

**McLaughlin**  
*iddle*

**Fine Arts Academy**

*An Arts Achieve! Model School 2011-2014*



APPLICATION & AUDITION GUIDELINES  
**2016-2017**

**Eileen Killebrew**

*Principal*

**Rufus Floyd**

**Julie Fisher**

*Assistant Principals*

800 S. Fourth Street

Lake Wales, FL 33853

Telephone 863-678-4233

FAX 863-678-4033

[www.polk-fl.net/mclaughlin](http://www.polk-fl.net/mclaughlin)

# AUDITION AND ADMISSION CRITERIA

*PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET COMPLETELY.*

McLaughlin Fine Arts Academy is an arts integrated middle school for students in the Lake Wales area. The school will hold auditions for accelerated course work in the areas of visual arts, theatre arts, dance and music for 6th through 8th grade students.

- Up to 20 seats per grade level in each of the three areas. (visual arts, dance/theatre arts and music)
- Students selected by audition will be considered an Arts Major and will participate in accelerated arts classes in their selected area.
- Non major art courses will be available as electives to all McLaughlin students.

**Questions:** Who needs to apply? All students wishing to accept the accelerated challenge of being an arts major. Will current students at McLaughlin be admitted to the accelerated classes? Yes, ALL current students NOT in a major should fill out an application packet and will be assessed by the same standards for placement in the accelerated classes. Students already in an arts major do NOT need to repeat the audition process. There will be arts classes for students at McLaughlin who are NOT majors.

Students may audition for up to two of the following arts departments: band, chorus, dance, guitar, strings, theatre arts and visual arts.

Please follow the procedures described on the following pages carefully. The entire process for application into McLaughlin Fine Arts Academy includes the following steps:

1. Complete paperwork in the audition packet and return by **January 8, 2016**.

The packet must be completed in its entirety in order to be considered for an audition.

- Application
- One letter of recommendation (one from a current teacher or one that can speak to the student's artistic ability. Letter should not be from a member of the applicant's family)
- Most current report card  
(To be considered for an audition, students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA)
- **Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. It is recommended that you deliver the packet in person. Audition appointments will be scheduled for qualifying students upon return of the packet. Applicants will be notified of audition appointment time by a telephone call.**

2. Prepare for your audition by following the audition guidelines as listed under each art area in the Audition and Admissions Criteria information packet. Students will receive an audition invitation.

3. Come to your audition at the appointed time. All auditions are held at the McLaughlin campus. All auditions are closed to observers.

\*If a student becomes ill and is unable to audition, written verification documenting the illness from a doctor must be presented to the school within three (3) school days of the date of the student's scheduled audition. A new audition date and time will be selected for the student by the school ONLY if there are additional audition dates and times available.

4. Receive notification by mail regarding the status of student's acceptance.

- Students who are accepted to McLaughlin Fine Arts Academy through the audition process will be expected to make a three year commitment to the arts area in which he/she is accepted.
- Participation and attendance in performance related after school activities is required.
- Parent involvement is required.

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS BY DEPARTMENT

Each arts department has specific criteria that will be used to determine eligibility. Students may audition for up to *two* departments.

### Dance

McLaughlin Fine Arts Academy Beginner and Intermediate level classes include ballet, modern, jazz and tap. Advanced dance classes include ballet, modern, jazz, tap and musical theatre styles.

#### Students will:

1. Participate in a dance class that incorporates a ballet barre warm-up, modern center/ across the floor warm-ups, a jazz routine and the basics of tap.
2. Judging is based on ability, movement quality, flexibility, coachability and overall potential. Though prior training is not required to be accepted, an aptitude for dance and physicality is helpful.

#### Suggested attire:

Girls should wear a solid color, age-appropriate leotard and convertible or footless tights. Hair should be in a bun. No extra clothing items, except a ballet skirt, are allowed (i.e. no shorts, shirts, tanks, leg warmers, jackets, etc.)

Boys should wear a white or black fitted t-shirt with black or gray compression shorts and black or gray gym shorts.

Students who have ballet shoes, jazz shoes and tap shoes should bring them to wear at the appropriate times- students who do not own an particular shoe should dance barefoot during that time (no foot thongs allowed).

No jewelry is allowed- no exceptions.

Requirements of any student accepted into the MFAA Dance Program through the audition process are as follows: Beginner level students will take daily classes in ballet, modern, jazz and tap. Intermediate and Advanced students will take daily classes in ballet, modern, jazz, tap and musical theatre. The required attire for the 2016-2017 school year for the MFAA Dance Program is a black leotard, black convertible tights, pink ballet shoes, black jazz shoes, and black lace-up tap shoes. Dancers are required to perform in both the fall and spring dance concerts and attend all required rehearsals unless there is a medical/family excused absence. There is a \$25 fee for the dance costumes and field trips for that year. Any student who is accepted into the MFAA Dance Program must sign a contract that states that in the case of a conflict with an extra-curricular activity, the MFAA Dance Program takes priority. Advanced level students will also have the opportunity to audition for the Pulsing Rhythm Dance Company which travels to perform and represent our school. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the Pulsing Rhythm Dance Company.

### Visual Arts (2D & 3D)

The McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy Visual Arts Department has Two-Dimensional, Three-Dimensional, and Graphic Arts majors. Teachers will guide students into the program best suited for them based on aptitude and interest.

#### Students will:

1. Prepare a portfolio (sample of art) before the audition/interview that include at least two or more pieces of art: portfolio is to be submitted with application.
  - art works must be no more than two years old
  - art may have made at school, home or camps
  - a self portrait the student created is highly recommended but not required

Examples of acceptable art for the portfolio can include but is not limited to sculpture, clay, drawing, painting, graphic art, photography

2. Responses interview questions.

3. Two timed drawings at the audition: one still life and one from imagination.

Upon acceptance to McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy students will be required to attend school and county sponsored art shows, receptions, and award ceremonies where their work is displayed.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the information on this page. Student and Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## Theatre

McLaughlin Theatre students will study and explore all aspects of the theatre process. Through hands-on experience in the studio and classroom, students will be trained in the art and craft of theatre. Our theatre students gain skills in acting, pantomime, costumes, stage makeup, lighting, sound, stagecraft, literature, history, vocal technique, and playwriting. Students will learn that successful communication in the theatre involves the full integration of all of these parts.

### **To prepare for the audition students will:**

- Prepare and memorize a one minute monologue from a published play. Create a character and deliver the monologue. The character may be any age as long as the words and the subject matter are age-appropriate and understood by the student. Props or costumes may not be used.
- Prepare to sing 16 bars from a published musical theatre show, or sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”. Students may sing without music or use a CD of instrumental accompaniment. However, the recording may not have any vocals on the track.

### **At the theatre audition students will:**

1. Present the prepared one-minute monologue. (*monologues included at the end of the packet*)
2. Sing 16 bars from a published musical theatre show, or “Row Row Row Your Boat”.
3. Participate in a personal interview with the audition committee.

### **Students will be evaluated on the criteria listed below:**

We are assessing each child on his/her potential as a theatre student. We apply the audition criteria to the whole child rather than simply relying on monologue preparation or presentational skills.

Voice (*Informed involvement and control of the voice*)  
Movement (*Justified involvement and control of body*)  
Theatrical Presence (*Stage energy and focus*)  
Creativity (*Originality, freedom of expression*)  
Courage in acting (*Willingness to take risks*)  
Taking direction (*Responsiveness to coaching*)  
Justification (*Articulation of ideas: the characters wants*)  
Honesty in acting (*Creates a believable character*)  
Artistic skill (*Creates and sustains ‘the theatrical moment’*)

### **Advice for preparing for the audition:**

You will find the perfect monologue, but you have to look around. Public libraries, local bookstores, [www.dramabookshop.com](http://www.dramabookshop.com), and [www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com) are a few suggestions.

Avoid monologues that are not from plays. If possible, read the play that is the source of your monologue. (*There are many monologues that are written only as stand-alone pieces that don’t always provide the actor with what they need to create a strong character.*)

Avoid classical material (Shakespeare, Moliere, Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov, etc).

Avoid the challenge of doing accents or dialects.

No props or costumes. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for movement to your audition.

Prepare early: memorization of the monologue is just the beginning of the actor’s work.

*Any student accepted into the McLaughlin Theatre Program through the audition process is required to audition for a minimum of one (1) McLaughlin theatre production per school year, AND participate if given a role, or students are required to interview for a technical job for a minimum of one (1) McLaughlin theatre production. Student must participate in a minimum of one (1) mainstage theatre production in either on stage or technical roles per school year.*

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the information on this page. Student & Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## Music

### **The McLaughlin Music Department has four majors: Band, Strings, Guitar, Rock-n-Roll Academy, & Vocal**

Applicants may bring their own instruments for the Band, String, and Guitar auditions. For vocal auditions students may bring a CD for vocal accompaniment. Most instruments will be provided if needed, however, McLaughlin does not provide drums. While students may audition using any legitimate instrument, McLaughlin does not offer Fine Art Music Major instruction on all musical instruments. *(For example, hand bells, steel pans, drum set, or non-orchestral instruments are not offered as majors.)* \*Please be aware that it may not be necessary for the student to finish the solo for the assessment.

### **Band (Brass, Percussion and Woodwind)**

#### **Students will:**

Perform a solo on any instrument (recorder, xylophone, piano, etc.) An accompanist is not required. Students need to bring two copies of their sheet music for the panel. Be asked to identify line and space notes on their own clef, as well as note and rest values. Distinguishing, recognizing & dictating a 4 beat rhythm played on the piano. Listen to a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and sing them back. Applicants will be evaluated on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technique, and tone matching.

### **Guitar (Classical)**

#### **Students will:**

Be provided with a guitar and coached through basic note reading and guitar techniques. A solo may be performed by those guitarists with experience, but is not necessary for acceptance. For your convenience you may find very simple and free guitar solos at: <http://www.classicalguitarschool.net/music/1004.pdf>

Be asked to identify line and space notes on the treble clef, as well as note and rest values. Distinguish, recognize and dictate a 4 beat rhythm played on the piano. Listen to a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and sing them back. Applicants will be assessed on tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technique, and tone matching.

### **Chorus**

#### **Students will:**

Perform an optional vocal solo that demonstrates their highest level of ability. If a solo is not prepared, the student will sing "My Country Tis of Thee". Be asked to identify line and space notes on the treble clef, as well as note and rest values. Attempt to sing a major scale using solfege syllables and hand signs. Listen to a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and sing them back. Applicants will be assessed on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, expressiveness and technique.

### **Orchestra:**

#### **Students will:**

Perform a solo on any instrument (recorder, xylophone, piano, violin etc.) An accompanist is not required. Students need to bring two copies of their sheet music for the panel. Be asked to identify line and space notes on their own clef, as well as note and rest values. Distinguishing, recognizing & dictating a 4 beat rhythm played on the piano. Listen to a series of 3-4 pitches on the piano and sing them back. Applicants will be evaluated on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technique, and tone matching.

### **Rock-n-Roll Academy:**

#### **Students will:**

ROCK AND ROLL ACADEMY sets up an intentional learning atmosphere by leveraging the power of social play and student ownership. Honoring the human dignity of children, a culture of fearlessness and respect unfolds, resulting in empowered, self-directed learners. Students form a band, select a song, and choose instruments they want to play. The RRA facilitator assists the students in learning the musical parts needed to perform in their chosen song. Each semester culminates in a full-blown rock concert. Applicants will be evaluated on pitch accuracy, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technique, and tone matching.

***Any student accepted into the McLaughlin Music Program through the audition process may be required to participate in the types of events listed below:*** After school rehearsals Music Performance Assessment Events (Band, Orchestra, Voice)

ALL PERFORMANCES. Including, but not limited to, out of school performances, fall and spring school concerts, recitals, occasional overnight performances, All-State and All-County auditions and performances.

Private lesson are highly recommended once students begin working in the music department (Band, Orchestra, Voice, or Guitar)

Students will be responsible for fees for instrument rental, maintenance and performance uniforms.

Parent involvement is required. Participation in solo/ensemble festival.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the information on this page.

Student & Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# STUDENT AUDITION APPLICATION

## McLAUGHLIN FINE ARTS ACADEMY

**Application Deadline January 8, 2016 4:00 p.m.**

*Please print clearly. Incomplete applications will NOT receive an audition.*

*Students enrolled at McLaughlin, Spook Hill and Chain of Lakes receive first preference. Lake Wales zone is given second priority and then students outside of zone.*

STUDENT LAST NAME	STUDENT FIRST NAME	MI
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
DATE OF BIRTH	GENDER	STUDENT ID NUMBER
STREET ADDRESS		APT NUMBER
CITY, STATE, ZIP	HOME PHONE	PARENT CELL PHONE
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME		WORK PHONE
PRIMARY E-MAIL ADDRESS		SECONDARY E MAIL ADDRESS
CURRENT SCHOOL	CURRENT GRADE	

### AREAS OF INTEREST

*Please select up to two areas for which you wish to audition .*

Band <input type="checkbox"/>	Chorus <input type="checkbox"/>	Orchestra <input type="checkbox"/>	Guitar <input type="checkbox"/>	Rock-n-Roll Academy <input type="checkbox"/>
Dance <input type="checkbox"/>	Theatre <input type="checkbox"/>	2-D Art <input type="checkbox"/>	3-D Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Music Leadership 101

### Signatures

*After the audition process has been completed, a team will review the results of the audition, application, report card and teacher recommendations to determine admission. Every student who applies for an audition must meet the minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA requirement in order to register for McLaughlin Arts majors. Students submitting incomplete packets will not be accepted or allowed to audition.*

STUDENT SIGNATURE	DATE
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	DATE
<b>Return to: McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy representative in the front office by January 8, 2016 at 4 p.m.</b>	

<i>Office use only</i>		
<i>Date Received</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>Not Complete</i>

# McLAUGHLIN FINE ARTS ACADEMY

## APPLICATION: RECOMMENDATION LETTER

*Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher's name across the back.  
Recommendations must be included in the application packet and returned by January 8, 2016 no later than 4:00 p.m.  
Please print clearly.*

STUDENT LAST NAME

STUDENT FIRST NAME

STUDENT ID

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THE RECOMMENDATION

PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

*How do you rate this student in terms of:*

	<i>No Basis</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>
<b>CREATIVITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SELF-MOTIVATION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DISCIPLINE/WORK HABITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>INTEREST IN THE ARTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>WRITTEN EXPRESSION OF IDEAS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ABILITY TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RESPECT OF OTHERS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*How long have you known this student and in what context?*

**\*Attach this form with your Letter of Reference\***

*Please comment on the character, attitude and artistic ability of the applicant.*

*Please comment on any specific strengths of the applicant of which you are aware.*

*To your knowledge, has the applicant ever had any disciplinary problems?*

*Is this applicant capable of handling multiple responsibilities effectively. (Ex. Extracurricular as well as academic?)*

---

SIGNATURE

---

POSITION/TITLE

*Thank you for taking the time to provide this recommendation.*



## *These Monologues MAY be used in the theatre audition*

### Monologues from You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

**Charlie Brown:** I think lunchtime is about the worst time of day for me. Always having to sit here alone. Of course, sometimes, mornings aren't so pleasant either. Waking up and wondering if anyone would really miss me if I never got out of bed. Then there's the night, too. Lying there and thinking about all the stupid things I've done during the day. And all those hours in between when I do all those stupid things. Well, lunchtime is among the worst times of the day for me. Well, I guess I'd better see what I've got. Peanut butter. Some psychiatrists say that people who eat peanut butter sandwiches are lonely...I guess they're right. And when you're really lonely, the peanut butter sticks to the roof of your mouth. There's that cute little red-headed girl eating her lunch over there. I wonder what she would do if I went over and asked her if I could sit and have lunch with her?...She'd probably laugh right in my face...it's hard on a face when it gets laughed in. There's an empty place next to her on the bench. There's no reason why I couldn't just go over and sit there. I could do that right now. All I have to do is stand up...I'm standing up!...I'm sitting down. I'm a coward. I'm so much of a coward, she wouldn't even think of looking at me. She hardly ever does look at me. In fact, I can't remember her ever looking at me. Why shouldn't she look at me? Is there any reason in the world why she shouldn't look at me? Is she so great, and I'm so small, that she can't spare one little moment?...SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!! SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!!

**Sally:** A 'C'? A 'C'? I got a 'C' on my coat hanger sculpture? How could anyone get a 'C' in Coat hanger sculpture? May I ask a question? Was I judged on the piece of sculpture itself? If so, is it not true that time alone can judge a work of art? Or was I judged on my talent? If so, is it fair that I be judged on a part of my life over which I have no control? If I was judged on my effort, then I was judged unfairly, for I tried as hard as I could! Was I judged on what I had learned about this project? If so, then were not you, my teacher, also being judged on your ability to transmit your knowledge to me? Are you willing to share my 'C'? Perhaps I was being judged on the quality of coat hanger itself out of which my creation was made...now is this not also unfair? Am I to be judged by the quality of coat hangers that are used by the dry-cleaning establishment that returns our garments? Is that not the responsibility of my parents? Should they not share my 'C'?

**Lucy:** Do you know what I intend? I intend to be a queen. When I grow up I'm going to be the biggest queen there ever was, and I'll live in a big palace and when I go out in my coach, all the people will wave and I will shout at them, and...and...in the summertime I will go to my summer palace and I'll wear my crown in swimming and everything, and all the people will cheer and I will shout at them... What do you mean I can't be queen? Nobody should be kept from being a queen if she wants to be one. It's usually just a matter of knowing the right people...well... if I can't be a queen, then I'll be very rich then I will buy myself a queendom. Yes, I will buy myself a queendom and then I'll kick out the old queen and take over the whole operation myself. I will be head queen.