



What is Showcase?

Student Showcase is an annual celebration of excellence for high school youth of West Michigan. Students are selected by their respective schools in the areas of digital media arts, literary arts, performing arts, and visual arts. Each school determines their own criteria for selection, within the Showcase parameters.

The accomplishments of Student Showcase are many. Since 1981, high school students from five counties have had an opportunity to be recognized. For many of our student nominees, this will be the shining moment of their high school years - for others, the beginning of an amateur or professional career as actors, musicians, writers, and artists.

Student participation varies according to the category for which they are nominated by their schools.

Important Dates at a Glance

- Coordinator nominee forms available: **First week of December**
- **Deadline for school coordinators** to submit nomination form: **December 15, 2025**
- Student nominees forms available: January 7, 2026
- Deadline for student nominees to submit their forms: **January 19, 2026 (revised)**
- Event Date: **Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.** (Students arrive at 5:00 p.m.)

More dates and details are listed below in the Timeline section.

Nomination Categories

Digital Media Arts Nominees

Nominees' digital media works are added to the Showcase website and judged by a panel of experts to compete for three cash prizes. Up to four students from each school will be presented on stage the night of Showcase. A 30-second trailer of each entry will also be shown during the show.

Literary Arts Nominees

Nominees' pieces of literary works are added to the Showcase website and judged by a panel of writers and educators to compete for three cash prizes. Each nominee is introduced on stage the night of Showcase.

Performing Arts Nominees

Nominees must attend their assigned performing arts workshop held at the Frauenthal Theater, where performing arts professionals will assist students in developing their performance and perfecting all technical aspects.

They will perform their act on Showcase night, March 24th.

Performing Arts Nominees must be students of the same school and will be judged by a panel of professional actors, dancers, and musicians. Solo/duo performances consist of a soloist or a duo. Group performances are three or more students with no more than 15 in the entire group.



Three cash prizes are awarded in Solo/Duo, and three cash prizes are awarded in Group - with an additional Showstopper cash prize (seven awards total).

Visual Arts Nominees

Artwork will be judged by a panel of area artists and displayed in a designated gallery space (location to be announced at a later date). The artwork will also be shown on the big screen during the Showcase performance and featured in the Showcase program. Each nominee will be introduced on stage the night of Showcase, and three cash prizes will be awarded.

All Nominees

First, second, and third place awards in the performing arts category (both solo/duo and group), visual arts, literary arts, and digital media arts receive cash awards of \$1,000, \$500, and \$300, respectively. Also, the Performing Arts Showstopper award winner will receive \$1,000.

Each school's students perform and are introduced on Showcase night.



What is Expected of a Showcase Coordinator?

The Showcase School Coordinator is one of the most important players in the Showcase effort.

School Coordinators are expected to do the following:

1. **Act as a point of contact between the MAISD, School Staff, and Student Nominees**
2. **Promote Showcase in their school**
 - a. Displaying posters
 - b. Informing the school about Showcase
3. **Determine the selection method for each category**
 - a. This is a decision that should be made with your principal.
 - b. Here are some suggested methods used for each category. It is up to each school to choose their nominees.
 - i. Digital Media: Video/Arts Teacher chooses top entry OR has a contest and then chooses a winner.
 - ii. Literary: ELA Department Chair either chooses top writer OR has a writing contest and then chooses a winner.
 - iii. Performing: Coordinator or Performing Arts Chair holds either auditions or a talent show. The winning solo/duo and group entries are nominated.
 - iv. Visual: Visual Arts Chair/Teacher chooses top artist OR has an art contest and then chooses a winner.
4. **Submit list of nominees to the Showcase Executive Producer.**
5. **Keep track of nominees' progress in submitting their required information to the Showcase Executive Producer.**
 - a. Nominees are required to submit the following, depending on their category of nomination:
 - i. Contact Information and Biography
 - ii. Photo of Themselves (front-facing headshot)
 - iii. Digital Media:
 1. Information about their entry
 2. Their full entry
 3. A 30-second trailer appropriate for general audiences
 - iv. Literary:
 1. Information about their entry
 2. Entry



- v. Performing:
 - 1. Information about their act (only one form per act - one solo/duo, one group)
- vi. Visual:
 - 1. Information about their entry
 - 2. Physical entry dropped off and picked up at the designated time(s) at the Frauenthal Center
- 6. **Keep nominees informed of rehearsal/show dates and times.**
- 7. **NOTE: Each School will receive six complimentary tickets.**
 - a. The tickets are meant to be distributed to:
 - i. Two each for School Coordinator, School Principal, and School Superintendent
 - b. If any complimentary tickets are not used by the above, they may be given to someone else at the School Coordinators' discretion. (For example, you may choose to give two tickets to a student's family who cannot afford tickets on their own.)
- 8. **Request school-related absences for your nominees.**
 - a. All Nominees are required to attend Tech rehearsal on the day of the show. Students will be assigned a specific time slot between 7:30 am and 3:00 pm based on the show order. All students are finished by 3:00 pm and are not required to return until 5:00 pm.
- 9. **Inform student nominees of their requirements. Starting on page 8. STUDENT FORMS AVAILABLE 1/7/2026 ALL Performing Arts Nominees MUST attend** a workshop prior to Showcase so that we can see their act, make scheduling decisions, and guide students on how to improve their act for the Frauenthal stage.
 - a. **The Coordinator is NOT required to attend the workshop.** If you want to attend, you are more than welcome to do so.
 - b. Workshops take place a few weeks before the show date.
- 10. **Ensure all nominees are present at the required Tech Rehearsal on the day of the show.**
 - a. **ALL Nominees are required to attend Tech rehearsal** on the day of the show. Students will be assigned a specific time slot between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm based on the show order. Non-Performing Arts Nominees will be finished by 10:00 am. All Performing Arts Nominees are finished by 3:00 pm and are not required to return until 5:00 pm.
 - b. **The Coordinator is NOT required to attend the tech rehearsal.** If you want to attend, you are more than welcome to do so.
- 11. **Coordinators attend the Showcase show [OPTIONAL].**
 - a. You are NOT required to attend the show. If you want to attend, you can use the complimentary tickets that are provided to you.



12. Distribute certificates to Showcase nominees.

- a. Certificates are mailed to schools a few weeks after Showcase is complete for distribution to students.



2026 Timeline

All events will take place at the Frauenthal Center, located at:
425 W. Western Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440, unless otherwise specified.

Date	Time	Event
Monday, December 15		Coordinator's Nomination Form DUE
Monday, December 27		Student Forms Available Online
Monday, January 19		Student Forms DUE
Monday, January 19		Performing Arts Nominees Assigned to Workshops
Monday, February 1		Tickets Go On Sale
Sunday, February 8	9:00 - 2:00 pm (approximate end time)	Performing Arts Workshop #1 (Frauenthal)
Saturday, February 14	9:00 am – 2:00 pm - (approximate end time)	Performing Arts Workshop #2 (Frauenthal)
Monday, March 2		Literary Art Submissions DUE Digital Media Arts File Due
Monday, March 2		Visual Arts Information File Due
VISUAL ARTS DROP-OFF		Muskegon Museum of Art DATE and TIME ANNOUNCED @ LATER DATE
March 10 - March 25th		Visual Arts Gallery Exhibition Location Muskegon Museum of Art

Date	Time	Event
Monday, March 23	7:30 am – 3:00 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Show (All Nominees) (NOTE: Acts will be assigned to a specific time slot in advance.)
Tuesday, March 24	5:00 pm	Students arrive for show (All Nominees)
Tuesday, March 24	6:00 pm	Show Begins - Awards presented at the conclusion of the show
Monday, March 30	3:00 - 5:30 pm	Visual Arts Pick-Up



Nominee Criteria and Instructions – Digital Media Arts

All Nominees

1. Student nominees must complete an electronic information form by **January 19, 2026** (available 1/7).
2. Student nominees must submit a digital photo by **January 19, 2026**. The photo should be an individual head-and-shoulders-type shot rather than a full-bodied photo. Color photos preferred. No group photos accepted.
 - a. **FILE NAME OF IMAGE SHOULD INCLUDE: NAME OF SCHOOL, THEN STUDENTS LAST NAME, AND THEN FIRST NAME, AS FOLLOWS:**
HighschoolName_LastName_FirstName.jpeg (Example: NorthMuskegon_Smith_Jane.jpeg)
3. All Nominees in all categories must attend:
 - a. the day-of-show technical/blocking rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater.
 - b. the Showcase performance at the Frauenthal Theater (arriving by **5:00 pm**)
 - i. Nominees who do not check in by **5:00 pm** on show night **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.

Digital Media Arts Honorees

Number of Nominees per School

One Project (Created by 1-4 Students)

Criteria

This nomination should be selected by appropriate members of the Arts/Industrial Arts Department faculty and/or appropriate school personnel. The entry may be either fiction or documentary. The nominee(s) should be considered to be the most accomplished and talented student(s) of Digital Media Arts.

In the judging process, entries will be reviewed with special attention to the following factors: Innovation, Creativity, Effectiveness, and Technical Expertise. Special attention should be paid by the coordinator as to "appropriateness" of the work, as it will be representing your school and published on the Showcase website.

Requirements

1. Digital Media Arts Nominee(s) is/are allowed one entry.
2. The majority of the work must be completed by students at the nominating school (including writing the script, rehearsing, shooting, editing, sound, and rendering).
3. **Up to four students may be included as the nominees for Showcase, but additional students may work on the film as actors or assistants in addition to those serving in the roles referred to in requirement two above.**
4. No copyrighted music, artwork, videos, or other materials without written permission of the copyright holder may be used.
5. [Talent release forms](#) must be obtained for every person appearing in the entry.
6. The entry must be in electronic format and submitted via YouTube private/unlisted link.
7. The entry must have Closed Captioning enabled and be checked for accuracy.



8. Formatting: 1080p preferred, 720p minimum; 16:9 preferred, 4:3 minimum.
9. **The full entry must comply with the requirements for a PG-13 (parental guidance) rating.**
10. **Entries must also comply with all MAISD Board policies and the students' local district policies.**
11. A 30-second trailer of the entry must also be provided for presentation to the audience at Showcase. It must be appropriate for general audiences (e.g. MPAA G Rating).
12. Acceptable file types: .avi, .mov, or .mp4
13. Entries must be uploaded by the student no later than **March 2, 2026**.

Awards

Three Digital Media Arts winners will be selected by the judges and awarded prizes as follows:

- First Place: \$1,000
- Second Place: \$500
- Third Place: \$300
- Honorable Mention awards may also be given at the discretion of the judges

NOTE: Cash prizes may be considered taxable income depending on the amount. Winners will be contacted regarding any additional paperwork needed to issue prize amounts.

Recognition - Publication

Nominees from the Digital Media Arts category will be introduced (with photo and bio) and a 30-second trailer of their entry will be shown to the Showcase audience. Each Digital Media Arts Nominee's work will be published on the Showcase website.



Nominee Criteria and Instructions – Literary Arts

All Nominees

1. Student nominees must complete an electronic information form by **January 19th, 2026** (available 1/07/26). Student nominees must submit a digital photo by **January 19th, 2026**. The photo should be an individual head-and-shoulders-type shot rather than a full-bodied photo. Color photos preferred. No group photos accepted.
 - a. **FILE NAME OF IMAGE SHOULD INCLUDE: NAME OF SCHOOL, THEN STUDENTS LAST NAME, AND THEN FIRST NAME, AS FOLLOWS:**
HighschoolName_LastName_FirstName.jpeg (Example: NorthMuskegon_Smith_Jane.jpeg)
4. All Nominees in all categories must attend:
 - a. the day-of-show technical/blocking rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater.
 - b. the Showcase performance at the Frauenthal Theater (arriving by **5:00 pm**)
 - i. Nominees who do not check in by **5:00 pm** on show night **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.

Literary Arts Honorees

Number of Nominees per School

One

Criteria

This student should be selected by appropriate members of the English Department faculty and/or appropriate school personnel. The entry may be in one of the following categories: fiction, non-fiction, drama, or poetry. The nominee should be considered to be the most accomplished and talented student of Literary Arts.

Showcase encourages a wide variety of subjects and literary styles: serious articles, historical essays, science fiction, fantasy, and humor are a few of many possibilities. In the judging process, entries will be reviewed with special attention to the following factors: Technical Expertise, Interest, Creativity, Relativity/Suitability, and Clarity. Special attention should be paid by the coordinator as to "appropriateness" of the work, as it will be representing your school and published on the Showcase website.

Requirements

1. A Literary Arts Nominee is allowed one entry (except for poetry entries – up to three).
2. The entry must be in electronic format and not include any drawing or artwork.
3. Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt (Google Docs must be exported as one of these formats.)
 - a. **FILE NAME SHOULD INCLUDE: NAME OF SCHOOL, THEN STUDENTS LAST NAME, AND THEN TITLE, AS FOLLOWS:**
HighschoolName_LastName_Title.jpeg (Example: NorthMuskegon_Smith_Title.jpeg)
4. The entry should be a representative of one of the following genre and comply with the specified length:
 - a. Fiction – Maximum Length: 7 pages, double spaced



- b. Non-Fiction – Maximum Length: 7 pages, double spaced
- c. Drama – Maximum Length: 10 pages, double spaced
- d. Poetry – 1-3 Poems – Maximum Length: 48 lines maximum per poem
- e. Works may be edited for length and/or appropriateness for publishing
- f. All formatting will be removed prior to judging
 - i. Preferred formatting: Arial, 11pt, double-spaced
 - ii. An exception is made for certain poetry styles that use alignment and spacing as part of the work.

5. **Entries** must be uploaded by the student no later than **March 2, 2026**.

Awards

Three Literary Arts winners will be selected by the judges and awarded prizes as follows:

- First Place: \$1,000
- Second Place: \$500
- Third Place: \$300
- Honorable Mention awards may also be given at the discretion of the judges

NOTE: Cash prizes may be considered taxable income depending on the amount. Winners will be contacted regarding any additional paperwork needed to issue prize amounts.

Recognition - Publication

All nominees will be introduced (with photo and bio) to the Showcase audience. Each Literary Arts Nominee's work will be published on the Showcase website.



Nominee Criteria and Instructions – Performing Arts

All Nominees

1. Student nominees must complete an electronic information form by **January 19, 2026** (available **1/07/26**). Student nominees must submit a digital photo by **January 19, 2026**. The photo should be an individual head-and-shoulders-type shot rather than a full-bodied photo. Color photos preferred. No group photos accepted.
 - a. **FILE NAME OF IMAGE SHOULD INCLUDE: NAME OF SCHOOL, THEN STUDENTS LAST NAME, AND THEN FIRST NAME, AS FOLLOWS:**
HighschoolName_LastName_FirstName.jpeg (Example: NorthMuskegon_Smith_Jane.jpeg)
2. All Nominees in all categories must attend:
 - a. the day-of-show technical/blocking rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater.
 - b. the Showcase performance at the Frauenthal Theater (arriving by **5:00 pm**)
 - i. Nominees who do not check in by **5:00 pm** on show night **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.
3. For the workshop AND rehearsal, nominees should dress appropriately and abide by their school dress code. Performing Arts nominees should be in costume for rehearsal.

Performing Arts Honorees

Number of Nominees per School

One Solo/Duo Entry (which may consist of up to two students) **AND**

One Group Entry (which may consist of between three and 15 students)

Criteria

Performers may be selected by any means the school decides; including auditions, talent shows, a selection committee, etc. **Performances must be no longer than 4 minutes in length.** Performing arts groups may not be regularly organized groups that are part of a school curriculum, such as an acapella choir or a jazz band. However, they may be members from such a group. Also, their act should not be something that is regularly done by the larger, structured group as part of their regular performance during the school year.

Performers will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Skill/Technique:** Mastery of instrument, comprehension of discipline, precision, control, execution, and balance. (20 points possible)
- **Presentation/Impact:** Finesse, charisma, and presence. (20 points possible)
- **Selection of Material:** Suitability to level of skill, value, level of difficulty, and taste. (10 points possible)



General Information


Each school may enter the solo/duo category, the group category, or both. Our goal is to honor both the solo/duo performers as well as singing groups, bands, or novelty acts – and to encourage a good mixture of up-beat, fun performances along with the more serious, "recital-type" presentations.

The "solo/duo" shall consist of a single performer or duet. More than two performers will be judged in the "group" category. The maximum number of participants in a group is 15. Each solo/duo or group act will be limited to a maximum performance time of 4 minutes.

Requirements

1. **Performing Arts Nominees have an additional short electronic form to be submitted by the leader/soloist by January 19th.**
2. All Performing Arts Nominees **MUST** attend the assigned Performing Arts workshop at the Frauenthal Theater. The dates for the workshops are **Sunday, February 8th and Saturday, February 14**. Based on feedback provided via the forms you fill out, we will assign a date to your school for the workshop, by **January 19th**.
3. All Performing Arts Nominees **MUST** attend the day-of-show Technical/Blocking Rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater. Must arrive by 9:00 am with all of your equipment and ready to perform.
4. Performances are to be no longer than 4 minutes in length. Exceeding the length requirement will result in a loss of points and possible disqualification.
5. The song selected must be appropriate for a general audience.
6. Accompanist, if needed, must be provided by the performer. One grand piano will be available.
 - a. Note: An accompanist may be either a student or a non-student. Student accompanists (from the same school) are considered part of the act for determining whether it is a solo/duo or group entry.
7. **If a performing act requires pre-recorded music, it must be submitted electronically via the electronic form in .mp3 format no later than January 30th. The track must stop and start exactly as your performance starts and stops and can be no longer than 4 minutes in length.**
8. Performances should be in a near-completed state by the time of the workshop. The ending of your performance should be perfected at this time.
9. ALL Equipment and Props **MUST**:
 - a. Be labeled with your school name.
 - b. Be present and/or declared at the workshop to be included in your act on show night.
 - c. Be dropped off at the BLUE doors in the alley between the Frauenthal and MCC Sturuss Center.
 - d. Be picked up on show night. Alternative arrangements must be made in advance or items may be discarded.

10. The following backline equipment will be provided:

Qty	Equipment	Provided During Workshops	Provided During Tech Rehearsal/Show
1	Yamaha Recording Series Drum Kit w/Cymbals  NOTE: Drummers can change out cymbals and the snares, but ARE NOT allowed to change the layout (above) or tension of the drum heads.	NO (NOTE: You will need to bring your own drum kit)	✓ (NOTE: If the number of acts requiring a drum kit is small enough, you may be allowed to use your own drum kit.)
1	Steinway Grand Piano	✓	✓

NO OTHER equipment or props will be provided (chairs, music stands, projectors, screens, etc.).

Awards

Three Performing Arts winners in the solo/duo category and three Performing Arts winners in the group category will be selected by the judges. The first, second, and third place winners in the solo/duo and group categories will be awarded prizes as follows:

- First Place – Solo/Duo: \$1,000 AND Group: \$1,000
- Second Place – Solo/Duo: \$500 AND Group: \$500
- Third Place – Solo/Duo: \$300 AND Group: \$300

One Showstopper Award is given in this category to the performance containing that extra-special audience appeal – a "show stopping" performance. An act winning this award may not be an overall Performing Arts winner; the selection process is independent from the Performing Arts judges' deliberations. The solo/duo or group selected as the Showstopper will receive a prize of \$1,000.

NOTE: Cash prizes may be considered taxable income depending on the amount. Winners will be contacted regarding any additional paperwork needed to issue prize amounts.

Recognition

Each act will be introduced prior to their performance to the Showcase audience and listed in the Showcase program.



Nominee Criteria and Instructions – Visual Arts

All Nominees

1. Student nominees must complete an electronic information form by **January 19th, 2026**, this includes submitting a digital photo too).
2. The photo should be an individual head-and-shoulders-type shot rather than a full-bodied photo. Color photos preferred. No group photos accepted.
 - a. **FILE NAME OF IMAGE SHOULD INCLUDE: NAME OF SCHOOL, THEN STUDENTS LAST NAME, AND THEN FIRST NAME, AS FOLLOWS:**
HighschoolName_LastName_FirstName.jpeg (Example: NorthMuskegon_Smith_Jane.jpeg)
3. All Nominees in all categories must attend:
 - a. the day-of-show technical/blocking rehearsal at the Frauenthal Theater.
 - b. the Showcase performance at the Frauenthal Theater (arriving by **5:00 pm**).
 - i. Nominees who do not check in by **5:00 pm** on show night **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.

Visual Arts Honorees

Number of Nominees per School

One

Criteria

This student should be selected by the Art Department and/or appropriate school personnel. This student must have demonstrated "exceptional artistic talent" in any field of the Visual Arts. Each Visual Arts Nominee may submit one piece of artwork which will be displayed during Showcase. Any medium is acceptable. The entries will be judged on skill and technique (20 pts.), selection of material/difficulty (15 pts.), and overall presentation and impact (15 pts.).

Requirements

1. One piece of artwork must be submitted to Showcase, wrapped or protected in some manner, on either **Time of drop off and Location: TBD**
2. The entry must be prepared for gallery exhibition:
 - a. 2D work must have a wire strong enough to support the work when hung. It is highly recommended that your work be framed, but it is not required.
 - b. 3D work must be able to support itself with a flat base that can stand on either the floor or on a pedestal.
 - c. If there are multiple pieces, a diagram or photo showing the placement should also be provided (placement preferences are not guaranteed).
 - d. Any piece requiring periodic maintenance or special handling **MUST** be pre-approved by the Executive Producer.
 - e. The subject matter must be appropriate for a general audience.



3. Visual Arts Nominees will have an additional short electronic form to be submitted by the student no later than **March 2, 2026**. Information from this electronic form will be used to generate the official gallery display placard. A copy will be emailed to the student to proofread and attach to the back, lower-right corner of 2-D artwork or bottom of 3-D artwork.
4. Visual Arts entries will be photographed at drop-off for inclusion in the Showcase program.
5. Visual Arts entries **MUST** hang in the gallery for the ENTIRE exhibition (exceptions must be pre-approved by showcase executive producer).
6. Placement in the gallery is determined by the Gallery Manager. Requests may be made, but are not guaranteed.
7. It is the responsibility of the Nominee or Coordinator to pick up artwork after Showcase has been completed. Entries not picked up on time may be donated or discarded if prior arrangements have not been made.

Awards

Three Visual Arts winners will be selected by the judges and awarded prizes as follows:

- First Place: \$1,000
- Second Place: \$500
- Third Place: \$300
- Honorable Mention awards may also be given at the discretion of the judges.

NOTE: Cash prizes may be considered taxable income depending on the amount. Winners will be contacted regarding any additional paperwork needed to issue prize amounts.

Recognition - Publication

Visual Arts Nominees will be introduced to the Showcase audience and listed in the Showcase program.

ALL Showcase Visual Arts entries will be displayed **March 10-25**. Location still being determined. Photos of each entry will also be printed in the Showcase program and posted on the Showcase website.