<sup>th</sup> period class. These students are dismissed at 4:00pm.
- Students are not allowed on campus before 7:15am.
- Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of their dismissal time.

**Does ASA have before and after school care?**

- ASA doesn't offer any before school care.
- Yes, we have after school programs for grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> that run from 3:00-4:00pm every day except on early release days.
- There is a monthly fee for these programs.
- After school programs include homework hour, practice hour, theatre arts programs, music programs, and a visual arts program.

**What classes will my student will take?**

- Students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Academic classes: English, math, social studies, science, and life skills
  - All students take choral arts and piano
  - Choose: instrument or ballet
  - Daily schedule: 2 academic classes/ 1st arts class/ lunch/ 2nd arts class/ 2 academic classes
- Students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Academic classes: English, math, social studies, science, and French or Spanish (4 consecutive years)
  - Arts classes: depend on major/ minimum of 2 arts classes
  - Daily schedule: 4 academic classes/ lunch/ 2-3 arts classes

**Why would my student take a 9<sup>th</sup> period class?**

- Some of our arts classes are only offered 9<sup>th</sup> period.
- We have many after school programs that run from 3:00-4:00pm daily, except on early release days. There is a monthly fee for these classes.
- Some children are required to take after school math or English tutoring

**Does ASA provide transportation?**

- No, you are responsible for getting your child to and from school.
- We can provide a carpool list for you to set up a car pool with other families that live near you.
- We also have many students that use the light rail and city bus system to get to school.

**When will I know if there is an opening for my student at ASA?**

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade families will receive email notification about openings between February 15 and March 2.
- All other grades will receive email notification by March 15, 2012.

**Do I need to submit a portfolio or résumé for my child?**

- No, ASA does not consider portfolios or résumés for admissions.

**Does ASA have a cafeteria?**

- No, ASA does not have a cafeteria.
- ASA is a closed campus for 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders.
- ASA seniors are allowed to walk off campus for lunch.
- ASA Parent Committee offers a different lunch option each day (price range \$2-\$5).
- Ralph's mobile food truck comes each day to ASA.

**Are there theatre arts classes available for middle school students?**

- We offer after school classes for grades 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>. (Monthly fees required- approximately \$75)

**Does ASA provide instruments?**

- Instruments are rented by individual students through suggested vendors.
- ASA only provides the following music instruments for use at school: string bass, certain oversized percussion instruments, and tuba.
- Students bring their instruments to school daily and take them home for nightly practice.
- Rooms in which instruments are stored are locked or supervised during academic periods.

**Does ASA offer any other dance besides ballet?**

- Students attend ballet classes three to four days a week. Once a week, students will spend a semester concentration in one of the other dance areas: jazz, modern, or flamenco.

### **What instruments can students play at ASA?**

- Band: Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, brass instruments, orchestral percussion
- Strings: violin, viola, cello & string bass
- Guitar: classical only (nylon string)
- Piano: all 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive this class. HS students can audition into the program.

### **How is ASA accredited?**

- ASA has full accreditation through AdvancEd Accreditation Program.

### **Does ASA offer AP courses?**

- ASA currently offers AP Statistics for seniors.
- There are plans to offer juniors the opportunity to take AP History and AP English in the future.

### **Does ASA have Honors classes?**

- All seniors and juniors are eligible to earn honors credit in each of their academic courses.
- Juniors and seniors are able to eligible to earn honors credit in the highest levels of each performing arts area.
- Honors credit is earned by meeting the criteria established by the specific content teacher.
- Students earning honors credit in a class receive an additional 1.0 to their class grade. For example, a student earning an honors A would earn a 5.0 instead of a 4.0 in that particular class.

### **Are there expenses for my student to attend ASA?**

- Student fee
- Instrument rental
- Concert performance clothing
- Tutoring -if needed
- Piano Theory books for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and students enrolled in HS piano
- Showcase ballet costume for ballet students

### **How should I assess whether my student is ready for the rigor and quick pace of ASA?**

- Students with demonstrated grade level skill proficiency and an openness to being challenged transition well into ASA.
- Students who engage in learning through dialogue, discussion, self-advocacy, and discipline also adapt easily to the learning environment at ASA.

### **What type of student is usually successful at ASA?**

- One who thinks deeply and asks questions
- One who enjoys school and craves learning
- One who strives for excellence and is willing to persevere to work through difficult problems

**How is my student placed in arts classes?**

- Students select their choices when they apply online.
- Students are placed in arts classes according to skill level, rather than grade level.
- New students take a placement audition (see skill assessment dates for details).