**Walker’s Rising Stars**

There are 6 categories of the Walker’s Rising Stars program-

 Dance

 Theater

 Instrumental Music

 Vocal

 Visual Arts

 Culinary

Auditions will be held for the performing arts categories and a critique will be held for the visual arts category. **The culinary aspect of the program is directed by the Ryan Wells**

**Foundation.**

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**Judges**

* **Judges in the fields of dance, vocal, instrumental, theater, and visual arts**

**will be selected based on their ability to fairly and professionally represent and judge all genres in each judging category.**

* + Every effort will be made to secure judges who do not have a current affiliation with Pinellas County Schools.
	+ Judges cannot be a current private instructor of a contestant.

**Applications** – September – October 5, 2018

* Students in all fields (other than culinary arts) will apply online at [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org) with the application process concluding on

October 5, 2018 at 5 p.m.

* The application process will be available to all Pinellas County Public School students.
* **The application process will be publicized by the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools through print, broadcast and social media.**
* **Completed applications will be utilized by the Pinellas Education Foundation for the purpose of scheduling preliminary auditions for each qualified student.**

**Preliminary Auditions**—October/November 2018. The location and time of the auditions will be communicated to all qualified applicants. All qualified performing arts applicants will be entitled to an opportunity to audition.

* All performing arts competitors will be asked to prepare to perform 2 contrasting pieces, if asked by the judges.
* **Competition performances should be three minutes in length, with more time allowed at the judges’ discretion should they request the performance of more than one piece.**
* Competitors will be judged on their overall skill, creativity and artistic expression.
* Students are encouraged to choose their best work. Do not choose works that are more difficult than your current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
* Open to **SOLOISTS ONLY.**
* Student semifinalists must be in good standing with Pinellas County Schools and in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct.
* **Students who won first-place in Walker’s Rising Stars as juniors may not compete in the same category as seniors, but may compete in a different category as seniors. Second, third and fourth place winners from last year may compete in the same category.**

**Semifinal Auditions—**February 2019. The location and time of the auditions will be communicated to all qualified semifinalists as determined by judges’ scoring of the preliminary auditions.

Based on scoring of the preliminary auditions, a maximum of **22 students from each performance category\*\*** will move on to the semifinal round.

* Based on preliminary audition scores, **the top student from each Pinellas County public high school, in each category, will automatically be included for judging in the semifinal round (total of 16).**
* **The remaining slots in each category (up to a total of 22) will be filled with the remaining top competitors in each category based on individual scores, regardless of school.**
* Same rules from the preliminary auditions will apply to the competitors for each discipline.

\*\*Note: Tie scores many require the adjustment of this maximum number.

**Visual Arts Component**

* Students will be judged in one round.
* Students will still need to submit an application by October 5, 2018 at 5 p.m.
* Students will submit art work no later than January 11,2019 to the Pinellas Education Foundation.
* Instructions for submission of student art will be e-mailed to all visual arts applicants following the application deadline.
* Students must submit a total of 5 pieces to be adjudicated (no more and no fewer)
* Judging will take place in February of 2019.
* A minimum of 3 judges with one alternate will be needed to complete judging.
	+ Judges cannot have a current affiliation with Pinellas County Schools
	+ Judges cannot be a current private instructor of a contestant

**Final Judging—**May 2019 (date and location to be determined)

* Based on the semifinal audition scores, the top students in each category will advance to the final live performance round of competition.
* **No Pinellas County public high school may be represented by more than 2 students in each category in the final round.**
* **If the scores of more than 2 students from a single school would place them among the finalists, the lowest scoring students will be eliminated from competition and the next highest scoring student from the remaining schools will advance into the final position in each category.**
* **Semifinalists not selected to advance to the finals will be invited to participate in rehearsals and the live performance of a production number which will be performed at the Walker’s Rising Stars final show in May.**