

Application for Seal of Excellence – Fine Arts Department Visual Arts

Student name _____

Date _____

CRITERIA FOR SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Subject area goal: The student will develop individuality and imagination with the resourcefulness to achieve a balance between skill activity, philosophy and aesthetic sensitivity. The student will also experience a process that will encourage responsibility, dedication and a personal commitment to the fine arts. Emphasis will be on the development of the individual's initiative and capacity for self-criticism as well as aesthetic perception and technical competence.

Students must acquire at least 45 points from the following criteria as a prerequisite for a Seal of Excellence:

Essential Skills (Required)			Points
a	Be able to discuss the elements of art, principles of design, and processes and techniques using academic language and critical thinking		5
b	Create in two-dimensional or three-dimensional art forms with a knowledge of the media and processes involved, including design, drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture		5
c	Pursue independent activities in basic expressive media used throughout the preceding art courses		5
d	Demonstrate an historical understanding of art		5
Total Points			20

Criteria for achieving a seal of excellence

a	Be enrolled in the visual arts program for a minimum of six semester (3 years), and receive an A for a minimum of four semesters and a grade no lower than B for any additional semesters in the visual art program		5
b	Be enrolled in the Advanced Studio Art class both semesters of the senior year		5
c	Produce a portfolio that reflects visual experiences in all levels of the visual art curriculum, projects should include both in-class assignments and out-of-class work. The portfolio should demonstrate the student's strengths, growth, his/her depth in a concentrated area of interest, and a range of visual abilities.		5
d	Exercise initiative towards the production of a substantial body of consistent work		5
e	Create a display of personal work the senior year in one of the school display areas		5
f	Write five critiques in more than two areas of fine arts: gallery showings, art museums, drama/musical productions, and concerts (both AHS and community). Critiques must be a minimum of one page typed (see reverse side for Instructions for Writing Critiques). THIS ELEMENT IS REQUIRED.		5
Total Points			30

Students Name _____

Total Points _____

Verified by _____

Date _____

Fine Arts Department Chair

Instructions for Writing Critiques

Specific requirements for the five (5) critiques written for Visual Arts, Art History, Photography, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music (Band and Orchestra), or Drama can be found with the content area instructor.

The five (5) critiques should be accumulated during the four years of high school, but each critique must be turned into the instructor within two weeks after the event being critiqued. The instructor shall require student revisions on each critique until all of the communication skills - format, grammar, spelling and critical thinking are exemplified and are indicative of what a student striving for a Seal of Excellence should produce. **EACH CRITIQUE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROGRAM OR VERIFICATION OF THE EVENT AND BE ATTACHED TO THE FINAL DRAFT.** Critiques should not be a listing of the music played or paintings viewed. A critique is a critical analysis of the content of the program or exhibit. Students should apply appropriate academic vocabulary when critiquing the event.

The final draft of the critique must be type-written and turned in to the Fine Arts Chairperson for final approval. All five (5) final critiques, a completed Seal of Excellence form and a transcript must be submitted to the Department Chairperson **NO LATER THAN MAY 1st OF THE SENIOR YEAR** for approval in order to be awarded a Seal of Excellence at the convocation and graduation ceremonies.