



Claude Watson School for the Arts

Auditions 2016—2017

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. We accept 30 boys and 30 girls. We will enroll students in other grades in the infrequent situation that there is a vacancy.

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

A. CWSA has an online application system. Each fall the system opens in early October. All students who apply will be granted an audition. **The application system will automatically close on Thursday December 22, 2016 at 4:00 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 only 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 information evenings on Monday November 7, 2016 and Tuesday November 8, 2016. The sessions will be held at the school (130 Doris Ave.) starting at 7:00 p.m. Please note — **parking is limited.**

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 nights.

Q. When are the auditions?

A. The audition process has changed for the 2016-2017 school years. The process depends on the current grade of your child. Please review the process depending on the grade of your child.

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

A. This year we have made significant changes to the auditions for Grade 3 students. Every student who applies to CWSA will be granted an audition. In January of 2017 families will receive an email giving them a date and time for the auditions. Students will come on 2 Saturdays 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. Either the student was not successful in the audition process or he/she will be invited to attend the call back audition. The call back audition will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Each student 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 a spot at CWSA. 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 Friday March 24, 2017. 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 new this year to our audition process. Students will work in teams and integrate two of the arts simultaneously. Approximately 60 girls and 60 boys will be invited to attend the call-back audition. Students will be selected based on the score of their initial auditions. Once the results of the call-

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 2017. No candidate will be refused an audition based on an inability

Q. What should my child bring to their audition?

A. **For Grade 3 Students during the first two auditions** — For the first two auditions Grade 3 candidates are encouraged to bring a healthy snack.

For Grade 3 Students Attending the Call Back Session:

- ⇒ A copy of their February 2017 report card
- ⇒ A head shot (passport size)
- ⇒ A completed Candidate Form (will be sent out with your invitation to the call back)

For Students in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 7

- ⇒ A copy of their February 2017 report card
- ⇒ A head shot (passport size)
- ⇒ A completed Candidate Form (this will be sent out in an email a few weeks before your audition)

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 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 with 30 boys and 30 girls in each grade. We

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 application.