



Claude Watson School for the Arts

Auditions 2018—2019

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Claude Watson School for the Arts?

A. Claude Watson School for the Arts (CWSA) is a publically funded elementary school with a special focus on the arts, specifically dance, digital arts, drama, music and visual arts.

Q. How does my child enroll at CWSA?

A. In order to attend CWSA all prospective students are required to attend an audition. Each September CWSA admits 60 Grade 4 students.

Q. How are the 60 students selected?

A. To be admitted to CWSA students must successfully complete the application/audition process. Claude Watson School for the Arts strives to provide an equitable and inclusive learning environment for each and every student. We believe that the arts are for all children and traditionally we have fewer applicants who identify as male. Therefore, we have made an effort to ensure our program is balanced based upon gender. Annually we endeavour to admit an equal number of students who identify as male and students who identify female. We will also facilitate placement for successful candidates who do not identify as male or female or are transgender or gender non-conforming.

Q. How do I apply to have my child audition for CWSA?

A. CWSA has an online application system. Each autumn the system opens in early October. All students who apply will be granted an audition. **The application system will automatically close on Friday December 21, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

Q. What if I miss the application deadline?

A. CWSA is unable to accept late applications.

Q. Who is eligible to apply to CWSA?

A. CWSA operates under the policies and procedures of the Toronto District School Board. TDSB Optional Attendance Policy (PO13) states that specialized schools like CWSA are able to admit students who reside in the City of Toronto. **To be eligible for an audition, a candidate's postal code must begin with the letter 'M'.** CWSA will accept applications from students currently attending TCDSB, French Schools, and private schools as long as the student's permanent residence is in the City of Toronto.

Q. Where can I get more information on CWSA?

A. CWSA will be holding an information evening on Monday November 12, 2018. **The session will be held at Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Ave, North York, ON)**. The information session will begin at 7:00pm and is expected to last 1 hour.

Q. Does my child need to prepare anything for the audition?

A. No, your child does not need to prepare anything for the audition. Full information about the auditions will be discussed at our information night.

Q. When are the auditions?

A. The audition process depends on the age of your child.

⇒ **Children Currently in Grade 3 (Born in 2010)**

- Initial auditions: Students will be required to attend one half day session. They will be assigned a morning or afternoon audition time on the following dates:
 - ◇ Saturday February 9, 2019 (Session A)
 - ◇ Saturday February 23, 2019 (Session B)
 - ◇ Saturday March 2, 2019 (Session C)
- Based on the result of the initial audition approximately 120 students will be invited back to CWSA to attend the call-back audition. Eligible students will be required to attend either a morning or afternoon session. The call-back audition will take place on Saturday March 23, 2019.

⇒ **Children Currently in Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 (Born in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009)**

- Older students will be required to attend one half day session. This session will take place on Monday May 6, 2019. We will do our best to have students in Grades 4 and 5 attend in the morning and the older students will attend in the afternoon.

Q. What do the auditions look like for students in Grade 3?

A. Every student who applies to CWSA will be granted an audition. In January of 2019 families will receive an email giving them dates and times for the auditions. Students will come on **one Saturday** and will spend half a day at CWSA. During this time students will work in all four arts areas (Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts). Students will be given a score based on their work. Once all the Grade 3 auditions have been completed families will be notified of the results. The student was either not successful in the audition process or they will be invited to attend the Call Back Audition. The Call Back Audition will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2019. Eligible students will attend for half the day (either the morning or the afternoon). Candidates are required to attend the call-back session in order to be considered for admissions to the CWSA program. Only candidates who attend the call-back audition, and are not offered an initial place in the program, will be placed on the CWSA wait list.

Q. What do the auditions look like for students in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 7?

A. Students in the older grades will attend an audition on Monday May 6, 2019. Students in Grades 4 and 5 will attend a session in the morning. Students in Grades 6 and 7 will attend a session in the afternoon. Students will attend workshops in all four arts areas (dance, drama, music and visual arts). All students who attend the audition will be placed on a wait list. We will notify candidates if a vacancy opens up and if the student is being considered for that spot. **There is no call-back audition for older students.**

Q. What is the call-back audition?

A. The call back audition is for students currently in Grade 3. Students will work in teams and integrate two of the arts simultaneously. Approximately 120 students will be invited to attend the call-back audition. Students will be selected based on the score of their initial audition. Once the results of the call-back auditions have been processed successful candidates will be offered spots at CWSA for Grade 4 starting in September 2019.

Q. Is there an audition fee?

A. Yes, there is a \$35.00 non-refundable audition fee. We will notify families of how to pay the fee when we send out the audition dates in January 2019. No candidate will be refused an audition based on an inability to pay. If you need assistance please contact the CWSA office at 416-395-3180.

Q. How are candidates notified of auditions results?

A. **For Grade 3 Students** — All candidates will be notified by email of their status after the initial auditions. After the call-back audition, successful candidates will be notified by mail; all other candidates who attended the call-back audition will be notified by email that they have been placed on the CWSA wait list.

A. **For Students in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 7** — All candidates who successfully complete the audition process are placed on a wait list. Candidates will only be notified if they are being considered for a placement. Please note that CWSA operates under an absolute cap of 60 students per grade. We can only consider candidates in the unlikely event there is a vacancy.

Q. Can I get the results of the auditions?

A. No. Due to the number of applicants, we cannot review the results of the application package/audition with every student who applies. Students in Grade 3 are granted a call-back audition depending on the results of their earlier audition. The final decision is based upon all aspects of the audition and application package.