



ChiArts Transition & Incubation

Welcome

Community Meeting
Chicago High School for the Arts

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Hybrid: ChiArts Auditorium or Zoom

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Photo: *In the Heights* Curtain Call (3/8/26)

Agenda

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- **Welcome & Norms**
- **Principal Report**
 - **Introduction & Commitments**
 - **Entry Plan Progress**
 - **Staffing Updates**
 - **Schedule Design Parameters in Detail**
- **Schedule Design Feature Prioritization Survey**
- **Questions**
- **Meet & Greet w/ Dr. Fuess and ADLC Members**

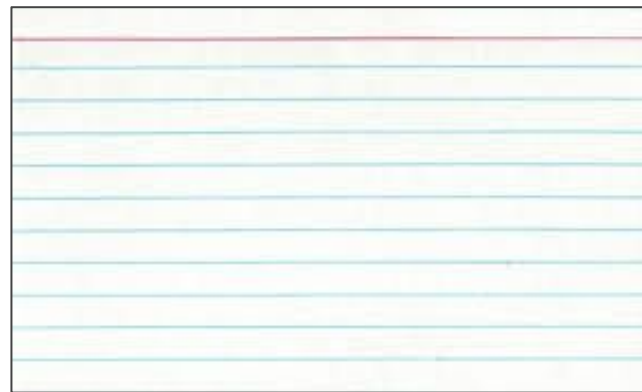


Sophomore Visual Art Showcase (3/6/26)

Norms

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- **Center ChiArts' Students and Mission**
- **Challenge Ideas, Not People**
- **Be Honest and Transparent**
- **Ensure Equity of Voice**
- **Be Solutions Oriented**
- **Submit Questions via Notecard or Zoom Q&A**



Pass out notecards & pencils

Introduction & Commitments

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About Me

- Former choir director and National Board Certified Teacher
- Founding administrator of an innovative CPS school

My Commitments to You

- Uphold the Scholar-Artist mission
- Ensure excellence and equity in academics and arts
 - Pre-professional arts training and college-prep academics
- Maintain an inclusive, supportive school culture
- Communicate transparently, even with difficult topics
- Actively listen and seek to understand your perspectives



Dr. Fuess Conducting Choir Students at Chicago Recording Company (2018)

Principal Entry Plan | Progress Report

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Journey of the Brown Tights
2/25/26

- **Attending performances and showcases, meeting parents/families:** *Journey of the Brown Tights, Raise the Stage Bravo Bash, Sophomore VA Showcase, In the Heights*
- **Meeting 1:1 with staff:** Over 60 1:1 meetings
- **Shadowing students:** Two full days of shadowing
- **Collaborating with key partners:** ADLC, ChiArts Foundation, current school leadership, numerous central office departments, other national arts leaders
- **Communicating with newly accepted students:** Recorded an introduction video, attended New Students Night, coordinating with Rogelio Castro

Detailed Schedule Design Parameters

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What is Possible? These Policies Create the Design Parameters:

- **Collective Bargaining Agreements**
- **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Policy**
- **Chicago Public Schools Policy**
- **Illinois School Code**
- **Illinois Administrative Code**
- **School Budget Procedures & Guidelines**

Detailed Schedule Design Parameters

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Legal Parameters

This is a non-exhaustive list of the most consequential parameters:

- Students must be able to earn a minimum of 3.5 credits per semester with at least 60 hours of instruction per half credit
- Credit-bearing classes must be taught by (or directly supervised by) certified teachers with the appropriate content-area endorsement
- No less than 1734 student instructional minutes per 5-day week and no less than 300 minutes (5 hours) each day. Half-days are not permitted.
- Student lunches must be at least 125 minutes per week (25 minutes per day) with at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, starting from the time they have received their meal and are seated.

Detailed Schedule Design Parameters

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CPS-CTU Collective Bargaining Agreement Parameters

This is a non-exhaustive list of the most consequential parameters. CBAs with other labor partners also fit these requirements.

- Teacher total on-site minutes: 435 minutes per day (7 hours and 15 minutes)
- Teacher instructional minutes: 5 blocks of 50 minutes per day (no more than 1250 minutes per 5 day week)
- Teacher lunch: 50 continuous minutes per day
- Teachers' self-directed preparation: 7 blocks of 50 minutes per 5-day week (350 minutes per week)
- Teachers' principal directed preparation: 150 minutes per 5-day week (3 50-minute blocks)
- Max. class size of 28 (most subjects), 31 (art, music, PE), or smaller for self-contained SpEd

Detailed Schedule Design Parameters

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Budgetary Parameters

- CPS is facing a significant budget deficit heading into next school year
- CPS uses **student enrollment** and the school's **opportunity index** score to allocate general education (non-SpEd) positions and funding levels
 - Additional funding for special education and multilingual supports
- We must select **a schedule that we can fully and reliably staff with our known funding** — one that ensures schedules are ready on Day 1 and students can meet graduation requirements
- Unless CPS provides a special additional commitment to ChiArts by April 20, we will have to move forward with a schedule built on known funding and leverage fundraising for enhancing and supplementing programming.

Schedule Design Priorities Survey

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Help Us Identify Which Specific Elements to Prioritize

- Complete the Schedule Design Priorities Survey
 - Will be emailed to current students, staff, and families
- With budgetary and policy constraints, we will have to make hard decisions.
- Help us understand which features you value most

Detailed Schedule Design Parameters

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Design Parameters We Don't Yet Know

- **Some parameters are known; others are not yet clear**
 - Currently exploring a range of potential models
- **By our next meeting on April 20**, we must shift from exploring options to planning for a model that fits the allocated resources and the parameters we know
- **Many other decisions depend on clarifying the schedule model**
 - Student scheduling (i.e., programming)
 - Strategic hiring (type and quantity of each role)

Hiring Timeline

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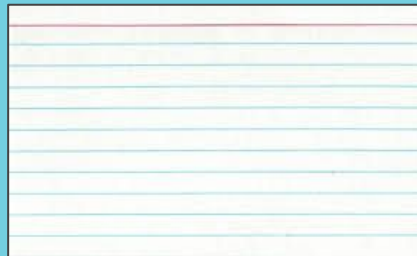
Three Hiring Phases

- **Foundational Positions (now):** Assistant Principal, Clerk, Two Counselors - *Over 500 applicants for these 4 roles!*
- **Preliminary Allocations (March-April):** GenEd Teachers, SpEd Teachers, Case Manager, SECAs, ELPT
 - *Current eligible staff will be interviewed first*
- **Regular Budget Cycle (TBD, approximately May-July):** Discretionary funding and possible allocation adjustments

Q&A

*Advisory & Design Leadership Council (ADLC) Members,
Please Spread Out and Hold “Table Talk” Debriefs*

Write down remaining questions for Dr. Fuess on an index card



Thank You For Coming!

**We hope to see you on April 20th for the next
ChiArts Community Incubation Meeting**

**Please chat with an ADLC member or Dr. Fuess on your
way out. Let us know what you're thinking!**