

Dear Potential ArtQuest Students and Parents/Guardians,

ArtQuest is a public school magnet program at Santa Rosa High School, designed in 1993 as a California "Specialized Secondary Program" (SSP) with the mission to provide "an above and beyond experience for students who wish to concentrate on the Arts during their high school years and for whom creativity and artistic expression is of paramount importance." As we continue into our 16th year, the ArtQuest faculty continues to be firmly dedicated to this original vision and to the ongoing development of strategies to forge an even more effective and meaningful student learning environment, here at the heart of artistically rich and diverse Sonoma County.

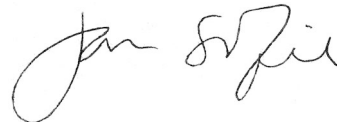
At ArtQuest the passion, commitment and discipline of the arts is **connected** to the energy of academic learning, **inspired** by guest artists, **enlarged** by meaningful offsite visits, exhibitions and performances, **enriched** by its proximity to Santa Rosa Junior College, the Santa Rosa Community Media Center, the Santa Rosa Downtown Arts District and other nearby cultural organizations, and **nurtured** by generous parent, community and business support and advocacy. Students from all over the region come together to exhibit, perform and begin to build their dreams into realities and to pursue artful lives, wherever they may lead.

Each year the program works with an interdisciplinary theme and the 2009-10 focus is *Rebel With a Cause*. Through this lens we will investigate how individuals, groups and artists select and advance causes that are important for them in their time. We will look at what makes a cause important, popular or resisted, how people try to convince others that their cause is meaningful and how it can sometimes go astray, derailed by limited vision, denial or self-interest. We will also contrast the rebel *with* a cause to those for whom rebelliousness for its own sake is at the center of their interests. The many ways that visual and performing artists take up and advocate for or against causes will be especially important in this investigation. Collaborations, projects, exhibits, performances, speakers and presenters will all be aimed at understanding these ideas. The use of an overarching theme is one important way ArtQuest emphasizes the necessity of ideas and ways to communicate conceptual content to viewers and audiences through the Arts. The development of technical skills and the ability to critically assess work is also a strong priority.

ArtQuest has received several notable recognitions over the years including the California Association of School Boards' *Golden Bell Award*, the *Jack London Award*, the *Met Life Award for Community Engagement*, *California Assembly Resolution 560* and the *Sonoma County Arts Council Achievement in Arts Education* award. Beyond program recognitions, our individual instructors and students consistently win competitions, awards and scholarships and are invited to participate in many festivals, exhibitions and other events.

We are truly an artistic learning community, devoted to the development of creative problem solving, critical thinking skills, responsibility, accountability, discipline and focus. We emphasize the necessity for our students to be both artists and scholars and we work to nurture opportunities to experience camaraderie, excitement about learning and happiness at school. We believe in the power of the Arts and the importance of humanness in education and see school as a place that can be filled with dynamic and compelling experiences and discoveries. We warmly thank you for your interest in ArtQuest.

On behalf of the ArtQuest program,



Jan Sofie, AQ Director

ANNUAL AQ SHOWCASES

The public is warmly invited to attend the ArtQuest Showcases held every Spring and Fall, beginning in the Santa Rosa High School Auditorium at 6:30 pm. Please tell prospective applicants, families and community members about these informative, exciting events.

FALL Showcase is **Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009** and features special presentations of student work samples from over the years and the opportunity to learn more about ArtQuest's mission and curriculum and to meet program faculty and high school counselors.

SPRING Showcase is **Thursday, March 25, 2010**, and highlights and celebrates student work from the current school year.

STUDENT SHADOWING PROGRAM

Potential students may "shadow" an ArtQuest student from **October 7** through **November 20, 2009**, on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays only**. For an appointment, please call *Lisa Schoutsen, AQ Program Assistant*, at (707) 528-5070 X 6789

MORE QUESTIONS?

Please read this Application Packet carefully first. If you have further questions, please contact the following:

Transfer questions: Santa Rosa City Schools District Child Welfare and Attendance Office, (707) 528-5137

AQ Shadowing, Applications etc: Lisa Schoutsen, AQ Program Assistant, (707)528-5070X6789, lschoutsen@srcs.k12.ca.us

AQ Portfolio or Audition Questions: Instructors by discipline; phone and email on this Packet's "Portfolio/Audition" pages.

Other AQ Questions: Jan Sofie, AQ Director, at (707) 528-5070X6765 or jsocie@srcs.k12.ca.us

ARTQUEST WEBSITE: www.artquestonline.org

The website is for general program information. The Application Packet, events and other dates may not *always* be up to date. We prefer that you use the hard copy Application to apply to AQ.



ArtQuest

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION for School Year 2010-11 Entry

ArtQuest will begin to accept applications in October 2009 for Fall 2010 entry. **Early application is highly recommended.** Late application may adversely affect AQ acceptance, availability of AQ specialty, AQ core and other classes, timely registration, transfers, participation in orientation etc. Please avoid late application and delayed decisions if at all possible. Applications are not processed nor reviewed during school holidays, breaks or vacations.

DEADLINES

Priority Application Deadline, Friday, February 19, 2010: Applicants must have submitted a *completed* AQ application by this date in order to definitely be eligible to attend the Priority AQ Registration held in April 2010. Priority Registration details will follow upon acceptance.

Final Application Deadline, Tuesday, April 6, 2010: Applicants must have submitted a *completed* AQ application by this date to have an acceptance decision for Fall 2010 entry by the end of the School Year in May, 2010. It is likely, *but not always possible*, that applications received by this date will have a decision made in time to notify students for the Priority AQ Registration held in April 2010. *Please apply by the Priority Deadline above if possible.*

Late Applications, after Tuesday, April 6, 2010: Applicants who apply after this date are often not able to have an acceptance decision in time to attend the AQ Priority Registration. Depending on how late an application is received, applicants may not have an acceptance decision until the AQ staff returns to school in the Fall.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Application Packet Submission: Submit all Application Packet materials *simultaneously*, either in person (at the SRHS Main Office, open school days 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) OR by mail to ArtQuest at SRHS, 1235 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Do *not* insert Application materials into notebooks, folders etc; just paper clip together. (Portfolios may be submitted in portfolio cases, however.) Applications with missing parts are considered *incomplete* and will not be processed until complete. See Deadlines above.

Portfolios and Auditions: Specific requirements and timelines are described *in detail* in the "Portfolio/Audition Information" pages of this Packet, where you will also find Arts Specialty instructors' contact phones and e-mail addresses. *Please contact the appropriate arts specialty instructor directly with other questions pertaining to Portfolios or Audition, as they are the best source for this discipline-specific information.*

Transfer Procedures: Transfer procedures are described on the "SRHS Enrollment & Transfer Information" page of this Packet. If you do *not* live in the normal Santa Rosa High School attendance boundaries, you must carefully follow the instructions for transfers and *cannot* attend ArtQuest unless your transfer to SRHS is approved.

APPLICATION PROCESS CHECKLIST

ArtQuest Portion:

A **completed** application includes **TWO** copies (original and copy) of each of the following, except only **one** Portfolio. You are **strongly** advised to make a third copy for your records:

- Application Form
- Teacher Reference
- Letter of Recommendation
- Grade Record (except for Santa Rosa Middle School students)
- Attendance Record (except for Santa Rosa Middle School students)
- Written Personal Responses
- Photograph of Applicant
- Release and Consent Form (signed)
- Other Forms &/or Agreements: (signed, as included and attached to AQ Application)
- Portfolio or Audition (only ONE Portfolio; *detailed* requirements on "Portfolio/Audition Information" pages)

District Portion:

- Transfer Process (If applicable. See "SRHS Enrollment & Transfer Information" page for details.)

SRHS Portion:

- Enrollment/Registration Process

Once you are accepted into AQ you will receive registration information. Acceptance decisions will *begin* in Spring 2009, and are affected by various factors such as date of completed application, date application is processed, when audition or portfolio review is held etc. For students outside the normal SRHS attendance boundaries, Enrollment/Registration at SRHS is contingent upon acceptance into AQ *and* appropriate transfer approval.



ArtQuest

SRHS ENROLLMENT & TRANSFER INFORMATION for School Year 2010-11 Entry

If you do **not** live in the normal attendance boundaries of Santa Rosa High School, you must not only apply to and be accepted into ArtQuest, you must also be approved by the Santa Rosa City Schools District to attend SRHS. It is very important that you go through the process for your particular situation as you *simultaneously proceed* with your application to ArtQuest. **Designate "ArtQuest - Specialized Program" as the reason for your request on your transfer form and follow the procedures below, according to your "district of origin":**

WITHIN SRHS ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

If you would normally attend Santa Rosa High School, you need *only* go through the ArtQuest application process; no transfer is necessary.

INTRA - DISTRICT SPECIALIZED PROGRAM OPEN ENROLLMENT

If you live in the attendance boundaries of any other Santa Rosa City Schools District high school (Elsie Allen, Maria Carillo, Montgomery or Piner High Schools) you may apply to ArtQuest and, ***if accepted will be automatically eligible for enrollment into Santa Rosa High School under the "specialized program designation"; no other transfer procedure will be needed.*** Also, students will not need to renew this Open Enrollment transfer and will automatically be continued within this designation from year to year. However, *if the student does not stay enrolled in the ArtQuest specialized program classes or is not successful in the program, this Specialized Program Open Enrollment will be nullified.* Under these circumstances, if the student wishes to remain at Santa Rosa High School he/she will then need to apply for the Intra-District Transfer Process in order to remain.

INTRA - DISTRICT PERMANENT STATUS OPEN ENROLLMENT

As another option ***if you live in the attendance boundaries of any other Santa Rosa City Schools District high school*** (Elsie Allen, Maria Carillo, Montgomery or Piner High Schools), you may instead decide to pursue an open-ended Open Enrollment (that is, one that is *not* contingent on a student being a part of ArtQuest, a district specialized program) and should then complete the Open Enrollment transfer process **beginning Nov. 1 at 8 a.m. and continuing through Nov. 30, 2009 at 5 p.m.** You may complete the application online at www.sracs.k12.ca.us, but make sure you *submit* your transfer request and print out and keep your confirmation page, which will include your confirmation number. If you do not have access to a computer, you must submit the application in person to the Child Welfare and Attendance Office, 211 Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa (located *behind* the main office building of Santa Rosa City Schools District) during regular business hours (Mondays through Fridays, 8 am-12 noon or 1-5 pm). *No late, mailed, or faxed applications will be accepted. If you do not apply for a transfer during the above "Open Enrollment" time period, you must go to the administration of your "home school" and request this transfer.*

INTER - DISTRICT TRANSFER

If you live in any other school district attendance boundaries that are not part of the Santa Rosa City Schools District, you must apply for an Inter-District transfer at your home district office. Since this can sometimes be a lengthy procedure, make sure you submit your transfer request to your district as soon as possible, even though these requests *may* not be acted on until after January 1 of each year. Please submit your ArtQuest application materials to us simultaneously and as soon as possible, as we may be able to give you an acceptance decision before you receive your transfer request decision. *It is often helpful to check on the status of your Inter-District transfer request with your district of origin.* Remember also that after a student is granted an inter-district transfer, he/she must update it every year; please check with your home district on their protocol.

Remember to designate "ArtQuest-Specialized Program" as the reason for your transfer request. Applicants will be informed of their AQ acceptance and their transfer approval separately, beginning in Spring 2010 and continuing thereafter.

Questions? If you have questions or need additional clarification about the transfer process, please contact the Child Welfare and Attendance office of Santa Rosa City Schools District or your own district of origin. If you still need assistance, contact the AQ Program Assistant.

SR City Schools District Child Welfare and Attendance at (707) 528-5137

AQ Program Assistant, Lisa Schoutsen at (707) 528-5070 X 6789 or email: lschoutsen@sracs.k12.ca.us



ArtQuest

PORTFOLIO/AUDITION INFORMATION

for School Year 2010-11 Entry

General Information for ALL Disciplines

The ArtQuest Application Process includes either the review of a Portfolio or an Audition, which is conducted after a *completed* application is received. Please follow the specific procedures given below for your 1st Choice of Arts Specialty area. You will be notified of your acceptance by letter after a decision is made, beginning in Spring 2010. If you are declined acceptance for your 1st choice, you will be considered for your 2nd choice and may be asked to submit a different portfolio or to audition for that specialty. If you are declined for both your 1st and 2nd choices, you will be called to discuss other options. **IMPORTANT: Questions about Portfolios or Auditions should be directed to the Arts Specialty teachers. See names and contact info below.**

VISUAL ARTS All Visual Arts applicants should submit the described Portfolio for their Specialty choice *at the same time* they submit their Application Packet. Either mail or hand deliver your completed ArtQuest Application Packet with your Portfolio to the SRHS Main Office, Attention ArtQuest. (*Although you must submit two copies of all other application materials, only ONE Portfolio is required; do NOT submit two copies of the Portfolio.*) Your application will be considered incomplete and will not be processed nor your portfolio reviewed until all required materials are received. Portfolios will be reviewed by Visual Arts teachers beginning in early Spring 2010, and continuing thereafter. You will be notified by letter and about your acceptance and when/where to pick up your portfolio. **IMPORTANT: You may be required to attend an interview as part of the Visual Arts portfolio review process. You will be contacted by phone if an interview is required.**

Digital Arts

Ralph Silva-Broussard, 528-5070 X6737; rbroussard@srcs.k12.ca.us

Submit portfolio of images demonstrating abilities in computer software programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, 2D and/or 3D animation programs, etc. Work may be submitted in various formats, including disk, zip disk, CD, video, hard copy prints etc. Include information as to what applications were used to create the project, successful or appropriate ways to view it and the name and file format. Work should be presented in a professional manner, carefully protected and identified with name, address and phone number. While there is no minimum number of works, applicants should submit their best examples in both technique and concept. ***Alternative Portfolio:** Some students may not have had much opportunity to work within the medium of Digital Arts. In this case, the portfolio should consist of hand drawings, designs, storyboards or other visual art works, and a clear statement about why this is the Specialty choice, even though little or no Digital work can be shown. This may affect your acceptance.

Photography

Tanya Braunstein, 528-5070X6712; tbraunstein@srcs.k12.ca.us

No prior photographic educational experience is required to apply for the Photography Specialty. The portfolio you submit, however, should demonstrate a willingness to work in the photographic medium as an art form and an eye for composition, shadow, light, and subject matter. Work submitted may be the original piece or shown on CD, slide or photograph, however 3-D works may only be submitted in CD, slide or photographic form. Photographs should be no larger than 8" x 10". Work should be presented in a professional manner and carefully protected and identified on the back with name, address and phone number. The artwork submitted should be original and may be in any or all of the following media: Photographs, Paintings, Drawings, 3-Dimensional Works (Slides, photos, CD's etc. only; no actual 3-D work, please.) or Digital Photos and/or Digital Art.

Video Arts

Jim Helmer, 528-5070 X6726; jhelmer@srcs.k12.ca.us

Submit videotape, CD, DVD or disk that reflects the experiences you have had using film, video or computer imaging. Include information as to what applications were used to create the project, successful or appropriate ways to view it and the name and file format, if necessary. (Example: Project made using PowerPoint/Office 97 for Windows, created in Flash4, will play via Microsoft Internet Explorer 5, Death Star.FLC or Race.mov etc.) Work should be presented in a professional manner, carefully protected and identified with name, address and phone number. ***Alternative Portfolio:** Some students may not have had much opportunity to work within the medium of Video Arts. In this case, the portfolio should consist of hand drawings, designs, storyboards or other visual art works, and a clear statement about why this is the Specialty choice, even though little or no Video work can be shown. This may affect your acceptance.

Visual Fine Arts

Brooke Delello, 528-5070 X6788; bdelello@srcs.k12.ca.us

Tony Guaraldi-Brown, 528-5070 X6794; aguaraldibrown@srcs.k12.ca.us

Aleta Thomas, 528-5070 X6796; athomas@srcs.k12.ca.us

Actual works MUST be submitted for 2-D pieces. No actual 3-D or very large 2-D work accepted; submit only good quality slides or photographs for these pieces. No portfolios that must be viewed digitally are accepted in this arts specialty portfolio. Work should be presented in a professional manner, carefully protected and each piece identified with name, address and phone number. Submit the following in any media or technique:

- A "Self Portrait" done in any media, interpreted however you wish; *please indicate which piece this is.*
- 6 - 10 other pieces which you believe exhibit the best, most interesting aspects of your art work. You should include a *variety* of approaches but you **MUST include realistic, OBSERVATIONAL drawings** (drawings based on close observation of actual objects, people, places etc.) *Failure to include significant and strong observational drawings will negatively impact your acceptance into this discipline.*



ArtQuest

PORTFOLIO/AUDITION INFORMATION, Continued for School Year 2010-11 Entry

PERFORMING ARTS All Performing Arts applicants must submit a completed Application Packet first and then follow discipline-specific directions below for the Audition. Either mail or hand deliver your complete ArtQuest Application Packet to the SRHS Main Office, Attention ArtQuest. Your application will be considered incomplete and will not be processed nor an audition scheduled until all required materials are received. Auditions will be scheduled by the specific Performing Arts teachers beginning in early Spring 2010 and continuing thereafter. You will be notified by letter about your acceptance.

Dance

Elizabeth Evans, 528-5070 X4887; eevans@srcs.k12.ca.us

Joshua Zimmermann, 528-5070 X6795; jzimmermann@srcs.k12.ca.us

After your *completed* ArtQuest Application Packet is processed, you will be contacted for an Audition and given further instructions at that time, with the first round of auditions beginning in early Spring 2010 and continuing thereafter. Please be advised that **no truly Beginning level Dance class is offered**; students must have dance skills and experience at the *minimum* of an Intermediate high school level upon entry, which is usually about 2 or more years of previous instruction.

Theatre Arts

Vicki Carpenter, 528-5070 X6725; chatsmere50@comcast.net

John Craven, 528-5070 X6011; jcraven@srcs.k12.ca.us

After your *completed* ArtQuest Application Packet is processed, you will be contacted for an Audition, with the first round of auditions beginning in early Spring 2010 and continuing thereafter. Applicants must be prepared to attend the full 2 1/2 hour audition, held in the SRHS Black Box Theatre, Room 24, which will include group exercises, improvisations, and presentations of selected monologues. Wear loose-fitting clothes to move in and be prepared to present a fully memorized and developed two-minute monologue from a published play. It is advisable to have a second monologue for a backup. Applicants must also bring a one-page resume and a sealed, *second* letter of recommendation attached to this resume to *the audition*. (These materials are in *addition* to the AQ Application.)

Music - Instrumental

Mark Wardlaw, 528-5070 X4893; srhswarthog@yahoo.com

After your *completed* ArtQuest Application Packet is processed, the information within it will be used to consider you for acceptance. If accepted, you will then be initially placed in a level based on the written information and recommendation contained in the Application. *Students will be auditioned for any changes in initial level placement in Fall 2010*, during the Instrumental Music class they are initially scheduled into. Please be advised that **no truly Beginning Instrumental Music class is offered**; students must be able to play at the *minimum* of an Intermediate high school level upon entry, which usually means approximately 4-5 years of previous instruction.

Music - Vocal

Kira Bombace, 535-4892; srhschoirs@yahoo.com

After your *completed* ArtQuest Application Packet is processed, applicants will be screened based on written information and recommendation contained in the application and will then be contacted for scheduling of an audition and interview. Applicants must be prepared to attend an individual audition to be held by appointment in Room 41 in the Music/Dance building, beginning in early Spring 2010 and continuing thereafter. The audition will include a student solo, vocal exercises to determine range, 2 sight-reading exercises, and 2-3 tonal memory exercises. Applicants should be prepared to sing one memorized song, 2-3 minutes in length and should bring a copy of the sheet music for this song. Accompaniment will be provided. (IMPORTANT: Missing the ArtQuest Application deadlines as described earlier in this Application Packet may affect your acceptance and/or placement.)

All Music Applicants - Special Note:

Music applicants may take two Instrumental, two Vocal, or a combination of Instrumental and Vocal classes, **if possible in the schedule and if appropriate for their level in each area (Vocal and/or Instrumental)**. Applicants should follow directions above for either or both, as appropriate for their application request. Music classes are on period in length, in contrast to most other AQ classes.