



Visual and Performing Arts Academy Handbook

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Application Process – Apply by May 1

Apply [here](#) or at www.k-state.edu/mtd/vpaa/ by **May 1, 2026**.

Primary Track Selection

While filling out the application, students will choose one primary track. This is the student's main focus during the camp; the area they spend the most time working on. The purpose of this track is to give students an opportunity to develop existing skills under the guidance of the world class K-State faculty and staff. Each primary track will culminate in a final public performance/presentation at the end of the week. The primary tracks offered are:

Musical Theatre - Students in the Musical Theatre track will explore storytelling through singing, acting, and movement. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to develop performance skills, build stage confidence, and collaborate with others.

Performance Theatre - Students in the Performance Theatre track will focus on acting and storytelling for the stage. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to develop skills in character development, scene work, and stage presence while collaborating with fellow actors.

Choir - Students in the Choir track will explore choral singing in a collaborative ensemble setting. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to develop vocal technique, musicianship, and ensemble skills while preparing a selection of choral music.

Visual Arts - Students in the Visual Arts track will explore creative expression through mediums such as drawing, painting, and other visual art forms. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to develop artistic techniques, experiment with materials, and create original artwork.

Dance - Students in the Dance track will explore movement, technique, and artistic expression through dance. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to develop skills in choreography, performance, and collaboration while learning new dance styles.

Technical Theatre/Audio Production - Students in the Technical/Audio Production track will learn the behind-the-scenes skills that support live performances. Campers will work with K-State faculty and staff to explore sound, stage technology, and basic production techniques while supporting performances throughout the week.

Application Process – Apply by May 1

Secondary Track Selection

Students will also select and rank two or more secondary tracks – one will be assigned to them based on availability. The purpose of this track is to give students an opportunity to explore other areas in the visual and performing arts, whether or not they have any prior experience in that area. This track will not culminate in a final performance/presentation, but instead a smaller showcase later in the week. The secondary tracks offered are:

Musical Theatre - Students will explore storytelling through singing, acting, and movement while building confidence and collaborative performance skills.

Performance Theatre - Students will focus on acting fundamentals, character development, and scene work while collaborating with fellow performers.

Choir - Students will sing in a choral ensemble while developing vocal technique, musicianship, and ensemble skills.

Visual Arts - Students will explore creative expression through mediums such as drawing, painting, and other visual art forms while developing artistic techniques.

Dance - Students will explore movement, technique, and choreography while learning new ways to express ideas through dance. Note: Students will be required to bring their own dance shoes.

Technical Theatre/Audio Production - Students will learn the behind-the-scenes skills that support performances, including sound, stage technology, and basic production techniques.

Studio Voice - Students will work in a solo voice lesson setting with a K-State voice faculty member, focusing on vocal technique, healthy singing, and individual growth.

Strings - Students will rehearse and perform in a chamber orchestra setting, developing ensemble skills while working on orchestral repertoire with K-State faculty. Note: Students will be required to bring their own instruments.

Application Process - Apply by May 1

Application Process FAQ's

Who is eligible to apply?

Rising 9-12th graders are invited to apply.

What is covered by the \$389 cost?

Housing in the newly built Wefald Hall on K-State Campus, meals through Kramer Dining Center for the duration of the camp, and a VPAA t-shirt.

Do I have to pick a secondary track?

Yes! This camp is designed such that every student will have a primary and secondary track.

Can I choose the same area for my primary and secondary?

Nope, the idea behind this camp is that students will be emersed in a variety of artistic mediums--a good artist is a well-rounded artist! This is a great opportunity to expand your horizons and try something new.

Do I need to have prior experience in my primary track?

Usually, yes. The primary track is where students spend most of their time building and developing skills, so some prior experience is recommended. However, tracks may be more flexible depending on the student's background.

Do I need to have prior experience in my secondary track?

Not necessarily. Secondary tracks are designed for exploration, and many students will be trying something completely new. Most tracks are beginner-friendly, though Dance and Strings will still require personal equipment.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival

Camp check-in will take place in the Wefald Hall lobby, where students will check in for both the camp and their dorm room.

Parents and guardians may pull up directly in front of the dorms to drop off students and unload belongings. Because arrival takes place on a weekend, no parking pass is required for short-term drop-off.

Students who drive themselves and plan to leave their car on campus for the duration of the camp must purchase a weekly parking permit (\$22) through Kansas State University Parking Services: www.k-state.edu/parking/parking/visitor

Please note that lunch is not provided on the first day of camp. Students should plan to eat lunch before arriving.

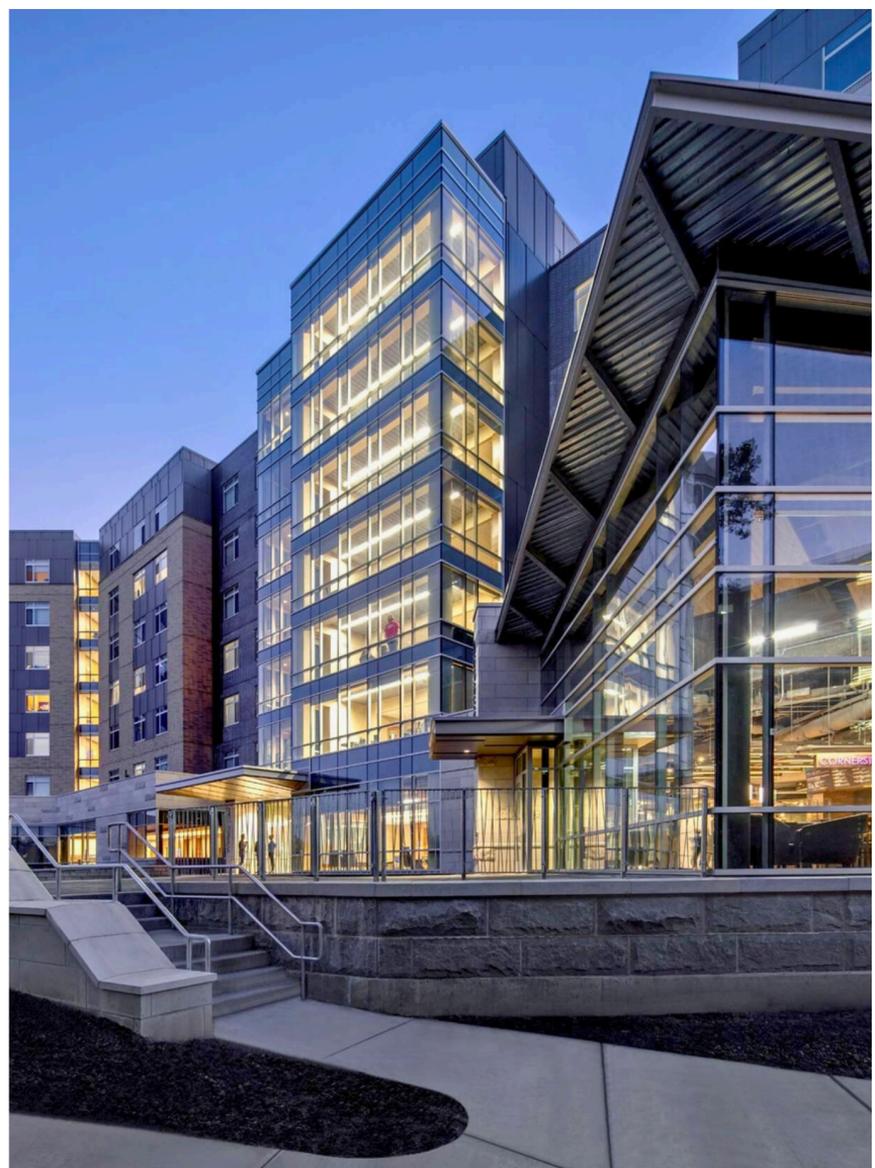
After checking in, students will receive their room key and camp materials and will be directed to move into their residence hall room before the first camp activities begin.

Departure

Camp dismissal and dorm check-out will take place after the final performance. At that time, students will return their room keys and complete dorm check-out before departing.

Parents and guardians are welcome to pull up to the dorms to help students move out, and because departure takes place on a weekend, no parking pass is required for short-term unloading. Please note that with many students checking out at the same time, the area in front of the dorms may become busy. If space is limited, families may need to park nearby and walk to the residence hall.

For student safety, camp staff must be notified in advance if a student will be leaving with someone other than the person who dropped them off.



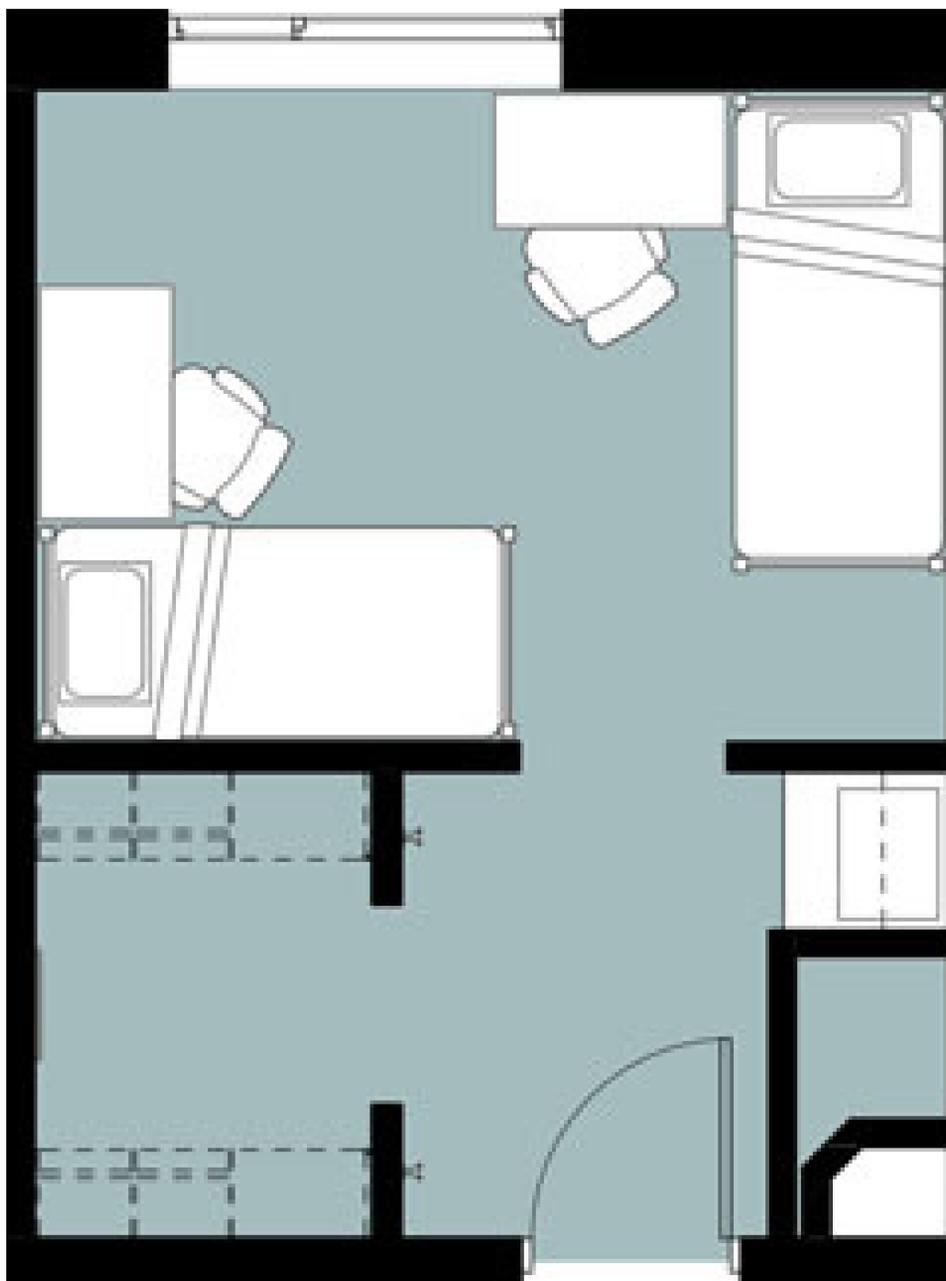
Housing and Dining

Housing

Students will stay in Wefald Hall, the newest residence hall on the Kansas State University campus. All rooms are double occupancy with private bathrooms, meaning students will share a room and bathroom with one roommate.

Students may request a specific roommate during the application process. Both students should list each other as their requested roommate so we can match the requests. While we will do our best to accommodate roommate requests, they cannot be guaranteed.

Basic linens and towels are provided, though students are welcome to bring their own if they prefer. Beds in the residence hall are Twin XL size, which is slightly longer than a standard twin bed. Many students choose to bring a pillow, an extra blanket, or even a sleeping bag for additional comfort.



Residence hall wings are separated by gender, and trained camp counselors will live in the dorms and be available 24/7 to support students and ensure safety throughout the week.

If a student has ADA or accessibility needs, please notify us in advance so we can coordinate appropriate accommodations with the residence hall staff.

Going to the Manhattan City Park Pool is one of the activities students will have the opportunity to engage in throughout the week—pool towels will be available at the dorms for an additional fee, or students may bring their own.

Housing and Dining - cont.

Dining

Throughout the week, students will eat at the award winning Kramer Dining Center on the K-State campus. Camp includes three meals per day, with the exceptions of lunch on the first day of camp, and lunch in Aggieville during the week. One day, students will have the opportunity to walk to Aggieville and have lunch on their own. They should bring a card or small amount of cash to pay for that meal.

Meals at Kramer are prepared on-site using many locally sourced ingredients, including produce grown at K-State. Unlike many campus dining facilities, the food at K-State is made fresh in the dining center.

Most dietary needs and common allergies are accommodated daily, but unique allergies or diets can be accommodated if we are informed ahead of time, including dietary preferences such as halal. At this time, kosher meals cannot be provided.

If specific dietary needs or concerns arise, registered dietitians at Kramer Dining Center are available to assist.



Activities

Our Visual and Performing Arts Academy isn't just about rehearsals—it's about making memories, exploring new places, and connecting with fellow campers! We've lined up a variety of fun activities throughout the week to keep students' days exciting.

Pool Time: On select days, we'll walk together to the Manhattan City Park Pool. Towels are available for rent at the dorms, but you're welcome to bring your own if you prefer. Don't forget your sunscreen!

Lunch in Aggieville: A highlight of the week will be our stroll into Aggieville for lunch. It will be a great chance to explore local eateries, grab a bite, and enjoy time with friends outside of rehearsal.

Art Adventures: We'll visit the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, where campers can learn to appreciate art from museum experts and be inspired by the exhibits.

Exclusive Stadium Tour: Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at Bill Snyder Family Stadium with an exclusive tour just for our campers! Students will see locker rooms, the field, and other spaces usually off-limits to the public.

And More! From impromptu games on the lawn to creative workshops, there will always be something happening beyond rehearsals. Be ready to try new things, meet new friends, and make the most of your camp experience.



Student Safety

Student safety is our top priority at the Visual and Performing Arts Academy. All staff will be fully trained and compliant with Kansas State University regulations, including specialized training in overnight counseling, first aid, and emergency procedures.

Students will always be under the supervision of our trained staff and will not be permitted to wander the campus alone. Whether we're walking to the pool, exploring Aggieville, or just to and from sessions, campers will travel in groups with staff members.

Our team will be prepared to handle minor injuries, health concerns, or emergencies, ensuring that every camper can focus on learning, creating, and having fun.

Tips for Staying Safe:

- Bring a water bottle every day to stay hydrated; this is important in the Kansas heat!
- Wear sunscreen and hats when outside for extended periods.
- Stay with your group and follow staff instructions.
- Let a staff member know immediately if you feel unwell or need assistance.

Student Safety FAQ's

What should campers wear?

Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing and shoes are best for moving between rehearsals, activities, and outdoor excursions.

What happens during extreme weather or emergencies?

Staff follow a clear safety plan and guide campers to safe locations while following all KSU safety protocols.

How can campers stay safe while walking around campus or off-site?

Students should always stay with their group, follow staff instructions, watch where they're walking, and use sidewalks or designated paths.

What to Pack

This list will also be sent to each student via email, and is on the VPAA website as a PDF. That PDF also importantly includes track-specific items that students will need to bring for their specific track selections.

Bedding and Room Items

(Wefald Hall uses long twin XL beds)

- Twin XL sheets or sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Blanket or comforter
- Laundry bag or hamper

Towels for showering are provided by the residence hall, but students should bring a separate pool towel for swimming if they do not want to use their dorm towel.

Clothing

- Enough clothes for 6 days (hot-weather friendly)
- Light jacket or hoodie (buildings can be cold)
- Sleepwear
- Underwear & socks
- Swimsuit
- Nice jeans for performance day (Academy shirt will be provided)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Flip-flops or shower shoes

Toiletries

(nothing provided by Wefald Hall)

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Soap/body wash
- Deodorant
- Hairbrush/comb
- Any other personal hygiene items

Daily Use Items

- Backpack or day bag
- Refillable water bottle
- Pens/pencils for note taking
- Phone & charger
- Small amount of spending money (lunch in Aggieville one day, vending machine snacks, K-State merch, etc.)

Health and Weather

- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat or cap
- Umbrella or rain jacket
- Personal medications (if needed—make sure you have enough to last the whole week!)

Please Do Not Bring

- Anything that violates residence hall or Academy policies

Community Guidelines

The Visual & Performing Arts Academy is a creative, collaborative, and residential learning experience. To ensure the safety, respect, and success of all participants, students are expected to follow these community guidelines at all times—on campus, in residence halls, at performance venues, and during off-campus activities.

1. Respect Yourself, Others, and the Community

All students are expected to:

- Treat fellow students, staff, instructors, community members, and themselves with kindness, professionalism, and respect
- Honor differences in identity, background, experience, and artistic expression
- Always communicate in a constructive, supportive manner

Harassment, bullying, discrimination, or threatening behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.

2. Respect Our Spaces

Students must respect:

- Residence halls
- Classrooms and rehearsal spaces
- Performance venues
- Camp vehicles and off-campus locations

Students are responsible for any damage they cause to university or community property.

While staying in Wefald Hall, all students must also follow Kansas State University's residence hall policies, available on the K-State website.

3. Safety and Supervision

For everyone's safety:

- Students may not leave campus or program activities without staff permission
- Sneaking out, leaving residence halls after curfew, or being in unauthorized areas is not permitted
- Students must attend all scheduled activities unless excused by staff

Curfews, check-ins, and staff supervision are part of the Academy's commitment to student safety.

Community Guidelines – cont.

4. Substance-Free Environment

The Academy is a substance-free program. The following are strictly prohibited:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco or vaping products
- Marijuana
- Illegal drugs or substances
- Any misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications

Violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal from the Academy.

5. Follow Instructions and Program Policies

Students are expected to:

- Follow directions from all Academy staff, counselors, and instructors
- Follow safety rules in studios, rehearsal spaces, residence halls, and off-campus locations
- Participate fully and responsibly in all program activities

6. Technology and Devices

Students may use phones and devices during free time, but:

- Devices must not interfere with rehearsals, classes, or group activities
- Filming or photographing others without permission is not allowed

7. Academic and Artistic Integrity

Students should:

- Engage honestly and respectfully in all artistic work
- Respect intellectual and creative property
- Support a collaborative learning environment

Consequences

Failure to follow these Community Guidelines may result in:

- Loss of privileges
- Parent/guardian notification
- Or removal from the Academy without refund, depending on the severity of the violation

Cancellation Policy

To help us plan for housing, meals, and activities, we require a final student count by **June 15**.

- Cancellations received on or before June 15 will be fully refunded.
- Cancellations after June 15 will not be eligible for a refund, except in the case of a documented emergency.
- Emergencies may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact camp staff as soon as possible if an emergency arises.

We appreciate your understanding as this policy will help us ensure a smooth, safe, and enjoyable experience for all students.