

Questions and Answers from KKSA Virtual Information Session

Thursday, January 21st, 2021

Note - KKSA FAQs were sent out by email prior to the session

Questions - General KKSA/Curriculum	Answers
What is the average number of applicants that apply each year? How many students at KKSA? How many Grade 6 spots are there?	Approximately 200-300 students apply for KKSA. This year we have just under 200 applicants. There are 60 Grade 6 spots and we have approximately 180 students total in Grade 6, 7 and 8.
How many applications go on to the lottery in an average year? What percentage receive offers?	All applicants achieving level 3 and above will enter the lottery. We do not know how many there will be. 60 students receive offers.
Does the school have extracurricular activities?	Yes there are a wide range of extracurricular activities including teams and clubs. These vary from year to year as we are a small school with limited resources we try to focus on coed activities like cross country and track and field.
Are there any teachers of colour at the school?	Yes there are this year. However staffing changes each year. We are governed by hiring policies of the Ministry of Education.
Is the summer leadership program occurring this summer?	We have put a request in for the summer program, and are awaiting approval.
How many boys are in the school? Why is it not 50% boys and 50% girls?	This year there are about 10 boys and 20 girls in each grade 6 class. This varies every year depending on the numbers in the applicant in the pool. Our goal of 30% non-female students is reflective of the applications over the last 4- 5 years and the proportion of students that also participate in the summer academy.
Are school buses available? Are students expected to find their own way?	No, school bussing is not available. Students out of the area use TTC and carpools.
Where do students from KKSA move on to in terms of highschool?	Students apply for various schools in Toronto and attend their home highschool or specialized schools. We are not a feeder school for Etobicoke School of the Arts or any other high school.
How does the KKSA program tie in with the various TDSB arts programs?	KKSA is an integrated arts school and the TDSB curriculum is followed. There are separate subjects for each arts: dance, drama, vocal music (unfortunately not this year due to COVID-19) and visual arts.
Can students study media arts at the school i.e. animation?	Media Arts is integrated in Visual Arts & Media Literacy.
How much French will the kids be learning?	The students have a core french class, 3-4 times per week. We are governed by the Ministry of Education guidelines and students receive 200 of French per cycle.

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How many subjects of study can a student choose? Is poetry, fiction etc. a part of the curriculum?	All students participate in every subject. Poetry and fiction are studied in Language. KKSA follows the regular curriculum with arts integrated.
If a student is drawn more to one form of arts than another (eg visual arts vs. dance performance is there room to accommodate within the subjects.	We invite all students to explore all different forms of art. If a child is closed to participating in all art forms then they need to consider if this is the best program for him/her. We ask that all students are open to explore all art forms.
What styles of dance are taught? Is there focused time to practice a specific art every day (eg dance, music, drama)?	Dance is a subject and we study various forms of dance. This is not a performing arts school.
Is your music program only string instruments or is drums a part of it?	KKSA has a vocal music program, we do not have instrumental music.
What is the approach to math at KKSA?	KKSA follows the TDSB curriculum.
Is there any way that a parent can attach the medical history of the child to the application?	Medical History is not a part of the admissions/application process. As with any TDSB school, this information is provided to the school at the beginning of the school year.
Is there any opportunity to talk about other interests, pursuits, challenges or strengths?	This is not a part of the admissions process.
How many levels are there on the rubric?	There are four levels, level 3 equals 75%. The rubric will be posted on the website.
How long does video need to be (minimum or maximum length)? How do we know the specific requirements?	The video should be maximum two minutes in length. There is no minimum. Specific instructions for the video, as well as the rubric, a link to the instruction video, the information presentation and the google form will be sent by email when the submission system opens.
Is Flipgrid required to make the video or can other video editing tools be used?	Video will be uploaded to the Google form. We will not use Flipgrid for security reasons and to align with TDSB approved practices. You will need a Google Account to complete the form.
Is there a live interview component?	There are no live workshops this year, just the video and written submissions are required.
Can the video be pre-recorded. Does it need to be one take?	Yes, the video may be pre-recorded and edited prior to uploading.
Are there any examples from other years as to what the video should look like?	No, this is our first year using the video and written submission. We want to hear the student's voice come through in their response. The production or look of the video is not scored.
Can you send the video by email?	No, the submission must come via the google form that is provided in our submission email.

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Can the written part be mixed media? Can you submit visuals with the written part.	This is a written submission of 500 words, visuals or mixed media should not be submitted as part of the written piece. However, you may include them in the video portion.
What if the student struggles to write?	As the student is working from home, they can use all of the supports that they typically would to present their understanding. Voice-to-text or scribing as outlined in their IEP. We want all students to be comfortable and demonstrate their best.
If a child has special needs eg LD, ADHD is there an opportunity to point that out?	You may choose to share this information as a part of your written submission. It will in no way affect your admission. We want all students to feel that they have an opportunity to demonstrate their very best. We have an integrated special education model. Student support varies annually based on allocation.
For the written work is more of the weight on ideas as opposed to spelling and grammar? Can parents proof read the written piece?	We do not evaluate spelling and grammar. We are looking to hear the student's voice and why the arts are important to you.
Is the assessment process a team approach?	Yes, a team of KKSA teachers do the evaluations. Evaluation Criteria will be posted in the rubric.
Do current students take part in the assessment process?	No, the evaluations are done by a group of KKSA Teachers.
Do you consider current report card marks?	Report Cards are not a part of the evaluation process.
Does participation in the summer leadership program impact admissions?	Participation in the summer leadership program does not impact admissions. However, if students participated in the program they will have had experience in understanding the KKSA integrated arts model.
Can you clarify more how the equity lens works with admissions?	As per TDSB's Anti-Racist and Ethnocultural Equity Policy: "As part of the Board's strategic efforts and commitments to advance equity and inclusion, and ensure non-board discrimination, KKSA encourages applications from families that represent the full diversity of communities in Toronto. Our admission policy allows for priority entry for members of diverse communities, which will count for a minimum of 25% of all grade admissions. As another part of our process, we aspire to have a population that is at least 30% non-female." This is a relational representation of the applicant pool.