

Boys In The Arts Scholarship 2017-2018 Program Information

About the Scholarship

This scholarship is being offered to boys between the ages of 12 -16 who have a passion for the performing arts and who are interested in making a commitment to the training in related fields of acting, singing and movement. Selected individuals will be provided classes on partial or full scholarship for 2 semesters at the Eastern Virginia School for the Performing Arts located at the Village Shops at Kingsmill, near Busch Gardens Rte. 60.

The Process

All boys who wish to be considered for a scholarship must first fill out the application by the deadline of June 15, 2017 with the required essay. Then all applications will be reviewed.

All eligible applicants will be scheduled for an appointment during the week of August 1 - 4 to meet with directors and for an audition and evaluation. **(Parent(s) must accompany students.)**

Boys choosing Musical Theater must prepare a musical theater song and forward a copy of the sheet music prior to your interview (no a cappella singing). Boys must also prepare a short monologue which must be memorized and must be age appropriate.

Boys selecting classical ballet program will be evaluated on gross and fine motor skills and attributes needed for dance.

EVSPA Directors will make recommendations and submit them to the CAPA Fund selection panel for final review and will be notified prior to 8/15/2017

Expectations and Requirements

Classical Ballet Requires: General ballet class(es) for specific levels, boys technique, contemporary, modern, Pilates, and choreography class.

Musical Theater Program Requires: Acting class, musical theater/choreography class, jazz and tap technique class and voice class (group or private).

Boys who are accepted as scholarship recipients are expected to:

- Choose either the Classical Ballet Program or the Musical Theater Program. (Remember the program requires several classes and will require several days a week. Classes range from 1hr to 2 hours in duration.)
- **Students must attend weekly classes** (more than 2 missed classes per quarter may place a student on probation and/or dismissal from the program)
- Parents will be charge for all and any missed classes (even due to illness) at the single class rate listed on EVSPA's tuition schedule.
- **Boys must participate in quarterly performances** called "**Spotlight**" which are done out in the community. Some are at senior living facilities or the Williamsburg Public Library and are open to the public. These performances are held to a certain standard and all students involved must work to reach the expectations set by the director.
- **Boys must be available** for performance dress rehearsal which is held on a Friday evening and for the performance which follows on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.
- **Scholarship recipients must be available** for the final performance in June 2018.
- **If requested, boys must be willing to participate in the Nutcracker production at the Ferguson Center for the Arts or CAPA Fund's musical Spring Musical scheduled for the first or second week in March 2018.**
- **All boys must be willing** to share in the responsibilities of helping studio directors with chores such as sweeping floors, cleaning mirrors, emptying garbage etc...
- **Recipients will be expected to** disclose all intended performances (like school plays or musical) dance, acting or voice lessons taken elsewhere which would take place September 2017 through June 2018. The directors will decide if these create any conflicts and will make any needed recommendation. (The reason for this is because EVSPA's curriculum has proven to produce rapid changes. When students perform or take lessons that contradict the development, it impairs and or interferes with the progress that usually is made.)
- Although boys are not expected to give up their social life, there are times when classes, rehearsal and performance might have to be a priority.

Reason for the Scholarship

Parents are very reluctant to pay for classes in the performing arts. Boys are pushed to get a “job” to pay for things like transportation, and personal interests. Also, in the US there is a terrible shortage of males in the arts. The reason is because of the social stigma that our society has unfairly placed on young men that prevents many from even trying to participate. The scholarship does open the possibility for those young men.

Purpose Behind the Scholarship

The program has proven that not only are there boys interested in the arts but that their participation in the classes completely changed the dynamics of the curriculum, and the interactions between male and female performers. It also quickly identified those who were serious and passionate about the arts and the commitment and dedication required.

Social Stigma and EVSPA Philosophy

Most of the time the elephant in the room is the word “gay.” Although things have gotten much better, unfortunately, it is still something boys face when studying the arts. It is our philosophy that we assume only the responsibility of teaching boys the “art” of performance. In dance, the role of the male is to show strength in lifts with female partners, athleticism in jumps and turns and even gymnastic feats. In acting, young men are expected to play roles as the character is portrayed in most cases as a masculine figure. It is our position not to encourage or discourage sexual preference but allow that to be worked out by the individual and their families.

Reason for offering the scholarship starting at age 12

The most difficult and awkward phase of a young man’s life is during puberty. With full immersion into the program the participation in movement classes helps with coordination, muscle development, fine and gross motor skills. The vocal development allows for guidance of the vocal folds as they change. The acting provides young men to work through the dynamics of boy-girl interactions, develop a sense of who they are in comparison to what they think people want them to be. However, most significant has been the sense of pride developed through their commitment and dedication and of course accomplishment.

Financial Guarantor

Once your child is selected, the available scholarship funds are allocated for the specific number of classes and hours that are being taken from September to June. Should your child not successfully complete the program or fulfill the requirements, those funds are lost and need to be repaid to CAPA Fund to allow for another beneficiary. Not everyone

successfully completes the program. In these cases, we are requiring parents to be financially responsible for all classes taken. In that case, you will be billed only for those hours taken.