Digital Instrument Music

Digital Instrument Music prepares students for a broad range of professional activities in the music world. Students use their musicianship to enhance and complement their understanding of music theory, instrumental technique and music production in order to compose, perform, and produce their own music and the music of others. Students explore analog and digital technologies to apply those technologies to recording, composition, and performance as an individual musician and in ensembles. An assessment on a primary instrument is required. Students may assess on any band, orchestral or popular instrument.

BCPS Magnet Transportation Information: G.W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology (Central Area) Transportation is provided at community pick-up points for students from all areas of Baltimore County Public Schools.

Magnet Showcase Event: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 5-7 p.m.

2019-2020 Assessment Guidelines

Magnet Coordinator: Lori Turner lturner2@bcps.org
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Assessment Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018  8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Assessments by appointment only

Individual assessment appointments must be scheduled no later than Wednesday, November 21, 2018. Schedule your appointment online at the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site (www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) or call BCPS Magnet Programs at 443-809-4127 (NOT BOTH).

Unforeseen Illness or Emergency: Parent(s) must inform the school immediately if the applicant cannot attend or complete the scheduled assessment due to an unforeseen illness or emergency. Please be aware that assessments will not be rescheduled without documentation verifying the illness or emergency.

Inclement Weather Date: Saturday, December 15, 2018, at the previously scheduled appointment time

Inclement Weather: In the event that school activities are cancelled due to inclement weather, magnet assessments will be postponed. Postponed assessments will occur on the designated inclement weather date. All emergency closing and cancellation information will be posted on the BCPS automated information line, 443-809-5555. Closings and cancellation announcements may also be made through local media.

Pre-Assessment Workshop: Monday, November 5, 2018 from 6 – 8pm

The Digital Instrument Music workshop will give students an opportunity to experience a few of the many skills that the program offers. In addition, expectations for the assessment will be discussed. The workshop is optional and participation in the workshop is not considered during the application, assessment or decision process. Students MUST register to attend the workshop. It is recommended that you sign up for the workshop during the Magnet Showcase Event, but if you are unable to attend the Magnet Showcase Event, you may register until October 26, 2018 by e-mailing Chris Bassett (cbassett@bcps.org).

Directions to Carver Center:
From West:
• Take I-695 N exit 26A toward Towson/York Rd
• Turn left at West Rd (signs for Towson/York Rd)
• Take the 1st right onto York Rd
• Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave.

From East:
• Take I-695 W exit 26 toward Towson
• Turn left at MD-45/York Rd
• Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave.
On the Day of the Assessment

Demonstration of Interest

This MUST be completed prior to coming to the assessment.

Prior to the assessment for Digital/Instrumental Music, applicants must prepare and complete the following two Musical Selections:

a. **Original Composition** (45-second duration): An original musical composition written by the student prior to the assessment date. The composition may be a solo work for the student’s primary instrument (and performed at the assessment) or a digital recording (on USB Drive) of a work composed in any music/audio software or app. See “Assessment Description” for details.

b. **Prepared Performance Excerpt** (45-second duration): The student should prepare any published excerpt of music for the candidate’s primary instrument. The candidate should choose an unaccompanied excerpt of a style and difficulty level which best demonstrates the candidate’s strengths as a performer and musician. See “Assessment Description” for details.

**The assessment takes approximately 2 hours**

*Assessments by Appointment ONLY*

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to:

- ensure that the applicant attends the assessment on the scheduled date and time.
- contact the schools if scheduled magnet assessment appointments conflict.

*Failure to attend an assessment WILL result in disqualification.*
Individual assessment appointments must be scheduled no later than November 21, 2018. Schedule your appointment online at the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site (www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) or call BCPS Magnet Programs at 443-809-4127 (NOT BOTH).

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time. Students will register for the assessment in the Dining Hall. Students who are more than 10 minutes late may not be admitted into the assessment. On average, the entire assessment takes approximately two hours. Due to personnel and time constraints, assessments may not be rescheduled. Due to the high volume of applicants, there will be no seating available in the school for parents/guardians. Parents are asked to drop off their students and return at the conclusion of the assessment.

If the applicant cannot attend or complete the scheduled assessment due to an unforeseen illness or emergency, please contact George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology at (443) 809-2793. Please be aware that assessments will not be rescheduled without documentation verifying the illness or emergency.

Required Materials
Candidates must bring the following to the assessment:

1. Musical Instrument (except piano, drum set, and amplifier for guitar/bass, which will be provided)
2. Two Musical Selections:
   a. ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (see Assessment Description below):
      • 2 copies of sheet music OR
      • A USB drive with MP3, WAV, or AIFF file recording of original composition. The USB drive will be returned to you immediately following the assessment.
   b. PREPARED MUSICAL SELECTION: 2 copies of the sheet music

Candidates must provide their own instrument and their own sheet music. The judges will evaluate students on the basis of musical accuracy and expression, technique, tone quality and the potential for further creative development.

Dress Requirements
Appropriate concert dress for young women is dark slacks/skirts that come to the knee and dress shoes. Young men should wear dress pants and a tie.
Assessment Description

1. **Two Musical Selections (50 Points):** Candidates will prepare **BOTH** a & b as described below:
   a. **Perform OR provide a recording of an ORIGINAL COMPOSITION composed by the candidate.** The work should be 45 seconds in duration (which may be a 45 second excerpt from a longer work). You may demonstrate your original composition in *either* of these formats:
      - **OPTION 1:** Perform your original composition on your primary instrument (or a secondary instrument if desired). Your original work may be in any style. The music should be clearly notated in a way that is appropriate for the composition’s instrument and style. Music may be handwritten or computer-notated. *IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION, provide two copies of the sheet music.*
      - **OPTION 2:** Provide a recording of an original work you have composed electronically using any music technology software/app. Your original work may be in any style and for any number of instruments, traditional or electronic. You may use loops, but a substantial portion must be your own original material. *IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION, bring a USB flash drive with a recording of your work saved in MP3, WAV, or AIFF format.* (See your software manual’s instructions for “export audio” or “mixdown” functions). It is recommended that you bring a backup copy in a different format (e.g. on CD, or on the device you used to compose the work).
   b. **Perform a PREPARED MUSICAL SELECTION EXCERPT from a published work for your primary instrument.** Choose a 45-second excerpt which demonstrates your highest level of instrumental technique and musicianship. This performance must be unaccompanied. Provide two copies of the sheet music. If you are performing an excerpt from a longer work, mark your start/end points clearly on both copies.

2. **Rhythmic/Tonal Memory (15 points):** Candidates will hear a simple melody and sing it back from memory. Singing experience is not required and vocal quality/technique will not be assessed. Candidates will be assessed solely on their ability to match and recall pitch and rhythm.

3. **Sight reading (10 Points):** Candidates will sight-read a short excerpt on their primary instrument.

4. **Theory (5 Points):** Candidates will take a short written test to determine their basic knowledge of reading music.

5. **Interview (10 Points):** Candidates will write answers to several questions regarding their interests and experiences in music.

6. **Essay/On-site written response (10 Points):** Candidates will write a brief response to a question posed immediately prior to the assessment.

Documented testing accommodations, as appropriate to the assessment, will be provided.
Applications are available on the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site (www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) beginning at 12:00 noon on Monday, September 17, 2018. Applications must be submitted on or before Friday, November 16, 2018. Late applications are not processed.

You are encouraged to apply online on the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site (www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) or submit a paper application.

- **Online applications** may be submitted until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2018. To apply online, you will need an active email account.
- **Paper applications** must be postmarked on or before Friday, November 16, 2018.