

## Robert A. Millikan Affiliated Charter Middle School and Performing Arts Magnet

A "National School To Watch" and a California Distinguished School

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## Frequently Asked Questions Academy and Magnet Tours

### 16. What Performing Arts programs are available for the advanced actor, dancer, or singer?

Musical Theater Workshop, Drama Production, Advanced Drama, Dance Academy, Chamber Choir, and Advanced Choir are available for the advanced performer focusing in voice, dance, and drama. While these classes still provide standards-based instruction in the technique of singing, acting, dancing, and film production, the emphasis is on performance.

Students are expected to effectively apply their knowledge in productions for festivals, school events, concerts, and citywide competitions.

### 17. What is the Musical Theater Workshop? (MTW)

The MTW is an advanced program, and students are evaluated annually. Students in MTW receive extensive training in dance, drama, and chorus during a 140-minute time block during the school day. Due to the demanding schedule and time spent out of class for productions, this class is not available for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It is only open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Two musical theater productions are produced every year with double casts. Past productions include *Pippin*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Aida*, and *The Wiz*. In order to perform, students must keep a grade point average of 2.0.

### 18. What is Drama Production?

This class is designed for the intermediate/advanced drama student in grades 7 or 8. Students in the Drama Production class compete in the Drama Teachers of Southern California Drama Festival in the fall and the Shakespearian competition in the spring. A full-length original play, written by the drama director, is produced every year. Students gain acceptance by the audition process and must audition every year in order to keep their status. Drama production class is only open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

### 19. What is the Performing Arts Academy Curriculum?

Performing Arts Academy classes are challenging, fast paced, and artistically stimulating for the focused performer. Students are exposed to rigorous instruction that combines basic technical skill development with performance artistry. It is a standards-based curriculum that caters to the more focused and advanced student. Elective classes are an integral part of this program and focus on intermediate and advanced instruction in dance, vocal and instrumental music, drama, and musical theatre. A workshop performance and a dance concert are presented at the end of the year in front of an invited audience.

### 20. What is The Instrumental Music Performing Arts Academy Curriculum?

The Instrumental Music Department offers a wide range of courses for the gifted, dedicated, and talented musician. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced sections of concert band, winds, percussion ensemble, orchestra, and Afro Caribbean drums are just a few of the course offerings. Sixth grade students with prior music experience can audition and be selected to perform with the more advanced classes and ensembles.

### 21. Can my child apply for the Performing Arts Magnet and be assessed for the Performing Arts Academy?

YES! If a student is accepted into the Magnet and passes the audition process, they still keep their magnet status (i.e.. gain points, keep magnet privileges, receive transportation) but have the option to participate in the more advanced performing arts curriculum.

### 22. Can my child be in more than one Academy?

Unfortunately, due to compliance and scheduling issues, students can only be in one academy.

### 23. Are there any technical non-performing arts programs at Millikan Middle School?

YES! Millikan has an award winning costume design program where students design and create original costumes for theater competitions and school performances. In addition, we have a stagecraft program under the direction of an experienced technical director. Both of these programs are only open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and require teacher permission. In order to be selected into the Costume Design program, students must sign up for an audition time and bring the following materials:

1. A portfolio of original costume sketches for characters in a play or a movie or a fashion design
2. Samples of costumes, which the student designed
3. Mastery of the basic elements of sewing is desired but not required.

For the stagecraft program, students must bring a stage design or some sort other sort of technical drawing. In addition, an interview will be scheduled with the instructor.



### 1. Are there tours of the campus?

Yes! Please check our website for dates of group tours. Prospective students are allowed to join their parents on the tour. Space is limited, so no more than three people per family are allowed. Please visit the Millikan's website to sign up. Tours begin in Burrill Hall and last for approximately 90 minutes.

### 2. How many students attend Millikan Middle School, and where do they come from?

Approximately 2,100 students attend school on the Millikan campus. Children come from more than 65 different zip codes and represent the diversity of Los Angeles.

### 3. How do Millikan Students perform academically?

Millikan Middle School is the number one rated Performing Arts Middle School in LAUSD. Annually, over 60% of Millikan's student population of 2,100 students is identified as gifted or talented (GATE) in one or more areas. To meet the needs of such a large population of GATE students, over 50 honors or accelerated class sections are offered in math, English, history and science for grades 6-8. Millikan Affiliated Charter Middle School hopes to create and maintain an environment where ALL STUDENTS are achieving at their highest potential. Our sincerest endeavor is to help our students become lifelong learners, desirous of being a part of a creative and informed citizenry and a highly productive work force.

### 4. Do students have to wear a uniform?

Millikan students do not wear uniforms, but a specific dress code is enforced.

### 5. What is the typical class size?

We strive to have an average class size of approximately 40 or fewer in the traditional academic programs. The elective class norm in both the Magnet and the non-magnet school class averages 38 students.

### 6. How do parents get involved?

Millikan has a very active PTSA. This organization works closely to raise funds to support the teachers and the numerous instructional activities at Millikan. This organization is instrumental in providing supervision and funding for many of the after school programs, field trips, special competitions, holiday gift baskets for the needy, teacher appreciation gifts and activities, and the annual book fairs. Parents are also invited to attend the monthly advisory council meetings. Parents are also needed to provide supervision, professional expertise, and technical support for all of our major productions. The Governance Council and ELAC (English Learners Advisory Council) all work closely with the parent center director and the administrative team.

### 7. What about after school programs?

Beyond the Bell Services, YSCARES, is present in the PE area until 6 p.m. to provide supervision and activities Monday through Friday. In addition to Beyond the Bell, Millikan holds an after-school homework club every Tuesday in room 58, which is free of charge. Additionally, after-school classes are offered in computer coding, improv, French and dance for a fee.

### 8. How does a student enroll in the Millikan Performing Arts Magnet?

The *eChoices* brochure is available to every student in the Los Angeles Unified School District online at <http://echoices.lausd.net> and as a hard copy (after 10/2/2017) and includes an application, which must be completed and returned to the Office of Integration by 5 p.m. 11/9/17. When filling in the application, choose Millikan Charter MS. Most parents complete the application entirely online, which allows for immediate confirmation of receipt of the application.

Program (You may only select one):  
TRANSPORTATION MAY BE AVAILABLE BASED UPON DISTRICT GUIDELINES  
Select up to three Magnet Programs for which the student is applying below. If applying to a gifted/high ability/eligible gifted magnet, please see requirements here. For Magnet program information, please click here.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| First Choice             | MILLIKAN CHARTER MS (Performing Arts) (8182802) |
| Second Choice (optional) | Please select                                   |
| Third Choice (optional)  | Please select                                   |

MAGNET

**9. Is there transportation provided with acceptance into the Magnet?**

YES! There is transportation available for Magnet students that live more than 5 miles (as the crow flies) from the selected Magnet School but within the LAUSD school boundaries.

**10. What is the curriculum for a typical Millikan Performing Arts Magnet student?**

Magnet students participate in physical education with a dance emphasis beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Dance instruction includes theatrical dance (ballet, jazz, modern) and/or traditional/recreational dance. An additional emphasis of the Millikan Magnet Program is the Performing Arts elective, which includes beginning to advanced level courses in drama, chorus, costume design, and instrumental music. The remaining curriculum includes English, math, science and social studies.

**11. Who decides if my child gets into the Performing Arts Magnet?**

Students are assigned to the magnet through the LAUSD Integration and Magnet Program Office lottery process. A point system is in place, which is designed to ameliorate the harms of racial isolation. If you need specific information about this process, please contact the Office of Student Integration at (213) 241- 4177.

**12. What is The SAS Program?**

This program is designed to support and expand articulated Gifted/Talented programs in local schools throughout the district. It was developed to provide LAUSD residents high-level academic programs that serve the educational needs of gifted learners. Students are accepted into the program based on a combination of their scores on standardized tests, grades, and teacher recommendation. Only students who live in the LAUSD area can apply for the SAS permit.

**13. How does my child apply for the SAS program?**

Please call Ms. Greene at (818) 528-1600 for information, application procedures, and deadlines. Even if your child has already has been identified as gifted through SAS, you need to complete an application.

**14. Can Academy and Magnet students be in the SAS program?**

Yes! Each Academy and the Magnet have an SAS line of study. Students DO NOT have to be in an Academy or the Magnet to be in SAS.

**15. What are the Academies and how do I apply?**

Millikan Middle School offers several specialized Academies for students with a varied range of interests. The academies include Performing Arts, Cinematic Arts, and Math. Please note: students can only be in one academy due to compliance and scheduling issues. They may however be in the Magnet and an academy should their schedule allow for it. There are also specialty homeroom programs such as *School Leadership* and *Yearbook*. These programs are available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Applications for all Academies are available on October 2, 2017 and are due January 31, 2018.

**ALL Applicants must:**

- (a) Complete an *Academy Application* found at [www.millikanmiddleschool.org](http://www.millikanmiddleschool.org) (available in October) and attach:
  - i) a copy of the last three years’ progress reports
  - ii) a copy of the most recent standardized test scores for the two most recent years - i.e. SBAC scores, GATE documents, or the results of any achievement or ability tests your child has taken in the last two years

**APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THE REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

**Performing Arts candidates may submit:**

- iii) a CV (resume) or complete description of training in dance, music, or theatre
- iv) a portfolio of work, where applicable (e.g., costume design, edited film, story boards, music composition)

**Film Candidates must submit:**

- i) a *student essay addressing the prompt* “Why are you interested in the Cinematic Arts Academy?”
- ii) an application film, 3-5 minutes in length, written, directed, and edited by the applicant with minimal help from parents

**Math Academy candidates must:**

- i) take the math placement test



**PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY**

The Millikan Performing Arts Academy is designed to provide advanced instruction in the performing arts disciplines. To be selected, students must have at minimum a 3.0 average. They must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 to participate in all activities and performances. Students in this program are also eligible for inclusion in the SAS program based on academic qualifications.

- Acceptance into the Academy, after a successful placement assessment, is **not** a permit to enroll in the school
- Prior to enrollment, you must meet Millikan residential requirements or secure a charter lottery or Magnet lottery seat.
- It is recommended that advanced performing arts students applying for the Magnet program also apply for the Academy program.
- There is no transportation provided with this program for the Academy.
- Parents must arrange for an audition time by visiting [www.millikanmiddleschool.org](http://www.millikanmiddleschool.org) Auditions are held in January and February.

Students wishing to participate in the Performing Arts Academy must submit an application and pass an assessment. After completing and submitting the Performing Arts Academy application (available on October 2, 2017), sign up for an assessment time by visiting [www.millikanmiddleschool.org](http://www.millikanmiddleschool.org). Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled time.

\*\*\*Students without a fully completed application on file will be unable to audition \*\*\*

**Drama/Dance/Choir Assessments:**

Students will be grouped with 3-5 other students in a 30-minute time block. Students should prepare:

- A one minute age-appropriate memorized monologue.
- An age-appropriate classical piece or a song from a Broadway or movie musical. It should be no more than one minute in length with at least an octave range. Students may sing acapella or bring pre-recorded instrumental music (without vocal) accompaniment. Students may be asked to vocalize simple scales.
- Students will be taught a basic dance combination. Please dress comfortably. There will be no preparation for the dance section of the audition.

By the day of the audition parents/students should:

- Have completed and submitted the Performing Arts Academy Application Form.

**Instrumental Music Placement:**

Applicants with intermediate instrumental music experience may schedule a music assessment by visiting [www.millikanmiddleschool.org](http://www.millikanmiddleschool.org). Absolute beginners need not be assessed. Once enrolled, all beginning students will be placed in an appropriate beginning class.

Intermediate to advanced students need to prepare the following:

- A one-minute performance on the desired musical instrument. Ask your child’s current teacher for help choosing a piece that demonstrates their abilities.
- Scales and/or other exercises that reflect proficiency level
- Sight reading or music analysis may be requested

Piano and guitar lessons are NOT offered at Millikan. Advanced pianists and guitarists will have opportunities to perform in our Jazz Homeroom program.

**CINEMATIC ARTS ACADEMY**

The Cinematic Arts Academy begins in the 6th grade with basic filmmaking techniques, and develops over the three-year program into advanced screenwriting, cinematography, sound, picture editing, and visual effects editing. Students learn filmmaking on professional Canon video cameras using Adobe Premiere and After Effects, creating films of all styles and genres. Our video students have shown their work in numerous film festivals across the world. Films from this program have won awards including the Video In the Classroom award, The International Student Media Festival, and the national Filmmakers Competition.

**MATH ACADEMY**

Math Academy curriculum is designed for students who excel in mathematics and wish to advance their content understanding through games, projects, and problem solving, enriching conceptual understanding of the standards and logical reasoning.

