

Thurman Francis Arts Academy Frequently Asked Questions 2019-2020

Q. How is TFAA different from a traditional public school?

TFAA is an academically accelerated school with many opportunities to explore the arts.

Q. Is there bus transportation for students?

Transportation is not provided for our students. Parents must provide their own transportation. There are after school options at local childcare facilities, dance, or karate studios.

Q. How many positions are available for 1st through 8th grade?

The number of positions available varies from year to year. Openings depend on the number of students who return in subsequent years. We encourage applying even if there are no current openings as students may move away throughout the summer.

Q. How does the enrollment process work?

COMPLETED application packets must be received **in the TFAA office** by **3:00 pm on February 1, 2019**. Anything received after that date and time will be considered late.

Every attempt is made to notify parents, via email, when a child's completed application packet has been received. If you do not receive notification, then assume your application is INCOMPLETE. Incomplete applications are NOT processed. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure that the COMPLETED application packet is received **in the TFAA office** by **3:00 pm on February 1, 2019**. Feel free to contact us to check the status of your child's application.

Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2nd Grade Applicants

All Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade applicants will be scheduled via e-mail for a 15-20 minute screening session. A completed application for Kindergarten consists of an application and a teacher recommendation; 1st and 2nd grade applicants must submit their most recent report card and attendance record as well. Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade applicants must be screened to be considered for acceptance into the program.

Entrance Criteria:

The applicant must obtain a qualifying score in all three sections of the screening to be considered for admission.

3rd and 4th Grade Applicants

A completed application packet consists of: an application, a copy of the most recent report card, a copy of current attendance record, Cognitive Abilities Test scores and teacher recommendation.

Entrance Criteria:

Students in 3rd and 4th grade qualify based on CogAT scores. The CogAT is the Cognitive Abilities Test given to all 2nd grade students in Rutherford County in September. You may get a copy of the results from your child's school. All sections of the CogAT will be considered. Applicants must achieve minimum SAS scores of 116.

5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Applicants

A completed application packet consists of: an application, a copy of the most recent report card, a copy of current attendance record, most recent TNReady scores and teacher recommendation.

Entrance Criteria:

Qualification for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade is based largely on the most recent TNReady scores and current grades.

Q. What if my child, applying for the 3rd grade or higher, did not take the Cognitive Abilities Test or TNReady?

Students can qualify based on TNReady test scores, 2nd grade CogAT scores, or appropriate "Gifted" screening tests. If no such scores are available, scores from other nationally normed tests (for example, Stanford Achievement Test-10) may be considered.

Q. Are siblings given priority status?

Siblings of **current students** are given priority consideration. To qualify for sibling priority status, the sibling must be enrolled at TFAA during the school year for which you are applying.

Q. Is my current Kindergarten student allowed to repeat Kindergarten at TFAA?

No, current Kindergarten students must apply for 1st grade.

Q. What if we are unavailable when screenings will be done? Can I come at a later date?

All screenings are scheduled the first two weeks of February. Due to the number of screenings we must complete, we cannot work around vacations, etc.

Q. When will we be notified of our entrance status?

It generally takes us the entire month of February to review/screen applicants. Letters stating entrance status will be mailed before the end of March.

Q. If my child is not accepted into the program, must I reapply the following year?

Yes, students must reapply if still interested in the magnet program. There is no waiting list that carries over from one year to the next.

Q. Does my child have to be retested or maintain a level of achievement to remain in the program once accepted?

A formal test is not given each year to remain in the program. However, strong academics, good behavior, and punctuality and attendance are important. Students may be removed from the program if these traits are not priorities.

Q. Are parents allowed a tour of Thurman Francis before making a decision?

Our assistant principal, Dr. Krista Hoekstra, does conduct group tours periodically. These are given on selected school mornings. You can sign up for a tour by visiting our website. If you have questions please call the school or email hoekstrak@rcschools.net.

Q. How do I contact TFAA if I have more questions?

You may call the office at 615.904.6715 or send an e-mail to tfaamagnet@gmail.com.

Additional Information:

- ~ All completed application packets received in the TFAA office by 3:00 pm on February 1, 2019 are equally considered.
- ~ Please check your email account periodically throughout the application process; email is our primary form of communication.
- ~ If there is inclement weather on the day of your screening and schools are closed or delayed, your missed appointment will be rescheduled.
- ~ When addresses are questionable, they will be checked for validity. Students outside of Rutherford County will not be considered.
- ~ Students who move outside Rutherford County are required to transfer to their zoned school.