



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION / DENNIS M. WALCOTT, CHANCELLOR

**MEYER LEVIN SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 285**

FREDERICK A. UNDERWOOD, PRINCIPAL



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been selected to participate in the audition process at Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts. Please read through this document for instructions on the application process. The application may be mailed or dropped off to the school by February 9, 2012. If you have any questions regarding the process, please email Mr. Edwin Brathwaite at ebrathw3@schools.nyc.gov, Ms. Rodriguez at drodriguez26@schools.nyc.gov, or call our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Donna Phillips at (347) 563-4730. For additional information regarding the application process, you can visit our school's website at <http://www.is285.org>. On behalf of the Meyer Levin family, I wish you and your child luck.

Sincerely,

Frederick Underwood
Principal

AUDITION DATES AND TIMES

There will be four audition sessions over a two day period. You are expected to attend the date and time that you are slotted for. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Child's last name beginning with the letters A through G
Session 1--- 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Child's last name beginning with the letters H through M
Session 2--- 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Child's last name beginning with the letters N through S
Session 3--- 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Child's last name beginning with the letters T through Z
Session 4--- 2:00 - 4:30 PM

MAKE-UPS

Make-ups will be given on an individual basis. If you have any prior commitment on the audition date, please email Mr. Edwin Brathwaite at ebrathw3@schools.nyc.gov, Ms. Rodriguez at drodriguez26@schools.nyc.gov, or call our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Donna Phillips at (347) 563-4730. The make-Up dates are as follows:

Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Make-Up Day 1
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Thursday, February 16, 2012
Make-Up Day 2
4:00 - 6:00 PM

APPLICATION PROCESS

(Incomplete applications will not be considered for placement.)

1. Students may audition for two areas
2. The recommendation must be from a current classroom/homeroom teacher.
 - a. Recommendations should be placed in an envelope and sealed by the teacher completing the form.
 - b. The recommendations should be returned along with a copy of their current report card.
3. Provide a copy of your current resume listing academic and artistic accomplishments.
4. All applications must be mailed or hand-delivered to the school on or before the deadline (February 9, 2012)
5. Student's personal statement (Required) – On a separate page, please provide a **typed** personal statement answering the two questions below:
 - a. What or who inspires you to participate in your talent choice?
 - b. What do you hope to gain from your experience with Meyer Levin School of the Performing Arts?

Please type your first and last name at the top of the personal statement.

DANCE

The genres offered in the Dance Program include but are not limited to ballet, modern, jazz and ethnic. Appreciation of dance as an art form is approached through studies in technique, dance history and in-school as well as performances beyond the walls of the school.

Required Audition Attire:

- Girls: leotards and footless tights
- ☐Boys: bike pants and a white fitted tee shirt
- Hair must be pulled back and secured (in a bun if possible).
- No jewelry or dance shoes required.

Total Audition Time: Approximately 1 hour

- Students will participate in a series of warm-up floor exercises as demonstrated by the instructor. This may include forward/sideward body curves, spinal contraction/arches, straddle stretches and leg lifts.
- ☐Instructor will demonstrate a center floor combination; students will repeat the combination in small groups.
- Instructor will demonstrate a locomotive sequence; students will repeat the sequence in small groups.
- Prepare a one-minute original solo dance study expressing “struggle” using traveling movements, in-place movements and level changes. Any style is acceptable. You will perform without music accompaniment. Please be prepared to answer questions about your work.

DRAMA

The Drama Program offers students a wide variety of performance opportunities and skill development. Critical thinking opportunities, incorporating academic content and creative problem solving are stressed within the curriculum.

Required Audition Attire:

- Black shirt or blouse; Black pants; Black Shoes

Students should prepare **one** monologue from this list:

It Wasn't a Dream Wizard of Oz Female

<http://www.stageagent.com/Shows/MonologuesView/1050>

Crabby You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Male

<http://www.stageagent.com/Shows/MonologuesView/1055>

Coathanger Sculpture You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Female

<http://www.stageagent.com/Shows/MonologuesView/1053>

Changes Our Town Female

<http://www.stageagent.com/Shows/MonologuesView/985>

Ryan's Nose was Bleeding! MonologueBlogger.com Male

<http://www.monologueblogger.com/archives/1330>

S-M-I-L-E Monologue by Walter Ben Hare Male or Female

http://www.monologuearchive.com/h/hare_001.html

That's My Dad! Monologue by Matt Buchanan Male

<http://www.childdrama.com/mono.html#dad>

Total Audition Time: Approximately 20 - 30 minutes

- Please bring a written copy of the selected material which must be memorized. Please do not write your own monologue.
- Applicants will participate in a warm-up and a cold reading with a current Meyer Levin drama student.

- Each applicant will be interviewed and asked to discuss the selected monologue as well as knowledge of theater.

VOCAL/CHORUS

The Meyer Levin Choral Program will produce music-literate students who perform music of varying genres, styles and languages while developing a clear understanding and appreciation of the art and its unique potential to enrich their lives. Students majoring in chorus take part in a comprehensive music program which features small and large ensembles, solo singing and participation in concert performances. After three years in the program, each student will be equipped to pass auditions at the city's elite performing arts high schools.

Required Audition Attire:

- White shirt or blouse (with a collar)
- Dark bottom (skirts must pass the knees)
- Shoes (sneakers are prohibited)

Total Audition Time: Approximately 20 minutes

All applicants will:

- Vocalize on various warm-up exercises to test vocal range and ability to match pitches.
- Echo short musical phrases played on the piano
- Sing *America* (My Country 'Tis of Thee) without piano accompaniment.
- Perform a prepared song from memory. *Please avoid "popular music" because it is very difficult for young voices to sing. We recommend using folk songs, hymns, or a song from a musical. For example, Greensleeves, Tomorrow, Amazing Grace, etc.*
- Perform a basic rhythmic passage consisting of eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes.
- Be interviewed based on knowledge of music, singing experience, the voice and artistic goals.

STEEL ORCHESTRA

The Steel Orchestra Program is the newest component of the Performing Arts Department. In this program students have an opportunity to discover and perform on the only musical instrument created in the 20th century, the steel drum. As a part of the percussion family, playing the instrument helps students develop great hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity. The program facilitates exploration of a wide variety of genres of music.

The Meyer Levin Steel Orchestra has been a very integral part of the school's culture since its inception. The orchestra often represents the school at various events throughout New York City.

Required Audition Attire:

- White shirt or blouse (with a collar)
- Dark bottom (skirts must pass the knees)
- Shoes (sneakers are prohibited)

Total Audition Time: Approximately 15 minutes.

- Applicants must be able to perform some rhythmic patterns demonstrated by the instructor.
- Applicants must be able to play the C Major scale on the tenor pan.
- The notes for the C Major scale are C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C, and a diagram of the tenor pan that we use can be found on the following url:
http://www.smartypansmusic.com/images/Diagrams/diagramTenor_low_D.jpg
- Applicants must be able to echo a simple melody vocally and on the tenor pan as directed by the instructor.
- All applicants will be interviewed. Please be prepared to discuss your knowledge of music and the steel pan instrument.

Meyer Levin Performing Arts Department

Audition Application

Application Deadline ***FEBRUARY 9, 2012***

Last Name First Name MI Student ID#

Date of Birth Gender Entering Grade (in September)

ADDRESS: House Number Street Name Apt. #

City State Zip Home Phone Parent Cell Phone

Parent/Guardian Name Work Phone

Primary Email Address (that you check daily) Secondary Email Address

Name of Current School

Where did you learn about this program? _____

Artistic Area of Interest

Please select at least one area of interest but no more than 2 for which you wish to audition by writing the number 1 next to your first choice and 2 next your second choice:

Chorus _____ Dance _____ Drama _____ Steel Orchestra _____

Do you play an instrument? If yes please state: _____

Signatures

After the adjudication process has been completed, a team will review the results of the audition, applications, report cards, personal essays and teacher recommendations to determine admission. All application documentation must be submitted as one complete packet and postmarked on or before the application deadline of February 9th, 2012. Students submitting incomplete packets will not be accepted nor allowed to audition.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*****Office Use Only*****

Date Received		Complete		Not Complete	P	NP
Notes						

Meyer Levin Performing Arts Program Application

Teacher Recommendation #1

Recommendations must be in a sealed envelope and received in the application packet by February 9, 2011

Recommendation Please print neatly

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student ID #
Name of Person Making the Recommendation		Title
Phone		Email Address

How do you rate this student in the following areas?

	Below Average	Average	Excellent
Creativity			
Self-motivation			
Discipline and work habits			
Academic achievement			
Interpersonal skills			
Interest in the arts			
Written expression of ideas			
Potential for growth			
Ability to follow directions			
Respect for others			

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

What are the first words that come to mind when describing this student?

Additional comments:

Thank you for taking the time to provide this recommendation.