

HWDSB

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HWDSB TIER 3 AUDITION-BASED PROGRAM OF THE ARTS

STUDENT APPLICATION
PACKAGE



www.hwdsb.on.ca/mypathmyway

curiosity • creativity • possibility

HWDSB Tier 3 Audition-Based Program of the Arts

About the Program:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's (HWDSB) Audition-Based Program of the Arts is a Tier 3 Specialized Learning program based at Glendale Secondary School. Students in grades 9-12 from across the Greater Hamilton Area participate in specialized and immersive arts courses in dance performance, drama performance, instrumental music (band & strings), media arts, popular music (drums, electronic, guitar, piano and vocal), production (music & theatre), visual arts, and vocal music. Transportation is provided for any student living 3.2 km or more from the school. It is determined and managed on an individual basis by Hamilton-Wentworth Transportation Services.

Programs of the Arts staff are often specialists who use their contacts to further enhance the curriculum. Students at each grade level can enter the program and expect to work with guest artists, attend performances and galleries and regularly perform or exhibit their own work.

In addition to required credits, students have experiential learning opportunities. Some recent highlights include career exploration, professional certifications, discipline-specific training, opportunities beyond the classroom, seasonal collaborations on large-scale stage productions, small-scale studio productions/exhibitions, and informal studio productions/exhibitions that invite broader school participation.

In addition to their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), graduating students receive an HWDSB Certificate of Recognition or Distinction in the Arts and additional qualifications such as industry training, professional résumé help, a head shot, and a portfolio. If students complete three (3) or four (4) years of the program, they will receive a Certificate of Distinction in the Arts upon graduation. If students complete one (1) or two (2) years of the program, they will receive a Certificate of Recognition in the Arts upon graduation.

Students may also complete this program in collaboration with HWDSB Tier 3 Strings and the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Arts and Culture programs, also based at Glendale.

The HWDSB Audition-Based Program of the Arts supports the needs of all students and pathways, some of whom are exploring the possibility of a career in the arts while others are passionate about learning about 'art for art's sake.'

Continuous monitoring of students allows the HWDSB Audition Based Program of the Arts staff to identify students who are in need of additional supports in their education. The 'Program Success Review' has areas of need identified and a plan to support student success and well-being in place. Ultimately, this plan may involve changes to programming at Glendale, or a return to the students' catchment school.

The program's safe and caring environment inspires lifelong learning and a desire for personal excellence for all its students.

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Drama Performance

Prepared in advance.

- Monologue: Memorize and perform a monologue (prepared in advanced) that you have selected from a list of monologues available on the school (Glendale) website.

Done live at Glendale.

- Monologue Performance: You will perform your monologue to our panel. They may or may not redirect you at some point and evaluate that performance as well.
- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more

Production (Music & Theatre)

Prepared in advance.

- Creative Challenge: You will be given a written artistic challenge that you will complete to showcase your ability to solve problems and think creatively. It will include lighting a scene and music/sfx choices

Live at Glendale.

- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more

There will be the need for computer/iPad access. Please contact us if there are issues or concerns

Media Arts

Prepared in advance.

- Digital Portfolio:
 - Three original works of art (include a variety of media, with many difference subjects and ideas).
 - One original work of art with your thoughts on our challenge topic
 - **"I Have a Dream"**
 - Sketchbook – either digital or hard copy (to show experimentation, development of ideas and creative process).

Live at Glendale.

- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more

Music: Instrumental (Band & Strings), Popular (drums, electronic, guitar, piano, vocals)

Prepared in advance.

- Perform one piece (max. 3 min.) of your choice, which will best demonstrate your performance level (please omit repeats). **Student must bring a copy of the music for the admission panel.**

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- Electronic music auditions need to be recorded as an MP3 file and/or with Noteflight or Garage Band and presented at the audition

Live at Glendale

- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more

Music: Vocal

Prepared in advance.

- Two contrasting pieces that demonstrate vocal and dramatic range to perform. Choose songs that best showcase your abilities, range, and vocal strength.
 - Contrasting songs could be fast/slow, high/low, happy/sad, two different genres or styles.
 - Students are encouraged to sing with an accompaniment track. Many pre-recorded accompaniment tracks can be found on YouTube often searchable using “karaoke track,” A piano will be available for your use if you would like to accompany yourself.
 - If you are having difficulty finding or choosing songs, you can sing a common melody like O Canada or Happy Birthday.

Please bring two copies of the piano-vocal sheet music for the adjudication panel

Live at Glendale.

- Perform your two contrasting pieces in front of our panel
- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more.

Visual Arts

Prepared in advance.

- Portfolio
 - Three original works of art (include a variety of mediums, with many different subjects and ideas)
 - One original work of art with your thoughts on our challenge topic
 - **“I Have a Dream”**
 - Sketchbook (to show experimentation, development of ideas and creative process)

Live at Glendale.

- Interview: Where we will get to know about the applicant a little more.

WE RECOMMEND THAT STUDENTS SEEK HELP FROM THEIR TEACHER, PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR WHEN PREPARING. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABPA@HWDSB.ON.CA

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ADMISSION TIMELINES

This is the timeline to apply to HWDSB Programs of the Arts at Glendale [HWDSB Audition-Based Programs of the Arts and HWDSB Strings] for the 2026-2027 school year. Applicants can apply to major in **UP TO 2 Disciplines maximum.**

- ❖ Public meeting for HWDSB Programs of the Arts at Glendale
 - Presentation of HWDSB Audition-Based Programs of the Arts and HWDSB Strings

Thursday, November 27th, 2025, 6pm at Glendale Secondary School

- Application to be completed online (Note the application will go live AFTER the meeting on Nov. 28th)

Due: Friday, December 19th, 2025, ONLINE

Media and Visual Arts (Fine Arts) Portfolios and Production Project are to be submitted digitally

- Applicants will include their full name as part of the title for each file submitted, that includes audio and video

Friday, January 16th, 2026, to <mailto:abpa@hwdsb.on.ca>

Can be sent before the due date.

Dance, Drama, and Music (Performing Arts) Auditions are done in person at Glendale Secondary School

- In person auditions will take place throughout the day and early evening at the school [schedule to be sent out after application deadline]

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026

ALL DISCIPLINE APPLICANTS WILL HAVE AN IN-PERSON INTERVIEW JAN. 28th

All applicants –successful or not – will be contacted by the Program Coordinator

Friday, January 30th, 2026

Applicants who are successful need to accept or decline their offer by

Friday, February 6th, 2026

Applicants will choose courses and complete their option sheet at an evening session at Glendale Secondary School

Thursday, February 12th, 2026

Program begins September 2026