



The 2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival will be held at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor Campus, on May 10, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Teen Arts Festival focuses on celebrating and acknowledging our gifted teen artists in performance seminars, critiquing sessions, master classes and workshops in media and visual art, dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music, film and creative writing.

In addition to registering for insightful critique sessions with arts professionals, students also have access to focused workshops in media, performance, visual, literary and musical arts - as well as artmaking and performance opportunities throughout the day. They are also invited to explore artwork by fellow Mercer County teenagers in the Teen Arts Gallery, as well as watch performances by students from other schools.

The festival is open to Mercer County, NJ, students aged 13 - 19.

Most teens partake with their middle school or high school; however, homeschooled students and individual students whose schools are not participating may also attend.

***NEW THIS YEAR:** Independent institutions and small businesses that offer instruction in the arts are eligible to attend given that their students meet all the festival requirements.

For more information about Mercer County's 2024 Teen Arts Festival, please contact our Mercer County Teen Arts Coordinator, Tim Hoh, at 609-989-6060 or 609-532-2634 or teenarts@mercercounty.org

2024 Mercer County Teens Arts Festival

SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Return to MCTAF by February 2, 2024

Online registration form is [HERE](#) and can also be emailed to School Coordinators upon request.
If you choose to use this hardcopy form, mail to the Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage.

Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage
Tim Hoh, Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Coordinator
640 South Broad Street, Room 417
Trenton, NJ 08650

Provide information about your school and the name and contact information for your Teen Arts School Coordinator. The Coordinator will act as liaison between the school and MCTAF Coordinator, Tim Hoh. If you are applying as an individual student, provide the information of your chaperone as your coordinator.

School/Student	School/Home Phone
Address	
Coordinator:	Email
School number/extension:	Home/Cell #
Approximate Time School/Student will:	
Arrive at Festival: _____ Depart from Festival: _____	
<p style="color: red; font-size: small;">*Please note that the student critique sessions and workshops run from 9am-2pm. Please take into consideration the number of students you have attending and allow enough time to ensure that all students will have an appropriate amount of time to participate in the festival.</p>	

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Please check all critique categories in which your students will participate:

Visual Arts: 2-D _____ 3-D _____ **Literary Arts:** Poetry _____ Prose/Essay _____
Dance _____ **Instrumental:** Soloist _____ Small Group _____ Large Group/Orchestra _____
Media Arts _____ **Vocal:** Soloist/Small Group _____ Large Group/Choir _____
Theater: Solo/Duo _____ Large Group _____ **Musical Theater:** Solo/Duo _____ Large Group _____

Provide contact information for additional teachers who should receive Teen Arts information:

Name:
Email:
Subject:
Daytime Phone:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival
SCHOOL PAYMENT FORM

PAYMENT WILL BE IN THE FORM OF:

- Payment voucher will be remitted as soon as possible
- Check enclosed

Make Checks Payable To: Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

High School – \$500

Middle School – \$350

**Independent Institutions/Small Businesses of Arts Based Instruction
- \$25 per student or \$200 for 8 or more students**

Individual or Homeschooled Student - \$25

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Hoh, Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage Teen Arts Coordinator, at (609) 989-6060 or by email at TeenArts@mercercounty.org.

SCHOOL/STUDENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CONTACT PERSON _____ EMAIL _____

SCHOOL/HOME PHONE _____ SCHOOL FAX _____

Please return this form by April 12, 2024
FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE May 3, 2024.

Mail to:
Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage
Tim Hoh, Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Coordinator
640 South Broad Street, Room 417
Trenton, NJ 08650

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Please identify a Coordinator from your school to act as liaison to Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Coordinator, Tim Hoh. This person will facilitate communications and help ensure this is an exciting, successful and meaningful experience for both the students and faculty.

SCHOOL COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Disseminate Teen Arts information to all arts teachers: Visual Arts, Music, Theater, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Film & Video, Dance.
- Act as liaison between school and MCTAF.
- Coordinate the application process for your school.
- Ensure that student submissions meet the Teen Arts guidelines and criteria for representing your school.
- Enlist a sufficient number of chaperones proportionate to students from your school.
- Arrange the timely transport of students, chaperones instruments, artwork,
- Ensure that all necessary student information, including: release forms, critique application sheets, visual arts master sheets, etc. are returned to the MCTAF in a timely manner.

Please complete & submit the **School Registration Form** (pg. 2) using either the online form [HERE](#) or by mailing/emailing hardcopy by **February 2, 2024**. **Payment Form** (pg. 3) must be submitted by **April 12, 2024**, and full payment must be received no later than **May 3, 2024**.

Hardcopy forms may be scanned and emailed to TeenArts@mercercounty.org, faxed to 609-278-6672 or sent via USPS to the following address:

Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage
Tim Hoh, Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Coordinator
640 South Broad Street, Room 417
Trenton, NJ 08650

If you have any questions, please email Tim Hoh at TeenArts@mercercounty.org

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Timeline

February 2, 2024	SCHOOL DEADLINE: 1. School Registration Form (submitted online or mailed) must be received by MCTAF 2. Teen Arts School Coordinator identified
February 23, 2024	TEEN ARTS TIMELINE Electronic link for Student Critique Registration sent to TAF School Coordinator
April 12, 2024	SCHOOL DEADLINE: 1. Payment Forms Due 2. Last date to register for student critiques
April 19, 2024	TEEN ARTS TIMELINE Visual Arts Master Sheets and Packets sent out to visual arts coordinators SCHOOL DEADLINE: 1. Writing and videos samples mailed/emailed to MCTAF (writing: submit in Word or Text format only) 2. Student Release (permission forms) for all participating students sent to MCTAF
April 30, 2024	TEEN ARTS TIMELINE Festival details sent to schools
May 3, 2024	SCHOOL DEADLINE: FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED TO PARTICIPATE.
May 7 & 8, 2024 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	SCHOOL & TEEN ARTS : Visual Arts teachers hang artwork at Mercer County Community College hallway Art Gallery (CM building) 10 am - 12 pm & 2 pm - 5 pm
May 10, 2024	Mercer County Teen Arts Festival 8:30 am - 2:00 pm - Teachers pick up visual arts pieces 2 pm - 3 pm
May 13, 2024	TEEN ARTS TIMELINE Schools notified regarding which students/ensembles have been advanced to NJ State Teen Arts Festival.
June 4-6, 2024	New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival held at Middlesex College, Edison, NJ

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

Guidelines

PERFORMANCES AND ARTWORK MUST BE SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AND REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR SCHOOL. CONTENT AND LANGUAGE MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC ARTS EVENT FOR TEENAGERS.

Performing/exhibiting students must be between 13 and 19 years of age, and reside and/or attend school in Mercer County. No student may perform and/or exhibit in more than two disciplines. Performance time limits are strictly enforced. Time will be called even if a performance or a critique is not complete. Every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of each group; however, performances will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please return your application promptly.

Discipline	Solo/Group	Performance TIME LIMIT	Special Instructions
Vocal Music	Soloist	3 minutes	Bring music, specify necessary equipment.
	Small Ensemble (2 - 15 singers)	4 minutes	Bring music, specify necessary equipment.
	Large Choral Group (16 singers)	10 minutes	Choral risers, piano provided.
Instrumental Music	Soloist	3 minutes	Music stand provided. Bring own amplification.
	Small Group (2 - 15 musicians)	4 minutes	Bring own amplification.
	Large Group (16+ musicians)	10 minutes	Large groups are allowed up to 10 minutes combined set-up/strike periods.
Piano	Soloist	3 minutes	Bring a copy of your music for the adjudicator. Try to have piece memorized.
Dance	Soloist & Group	3 minutes	Bring music, specify necessary equipment. Cheerleading, baton twirling & gymnastics are not eligible. No lip-syncing.
Theater <i>(Dramatic or Musical Theater)</i>	Monologue or Soloist	3 minutes	Limit props to what can be easily hand-carried. Performer is allowed three minutes to set-up.
	Small Group (2 - 15 cast members)	4 minutes	Limit props to what can be easily hand-carried. Performers are allowed three minutes to set-up.
	Group (16+ cast members)	10 minutes	Scenes involving recordings will not be scheduled sequentially.
Visual Arts	<i>Only one entry per student</i>		Photography, 2-D & 3-D pieces. One entry per student. Limited # of pieces per school. *See Additional Guidelines (next page).
Media Arts	<i>Only one entry per student</i>	10 minutes	8/super 8mm, projector, screen 1/2, VHS/DVD & TV provided. All other equipment must be brought. Bring master, not copy.
Literary Arts	<i>Only one entry per student</i>		Poetry, Short Story, Essay. Appropriate material only. *See Additional Guidelines (next page).

Please note: One teacher/chaperone is required per every 15 students attending. Individual students attending must be accompanied by a chaperone at all times. Your cooperation is required.

Guidelines available in large print upon request

Visual Arts Guidelines

NOTE: Visual Arts master sheets will be sent out in a separate packet to Visual Arts coordinators.

2D & 3D Artwork MAXIMUM: 32" x 32"

- Please submit ONE application indicating **total** number of student visual arts entries.
- Submit separate Visual Art Master Sheet for each category (2-D or 3-D) and circle category where indicated. All information on Master Sheets must match artwork submitted.
- On Student Critique Application indicate if 1 or 2 sides of standing panels will be needed for your school's 2D display.**
- ****IMPORTANT:** Each school is initially allotted only 2 sides of a single 4 ft. wide x 6 ft. high standing panel for displaying 2-D artwork. Choose pieces to comfortably fit the dimensions of the panels. Additional space may be available, but schools should not plan on this.
- Each school is allotted table space for display of **up to 10 pieces of 3-D artwork**.
- Label forms for artwork will be mailed out with the Visual Arts teacher mailing in April. Duplicate as needed. Each entry must have completed label taped so it hangs below the lower right corner of 2D work. Labels must be loosely attached to 3D work.
- Only one entry per student is allowed. Student must be present for critique to be eligible to go to State.
- Hanging Instructions: 2-D artwork must be neatly matted and mounted. **DO NOT USE TAPE, STRING OR WIRE** for hanging. Mount self-sticking zig zag hangers on back within 2 inches of top of the work.
- Framed works: Use Plexiglas only. **DO NOT USE GLASS!**
- Artwork **MAY NOT** be removed before 2 pm.
- Only original student artwork will be accepted. (Copy work that was part of a class assignment will be considered if identified as copy work (per visual arts guidelines that will be sent separately.)

LITERARY ARTS GUIDELINES

Creative writing pieces may be published in a Mercer County Teen Arts Anthology, and may be used in other ways to promote Teen Arts. Indicate on the application if any entry is not available for such purposes.

Poetry, Short Fiction, Short Non-Fiction/Essay

- Each school may submit up to 10 Poetry and 10 Fiction/Non-Fiction/Short Story/Essay entries.
- One entry per student is permitted. An entry consists of as many writings in any single genre, as can fit on a maximum of THREE letter-size pages.
- Use one side of 8½" x 11" paper with 1" margins on every side, typed and double-spaced. No hand written, computer dot matrix or photocopies.
- Use Arial or Times Roman. 12 pt. minimum.
- Each submission must have a title.
- Student's Name, School, Grade, Age and Page Number must be at top right corner of each page.
- Work may be submitted electronically in TEXT ONLY format by email to: teenarts@mercercounty.org
- Student **MUST** bring a copy of his/her work for reference during the critique.
- Student must attend critique.

PERFORMANCE CAPS

The volume of performances and logistics of the Mercer County Community College facility make it necessary to adhere to caps on performing groups. It is not always possible to fit every large group performance on the stage in the Kelsey Theater.

Large Instrumental Groups and any Musical Theatre Groups involving tap dance will perform on the stage. Depending on the number of applications, Large Dance Groups may also be on the main stage.

Every attempt will be made to schedule one large group from each school on the Kelsey Theatre stage. Groups that are not scheduled on the stage will still receive a critique/mini-master class with an adjudicator; although these critique/mini-master classes may not have room for an audience.

Vocal Groups will be scheduled in the black box theater or a lecture hall. Depending on the number of applications, these may be in a mini-master class/critique format.

If a group registered on the Student Critique Application is unable to perform please contact MCTAF immediately. This will afford a group on the waiting list the opportunity to participate.

IMPORTANT: All performing selections must strictly adhere to the performance time limits specified on page 5. The adjudicator is better able to critique quality in depth rather than quantity in brief.

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

Student/Group Critique Application

Complete online registration [HERE](#) . Hardcopy forms should be mailed to the
Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage.

Directions: Use a **SEPARATE ENTRY FORM** for **EACH STUDENT** participating in a critique session (except for Visual Arts – see below). Do not use abbreviations. Do not omit any information. (Home and cell phone numbers are for emergency use only.)

School _____

School Coordinator _____ Daytime Phone () _____

Student/Group Name _____

No. of Student(s) in Group _____ Grade(s) _____

Teacher Name _____ Teacher Email _____

CHECK ONE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY PER APPLICATION (With exception of Visual Arts).

Check ONE per form	Title of Piece to be Performed List necessary equipment: CD/mp3/piano				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vocal Large vocal <input type="checkbox"/> Small vocal/duo/solo <input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Drama <input type="checkbox"/> Musical <input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Instrumental Specify: Orchestra; Jazz Band; Concert Band, etc.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Instrumental Soloists: specify instrument					
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance Specify: ballet jazz tap lyrical ethnic					
<input type="checkbox"/> Media Arts Specify intended media source					
<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts Submit one Application for all artwork and separate Master Sheets for each category. Master Sheets will be sent out in April 2024.	2D # _____	3D HANGING # _____	3D TABLE DISPLAY # _____	Total Entries # _____	Circle # of Standing Panel sides needed: 1 or 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Literary Arts One Application per student <input type="checkbox"/> Available for publication in Anthology	Poetry Entries # _____	Fiction Entries # _____	Non-Fiction Entries # _____	Essay Entries # _____	Short Story or Excerpt Entries # _____

IMPORTANT: STUDENTS MAY ONLY ENTER 2 DISCIPLINES.
List name(s) of student(s) being scheduled for 2 critiques.

Student Name(s) _____

Performance _____

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

Student Release Form

All Student Release forms due by April 19, 2024

Student's Name	
Student's Grade	Student's Age
Home Address	City/State/Zip
Home Phone	Email
School Name	Sponsoring Adult (Teacher/Chaperon)
School Phone	School Fax
School Email Address	
Visual Art	Creative Writing
Title	Title
Medium	___Poetry ___Short Story ___Essay
Size (Height x Width)	
Year Made	<input type="checkbox"/> Do <input type="checkbox"/> Do not include my writing in the 2024 Mercer County TAF Anthology .

A Student Release Form must be completed and returned for EACH STUDENT attending the Mercer County Teen Arts Festival. All Student Release forms must be submitted by April 19, 2024.

All artwork/writing submitted to Mercer County Teen Arts Festival may be photographed, replicated, displayed and/or published for all Mercer County Teen Arts events, publications, website and in other public relations and marketing materials.

I understand that my image, performance, artwork or writing **may** be filmed, photographed or included in Mercer County publications and/or the Mercer County Website and may be used in publicity about the Festival. **I agree that Mercer County may replicate my image/work for reasons outlined above.**

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Adult's Signature _____ Date _____

Return to: Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage
Tim Hoh, Mercer County Teen Arts Festival Coordinator
640 South Broad Street, Room 417
Trenton, NJ 08650 or email it to TeenArts@mercercounty.org.

2024 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival

Rules and Regulations

The Teen Arts Festival is designed to be both an educational and enjoyable experience for students, teachers, artists, and visitors. As with any large gathering, it is necessary to strictly enforce regulations to ensure the safety of all participants and to maintain a healthy relationship with Mercer County Community College. Please read the following procedures and regulations carefully.

- 1) Schools **MUST** provide a minimum of 1 adult for every 15 students. These teachers or other adult chaperones should know the whereabouts of their assigned students at all times. Chaperones must ensure that students adhere to all facility, building and festival guidelines, rules and regulations. Chaperones will be held responsible for any damages and incidents caused by their assigned students.
 - 2) **All students MUST arrive at the festival wearing appropriate attire.** Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times.
 - 3) Other than eating lunch or viewing the Art Gallery, all students are expected to actively participate in arts activities: critique sessions or workshops, observing performances, performing at the *Open Mic Café*, making artwork, etc., throughout the day.
 - 4) Students, teachers and visitors are encouraged to view the performances of others. However, as a courtesy to the artists, no one will be allowed to enter or leave a performance area while a performance or critique is in progress.
 - 5) Enrollment in workshops is limited. Students will be admitted on a first-come-first-served basis. Please do not interrupt workshops once they have started. Once admitted, students are expected to stay the length of the workshop.
 - 6) **Cell phones, etc., MUST be turned off during**
- 7) Students are expected to leave all facilities in the condition in which they found them.
 - 8) The perimeters of the festival are strictly enforced. Students will be intercepted if they try to leave the grounds.
 - 9) Private and public property is to be respected. Inappropriate noise, vandalism or entry into restricted areas or buildings not being used by Teen Arts is unacceptable.
 - 10) Tampering with fire equipment and the possession of firearms, firecrackers, fireworks or any other dangerous weapons or substances is forbidden.
 - 11) Please use the trash receptacles. Do not litter.
 - 12) **Smoking is NOT permitted ANYWHERE on the MCCC campus.**
 - 13) Food and beverages are **NOT** permitted indoors in any classrooms, including the theatre, and tv and radio studios. Students must leave the cafeteria in the same condition as when they arrived. This includes the proper disposal of all trash and the busing of all trays.
 - 14) Violations of any of the above policies may necessitate immediate disciplinary action.

PERFORMANCES / ARTWORK MUST BE SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AND REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR SCHOOL.

CONTENT AND LANGUAGE MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR A PUBLIC ARTS EVENT FEATURING YOUNG TEENAGERS (middle schoolers are present).

If a student, teacher, or chaperone requires ADA accommodations, or has questions about accessibility of programs, please contact Lisa Tramo, Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage, at 609-278-2712 at least 2 weeks prior to May 10, 2024.



This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, A Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts

