**Claude Watson School for the Arts**

**AUDITIONS 2020-2021 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 and visual arts

**Q. How does my child enroll of 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 as 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 18, 2020 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 CSWA 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. 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. 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 on 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.

**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. 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.

**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. No candidate will be refused an audition based on inability to pay. If you need assistance please contact the CWSA office at 416-395-3180.

**Q. How are candidates notified of audition results?**

A. For Grade 3 Student s – All candidates will be notified by email of their statues after the initial auditions. .

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. The final decision is based up all aspects of the audition and application package.