

School of the Arts

4-Year Report



school of the arts

@ CENTRAL GWINNETT HIGH SCHOOL



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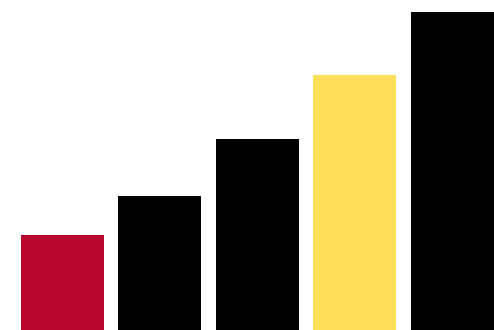
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SOTA OVERVIEW

School of the Arts @ Central Gwinnett High School opened in the 2021-2022 school year with a **mission** to nurture the talent, determination, and skill of student artists from across GCPS, providing them with the experience and education to pursue their passion at the college and professional level.

Our **vision** is to be a renowned arts preparatory high school that prepares the next generation of artists to be academically and artistically competitive in fine arts careers and for post-secondary opportunities.

Here's how we do it:

- SOTA is the fine arts department at CGHS providing all CGHS students with the ability to take multiple fine arts classes throughout their high school experience.
- SOTA Fellows– provides CGHS and transfer students with expanded elective course opportunities in art, dance, music, and theatre. SOTA Fellows students have a traditional core academic schedule while focusing their elective course work in the arts.
- SOTA Conservatory–A non-traditional schedule allows students to spend most of their school day in expanded arts classes, internships, and work experiences in the arts. Students “major” in one of 5 areas: Art and Design, Dance, Music Technology, Theatre, or Voice. Students from across the district may apply to be a part of the Conservatory. Admittance to the Conservatory is determined through an auditions and interviews.

We currently have a 129% increase in applications from this time last year.

Our vision is expanding as this year work has begun to unite the Central Cluster Schools in becoming the Central Cluster for the Arts!



Arts Programs



AV TECH & FILM



**FASHION DESIGN
(NEW)**



ART & DESIGN



GUITAR



ORCHESTRA



BAND



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



THEATRE



DANCE



PIANO



VOICE

Facts & Figures

25/26SY

Grade:

9 - 24%
10 - 20%
11 - 28%
12 - 28%

Gender:

M - 22%
F - 78%

Ethnicity:

Asian - 2%
Black - 53%
Hispanic - 18%
Two or More- 8%
White - 19%

Instructional Setting:

Gifted - 39%
SpEd - 6%
ML - 1%

Meals:

Free - 45%
Reduced - 22%

Programs:

Fellows - 174
Conservatory - 192
 Voice - 29
 Theatre - 60
 Music Tech - 32
 Dance - 24
 Art & Design - 47

Total students per arts discipline:

Art - 715
Dance - 309
Theatre - 330
Music Technology - 135
Band - 205
Orchestra - 104
Guitar - 145
Piano - 146
Chorus - 110
Music Studies - 97
Music Theory - 59
Total - 2355

Cluster Representation:

Central - 30%
Archer - 8%
Berkmar - 3%
Brookwood - 4%
Collins Hill - 4%
Dacula - 6%
Discovery - 4%
Duluth - 5%
Grayson - 7%
Meadowcreek - 2%
Mill Creek - 1%
Mountain View - 2%
Norcross - <1%
North Gwinnett - 2%
Out of County (parent works for GCPS) - 2%
Parkview - 4%
Peachtree Ridge - 3%
Seckinger - <1%
Shiloh - 7%
South Gwinnett - 7%



Awards & Accolades



OPENING NUMBER

SOTA was honored to open the GCPS Summer Leadership Conference (SLC) with a 10-minute excerpt from their award-winning production of HADESTOWN: Teen Edition! They truly wowed the crowd and set the audience up for an exciting conference experience!



MURAL

SOTA was also featured at the conference with a community mural designed by SOTA 2025 graduate, Faith Pascual.



FEATURED PRESENTER

SOTA 2025 graduate, Josue Martinez, was the featured student presenter at the conference!

PLUS SO MUCH MORE

- **2025 BEST OVERALL PRODUCTION AT THE GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE “SHULER” AWARDS - LIVE ON GAPBS**
- **BEST FEATURED PERFORMER AWARD AT SHULERS**
- **3-TIME ONE-ACT PLAY REGION CHAMPIONS**
- **100% PASS RATE IN AP STUDIO ART**
- **STUDENT SELECTED FOR 2025 AP PORTFOLIO DISTINCTION (1 OF ONLY 50 OUT OF THOUSANDS NATIONWIDE)**
- **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL FEATURED PERFORMERS (ON OUR FIRST TRY!); OVER \$500K IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**
- **STUDENTS RELEASING ORIGINAL MUSIC ON ALL STREAMING SERVICES**
- **GHSA RAY HORNE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LITERARY AND ONE-ACT COMEPTITION**
- **4-TIME REGION RUNNERS UP IN LITERARY, 3 INDIVIDUUAL STATE LITERARY WINNERS**
- **12 GHP FINALISTS**
- **NATIONWIDE FINALIST IN WILLIAM WARFIELD CLASSICAL VOCAL COMPETITION**
- **NUMEROUS VISUAL ARTS AWARD WINNERS**
- **STUDENTS EARNING SCHOLARSHIPS TO NUMEROUS TOP SUMMER INTENSIVES FOR THE ARTS**
- **STUDENTS WORKING WITH AWARD-WINNING CHOREOGRAPHERS**

School of the Arts

@ CENTRAL GWINNETT HIGH SCHOOL

2022 - 95% Grad Rate
2023 - 100% Grad Rate
2024 - 100% Grad Rate
2025 - 100% Grad Rate



Where are they now?

Agnes Scott College
Ailey School at Fordham University
Alabama State University
Augusta University
Baldwin Wallace University
Berry College
Brenau University
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Butler University
Catawba College
Columbia College Chicago
Columbus State University
DePaul University
Fashion Institute of Technology

Florida A&M University
Florida State University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia State University
Georgia Tech University
Hampton University
Hofstra University
Howard University
Ithaca College
Kennesaw State University
Lincoln University of Missouri
Louisiana State University
Marymount Manhattan University
Mercer University

Molloy University
Montclair State University
Morehouse College
New Jersey City University
New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts
New York University
Northwestern University
Norwalk Conservatory
Oberlin College & Conservatory
Oglethorpe University
Oklahoma City University
Pace University
Penn State University
Point Park University
Pratt Institute

Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)
Shenandoah University
Spelman College
SUNY Purchase
Texas State University
Truett McConnell University
Virginia Commonwealth University
University of Bristol (England)
University of Georgia
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of Utah
Viterbo University
Wright State University
Yale University

In the 2025/2026 school year, the Central Gwinnett Cluster schools will join together to become an arts themed cluster ...

Central Cluster for the Arts!

What IS an arts-themed cluster?

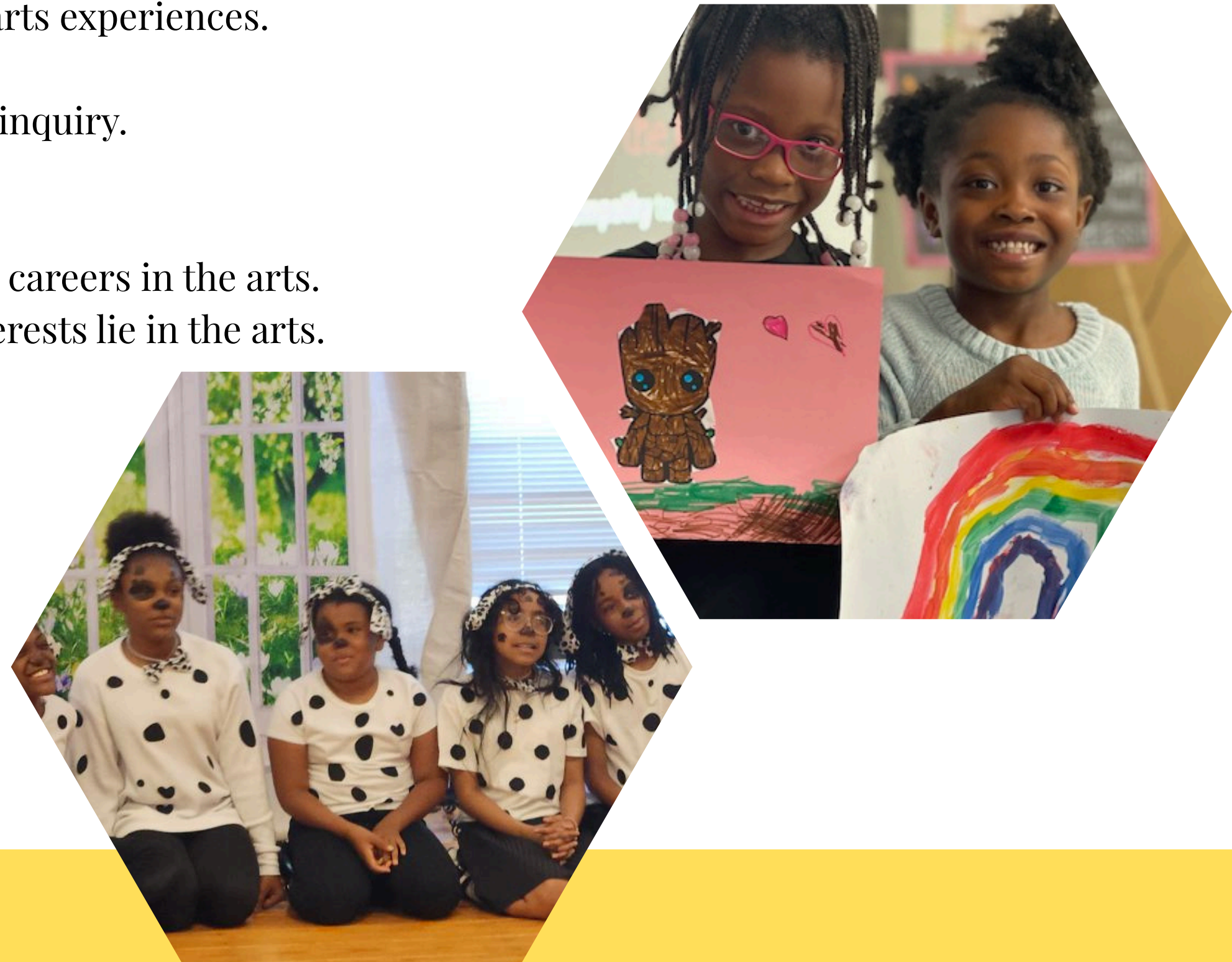
It's a place where...

- students in grades K-12 are engaged in and have access to arts experiences.
- each and every classroom:
 - engages students in experimentation, exploration, and inquiry.
 - fosters problem solving skills.
 - encourages creativity and collaboration.
- students are exposed to and encouraged to pursue creative careers in the arts.
- resources and support are available for students whose interests lie in the arts.

Why is an arts-themed Cluster important to our community?

- We believe in the power of the arts to engage students in learning!
- We desire to prepare our K-8 students for the opportunities available at School of the Arts at Central Gwinnett High School.

**Community Kick-off Event is April 25, 2026
(Place TBD -Lawrenceville Lawn or LAC)**



Testimonials



“I just want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to join SOTA. You all were so nice during the audition and it really helped calm my nerves. Thank you!”

- Brooklyn Huff

I just wanted to thank you once again for making (our daughter’s) last 2 years of high school a wonderful experience. She always looked forward to going to classes. She loved her teachers and her classes.”

- The Pascuals

“(We) wanted to share how grateful we are. SOTA was such a positive and formative experience for (our son), and it truly set him up for a bright future.”

- The Youngs

“I have grown so much as an artist, a performer, and a person!”

- Connor Schenke, Class of 2025

“SOTA’s faculty has worked hard to continuously keep the student’s best interest in mind.”

- Jennifer Brown

“These students are being taught with great care and empathy for their fellow students, their community, and their world...This is a true gift that this program is giving all of our children.”

- Nickie and Ryan Moore

“The School of the Arts has changed my child’s life by providing him with the means to pursue his artistic dreams, fostering personal growth and development, and preparing him for a fulfilling and meaningful future in the world of art and creativity.”

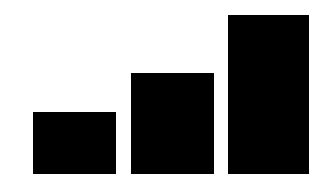
- Ali Payne

“Your kids are standouts. It’s wonderful to see kids who are being trained by people who REALLY know dance.”

- Director of Kansas City Ballet at the Regional High School Dance Festival auditions at Texas A&M

“My family and I attended the SOTA production of Les Miserables on Saturday. I've mentioned this to you in the past, but I wanted to formally share that, once again, the AMAZING students and staff were phenomenal! Literally having all of us in tears at the end and of course a standing ovation. My niece has had the best year of her educational career at SOTA and I can't wait to see how she continues to grow in this program! BRAVO!!”

- Heidi Gholston



school of the arts

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Celebrating 5 Years!

SEP

Sept. 19 & 20, Honor Chorus
Sept. 22, KSU Symphony Orchestra (7:30PM)
Sept. 23, UGA Choral Day
Sept. 30, Fall Orchestra Concert
Oct. 3, Tri-M Open Mic (2:30-4)
Oct. 7, Fall Chorus Concert
Oct. 17, Art Throwdown
Oct. 23-25, Fall One-Act Play, URINETOWN
Oct. 29, One-Act Competition
Oct. 30, Fall Voice Recital

OCT

NOV

Nov. 6 & 7, Musical Theatre JUKEBOX Showcase
Nov. 10, SOTA Spotlight Night (6:30PM)
Nov. 20, Orchestra Concert & Music Tech
Guitar Showcase

DEC

Dec. 4-6, Winter Play, MIGRATION SEASON
Dec. 9, Winter Chorus Concert
Dec. 11, Fall Art Show (5:30-6:30PM)
Dec. 11 & 12, Winter Dance Concert
Dec. 16, Winter Band Concert (6:30PM)
Dec. 18, Live Band Ensembles

JAN

Jan. 2, SOTA 26/27 Auditions
Jan. 3, New Year's Cabaret
Jan. 6-8, Spring Musical Auditions (after school)
Jan. 16, Voice Dept. Talent Show

FEB

Feb. 4, K-8 Juried Art Show

Feb. 5-7, ThesCon

Feb. 9, Acting Studio Showcase

Feb. 10, PreLGPE Orchestra Concert

Feb. 19-21, All-State Chorus

Feb. 24, PreLGPE Chorus Concert

Mar. 3, Region Literary Competition

Mar. 19-21, Spring Musical, ONCE UPON A ONE MORE TIME

Mar. 26-29, NYC Trip

MAR

APR

Apr. 21, Spring Orchestra Concert

Apr. 23, 10-Minute Play Festival

Apr. 25, Cluster for the Arts Kickoff Event

Apr. 26 Dance Banquet

Apr. 28, Spring Voice Recital

April 30, Spring Juried Art Show (5:30-6:30PM)

Apr. 30 & May 1, Spring Dance Concert

MAY

May 4, Fellows Acting Showcase

May 5, Spring Chorus Concert

May 6, Spring Band Concert (6:30PM)

May 7, Band Banquet

May 11, Chorus Banquet

May 12, SOTA Pinning Ceremony (6PM)

May 13, SENIOR Exit Art Show

May 18, Theatre Banquet

2025-2026 EVENTS

WWW.GCPSK12.ORG/SOTA
SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETED EVENTS



DRAFT - subject to change