



## **VISUAL ARTS Audition Requirements Current Grade 8 Students 2024-2025**

**Audition Format:** digital submissions and in person audition at  
Eastwood Collegiate 760 Weber St. East Kitchener, Ontario\*

*\*If you require a virtual audition for any reason, please contact the [Arts Registrar](#)*

### **Prepare Ahead of Time**

- A Portfolio with a minimum of 8 pieces of studio artwork
  - Include the TWO required pieces described below
  - Include SIX pieces of your choice
  - Include the preliminary work, planning, and rough copies for your two required pieces
- Complete the provided written description form for a minimum of FOUR of your pieces. Attach the completed forms to your artwork .

### **How to Prepare**

- Explore a range of different media and subject matters. Practice drawing and shading skills with pencil and pencil crayons.
- Research Portrait Proportions.
- Make sure you understand the term ‘Non-Objective’: It means art that does not represent an object, or include images, text, or symbols. It can include patterns, shapes (dots, triangles, squares, diamonds, etc), and lines (curves, waves, grids, etc)

### **Tips for Assembling your Portfolio**

- Consider how to best showcase your work and take care in the presentation.
- Present your work neatly and in an organized manner (e.g. rolled up work piled into a plastic bag is not ideal)
- You are not required to have your work matted. If you do decide to mat, we suggest you use black board.
- You are not required to buy a portfolio case for your work. However, we suggest creating your own portfolio cover by folding a large piece of cardboard in half. This will keep your work protected
- Your portfolio should show your full range of artistic skills. Look at examples, tutorials, and other resources for ideas and inspiration (pinterest, youTube, websites etc.). There are many different techniques and approaches you can try and a wide range of media you can experiment with including drawing from observation or still life, landscapes, expressive and experimental work, architecture, nature, etc.
- You may have ONE animation, and ONE additional original character design in your portfolio, but emphasis should be on original studio artwork.

**Studio artwork can include any of the following:**

- Shaded pencil drawings
- Shaded pencil crayon drawings
- Paintings (e.g. tempera, acrylic, oil, watercolour etc.)
- Photography (please print photographs)
- Sculpture (e.g. clay, sculpey, plasticine, paper, cardboard, wire, paper mache, etc.) Photographs of sculptures that can not be transported are acceptable.
- Chalk pastel
- Oil pastel
- Printmaking (any type)
- Figure drawings (e.g. contour, gesture, or sustained poses)
- Illustrations, Bookworks, or Publications (e.g. comics, magazine pages, posters with text and images, etc.)
- Shaded marker (e.g. copic markers or something with layered colours. Please avoid a solid, flat crayola colour application)
- Mixed media (e.g. paper collage, pen and ink over a watercolour wash, mixed media assemblage, etc.)
- Wood carving or wood burning.

**The Audition**

**1. 75 minute Art Class**

You will take part in an art class with 8-15 other students. During the class, you will explore a variety of teacher led drawing activities. All materials will be provided.

**2. Portfolio Evaluation**

Prepare a portfolio with a minimum of EIGHT artworks, including the TWO required pieces described below.

Complete the provided “Written Description Form” for a minimum of FOUR of your pieces. Attach the completed forms to your artwork .

You may write your descriptions in point form, but be sure to provide context for your artwork.

In the “I feel the strength of this piece is...” section, please talk about how your work shows the elements and principles of design (contrast, proportion, pattern, unity, variety, etc), your planning and creativity, and discuss the media and techniques you used.

Bring your portfolio to the art class on the day of your audition. The visual art teachers will review your work during the class. You will take your portfolio home with you at the end of your audition.

**The TWO required works:**

**A Self Portrait**

Media Requirements:

- graphite (pencil)
- 25 cm x 35 cm sheet of paper (or as close as possible, but larger than an average sheet of printer paper or sketchbook)

The self portrait should be as realistic as possible and demonstrate your shading skills. Do your best to show a full range of values with high contrast (dark darks and light lights with smooth transitions in between the two) .

Characterization or turning yourself into a cartoon is not acceptable. It is recommended that you use your reflection in a mirror as a reference for your portrait instead of a flat photograph.

Please add a creative background to your portrait, shaded in pencil. The background should show your personality and

some of your interests.

Plan your piece ahead of time and do practice sketches. Good design and integration of the background elements will enhance the overall composition.

### **A Non-Objective Circle Design**

Media Requirements:

- Pencil Crayons
- Paper to create a Circle NO LESS than 10 cm in diameter

The non-objective circle is a creative design problem: Draw a circle NO LESS than 10 cm in diameter. Divide the circle into FIVE sections. Shade and colour each section with pencil crayon. Layer colours to show depth and use shapes, patterns, textures, lines, and other non-objective elements to create a unified overall design.

Consider the following when creating this piece:

- How can you creatively divide the circle? (in other words what could you do that is not a pizza?). The sections do not all have to be the same size.
- How can you use the elements listed above to create harmony and a unified overall design?
- Are you showing a full range of values and high contrast in your design? (dark darks and light lights with smooth transitions in between)

Spend time experimenting and creating rough drafts of your design before you create the final copy.

Include the preliminary work, planning, and rough copies of your self portrait and your circle design in your portfolio.

### **3. Informal Interview**

During the art class, teachers may ask you the following questions

- What first got you interested in art?
- How would you describe the art you typically create?
- What kinds of arts do you enjoy looking at?
- When and where do you do art? (e.g. school, private art classes or classes in the community, in your free time, etc.)
- What do you already know about the IAP and the Visual Arts Program at Eastwood? What parts of the program are you looking forward to ?

#### **Most Importantly:**

Please know that we appreciate talent and the effort you took to prepare your artwork for your portfolio. Remember, during this process we are looking for interest, potential, coachability, and a commitment towards your artistic development.

*All presentations must be suitable for a school environment*