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The purpose of this proposal is to develop and establish a **Seal of Arts Excellence** program to recognize high school graduates who demonstrate an advanced level of specialization, as determined by the [*Kentucky Academic Standards \(KAS\) for the Visual and Performing Arts*](#), in a visual and performing arts area of interest.

What is a local Seal of Arts Excellence?

The Seal of Arts Excellence is a new graduation designation developed by the Kentucky Department of Education. As local boards of education award diplomas and determine how to best recognize students for their various accomplishments, GCHS along with the Arts & Humanities department, would like the Garrard County Board of Education to consider the proposed criteria to establish a local Seal of Arts Excellence for GCHS students based on the recommendations by KDE.

How may a student earn a Seal of Arts Excellence?

According to KDE, a local board of education may determine if and how students may become eligible to earn a local Seal of Arts Excellence based on evidence that they have demonstrated an advanced level of specialization in the [*KAS for Visual and Performing Arts*](#) in their chosen art form(s). Boards of education may support students in developing the skills and understanding needed to earn a local Seal of Arts Excellence prior to high school. The seal will be awarded to a high school graduate.

At the high school level, students may choose to specialize in one or more art forms to earn a local Seal of Arts Excellence. The standards for Visual and Performing Arts incorporate the five arts disciplines of dance, media art, music, theater and visual art. Such specialization will enable students to study an art form in an in-depth manner, and work toward achieving an advanced demonstration in creating, performing/ producing/ presenting, responding and connecting to their chosen art form as established by the [*KAS for Visual and Performing Arts*](#). Students who choose to specialize in an art form will participate in performance-based arts courses designed to develop skills and understanding that will enable them to use the art form as a high-level communication tool. This is accomplished through the development of skills in the students' chosen processes that artists engage in to make the arts.

At GCHS, we currently offer specialization in Visual Art, Band, & Theater.

How might students be recognized for attaining the local Seal of Arts Excellence?

Student commendations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Indication of the Seal of Arts Excellence on the transcript/e-transcript (available for 2022-2023);
- Graduation cord or sash for the ceremony;
- Senior Night award or certificate; and/or
- Verbal or written recognition in the graduation program or ceremony.

To determine a students' eligibility to earn a Seal of Arts Excellence, districts and schools may consider the following criteria:

1. The student is eligible to earn a high school diploma.
 - a. The student currently is a senior or junior in good standing; AND
 - b. The student attends a school that provides the opportunity to earn a Seal of Arts Excellence.

2. The student earns three Visual and Performing Arts credits in an area of interest, demonstrating sustained specialization/performance in the area.

a. Course Sequences Available (each course is ½ credit, except for Dual Credit and AP)

Visual Art: General Art, Crafts, Advanced Drawing, Advanced Painting, Sculpture/ Printmaking, Studio (repeated for individual research and portfolio development), & AP Studio: 2D Design.

Band: Color Guard, Marching Band, Marching Percussion, Pep Band, Festival Band (all classes repeat and can be taken annually), and Dual Credit with Campbellsville: Understanding Music.

Theater: Musical Theater Improvisation and Musical Theater (all classes repeat and can be taken annually)

b. The “local district assures that all students have had access and opportunity to learn the standards contained in the Kentucky Academic Standards. 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8” (40). Thus, local decisions must ensure that students “have had access and opportunity to learn the standards contained in the Kentucky Academic Standards. 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8” (40). Thus, local decisions must ensure that students “have had access and opportunity to learn the standards” in the KAS for Visual and Performing Arts.

3. The student exhibits an advanced demonstration as determined by the KAS for Visual and Performing Arts. Demonstration of a high level of achievement or learning may include, but is not limited to:

a. The student shows progress/growth based on the local formative assessment process and measures that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A mechanism to collect evidence of student mastery of the KAS for Visual and Performing Arts.

- A locally determined growth measurement that documents a student's ability to excel through the development of skills in the processes of Creating/ Performing/ Producing/ Presenting, Responding and Connecting that artists engage in to make the arts.

(GCHS proposes an Evidence-Standards Based Checklist and Performing Arts Resume')

b. The student submits a summative student-curated collection of evidence, such as a standards-based portfolio, project or performance, that constitutes satisfactory demonstration of learning within the four arts processes (Creating, Performing/Producing/Presenting, Responding and Connecting) within the identified area of specialization; OR

c. The student passes, with a score of 3 or higher, an Advanced Placement Test for the area of arts specialization; OR

d. The student participates in juried arts events that utilize well developed rubrics and are assessed by professionals in the arts fields (Ex. Regional and State Art and Band competitions, Governor's School for the Arts, and other juried opportunities in the arts sponsored by the KYAEA and CKMEA.)

KDE link

[Seal of Arts Excellence - Kentucky Department of Education](#)

Links to Standards Based Assessment Checklist in the Performing Arts

[Art](#)

[Band](#)

[Theater](#)