

Dogwood Festival AHSAE Art Throwdown Information

Sunday, April 11, 2026

Dogwood Festival in Partnership with the AHSAE (Atlanta High School Art Exhibition)

Piedmont Park Community Center near the corner of Piedmont and 12th, behind Willie's.

We invite you to create a full team with contestants in each event. Hold practices and select a team that showcases the best students you have in each medium. It is like selecting a varsity starting team. The more complete your roster the more chances you have to win as a team. Of course, smaller groups and individuals as well as home school students are invited and encouraged to compete.

When entering at 12th Street, let the check-in person know that you are with Throwdown, there will not be a fee for your students or parents.

Create a team of artists from your school to participate in this exciting event. This event is intended to add excitement for the arts as students create “Live” art in a competitive competition. Like other interscholastic events points are awarded and tallied. At the end of the competition individual competition winners will be acknowledged as well as team awards for the most total points accrued.

There will be a \$5 (cash or Venmo) fee per contestant to cover the cost of materials, live model, and other supporting expenses.

Please reach out Linn Zamora@gcpsk12.org with any questions and to register your team

[Register Here](#) so that we may accurately prepare materials and anticipate numbers of contestants.

Time line:

- 11:00 AM Team sign-in and payment
- 12:15 PM Welcome
- 12:30 PM begin landscape, sculpture, comic, still life and photography competitions
- 12:45 PM Begin formal portrait and figure drawing competitions
- 1:15 PM End Formal Portrait competition
- 1:30 PM End Figure Drawing competition

1:45 PM	Begin Speed Portraiture (Face to Face competition)
2:00 PM	End landscape, sculpture, comic, still life and photography competitions
2-2:30 PM	Judging and score compilation
2:30 PM	Announcement of Individual and team scores and winners
2:45 PM	Dismissal

Scrimmage Events

Figure Drawing Challenge

Judge: TBA

Up to 6 individually competing contestants per team. 2 contestants per heat. Students may compete in more than one heat. Chairs, paper and drawing boards will be supplied by the event ***Contestants are to bring their own preferred drawing media.*** Contestants will be positioned in a circle around the live model. Contestants will be sitting on chairs with the drawing board positioned on another chair positioned backward in front of them to create an improvised drawing mule or may position themselves in some other way they find comfortable.

There are three separate judged heats in this competition:

Heat 1: The 5-minute drawing will focus on gesture, drawing power, and speed. Artists are to use only provided **graphite pencils** for this heat.

Heat 2: The 10-minute drawing will focus on correct proportion, anatomy, and correctly observed light and shadow. Artists may use **provided graphite and add their own black charcoal or conte crayon** if they wish.

Heat 3: The 20-minute drawing will focus on stylistic interpretation using the model as a basis for interpretation and imaginative expansion. Artists may bring and use a variety of dry media to complete this challenge including **graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, and/or pen.** Aqueous media and spray media will not be allowed in this challenge.

Time will be called at various intervals to keep the artists abreast of the available time remaining.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion of each heat.

Landscape representation Challenge

Two individually competing artists per team.

Judge: TBA

This will be a single 90-minute heat in which the contestants will go out into the Piedmont Park terrain and create a landscape interpretation using media of their choice. Contestants shall be supplied with 12" x 18" watercolor paper and a drawing board. All drawing and painting materials and tools shall be brought by the contestant. Upon the judges' signal the contestants will have 90 minutes to find a suitable position and create a landscape representation that captures a sense of grand space: ground and sky, flora, possibly fauna and people, and park-based and/or Atlanta skyline architecture. Contestants must return to the ASHAE area and check in before the 90-minute timer runs out or they will be disqualified.

Judgment will be based on spatial illusion, arboreal and botanical correctness of form and placement, architectural inclusion, and stated stylistic intentions. A short statement shall be written by the contestant briefly outlining their intentions. The statement must create clear parallels between the image and the artist's intentions.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion.

Clay Sculpture Challenge

2 Collaborating Artists Per Team.

Judge: TBA

Artists will have 90 minutes to create a well thought out interpretation of the plant provided. Artists are to **bring their own clay tools**. Water and clay will be provided. No additional clay will be allowed, only that provided. Size of final sculpture will be determined by the amount of clay allowed each team.

90th Anniversary of the Atlanta Dogwood Festival Comic Challenge

2 Individually Competing Contestants per school

Judge: TBA

In this challenge, the artists will create a one-page black and white stand-alone comic that addresses the concept of the 90th Anniversary of the Dogwood Festival. Work will be completed using traditional pen and ink on 12 x 18 illustration board. Contestants are to bring their own pen and ink supplies of their choice. Contestants will have 90 minutes to walk through the festival to research the page, sketch and ink the single frame comic and return to the competition area. Work will be judged on clear character rendering, action, language, environmental representation, whole-page composition and completion, and overall impact.

Digital Photo Challenge

2 Collaborating Artists per school

Judge: TBA

Artists will have 90 minutes to complete this challenge. In this challenge, artists will use any digital photographic devices available including phones, digital SLRs, iPads, etc. to capture and manipulate a triptych of images that capture the total atmosphere of the Dogwood Festival: People, art, Piedmont Park, food, music, Atlanta.... Artists are allowed to use any app and/or program to manipulate the images to create a unique and coherent triptych. Artists are encouraged to practice this process prior to the competition using available imagery to develop a planned procedure.

The final series uploaded from a provided QR code. The submission will be judged on total triptych compositional and color coherence, representation of the Dogwood Festival atmosphere, and masterful use of apps and programs to manipulate and extend the impact and effect of straight documentary photographs.

Formal Portraiture

2 Individually Competing Artists per school

Sitter: TBA

Judge: TBA

In this challenge, artists will create a formal portrait in **pencil and/or charcoal** in 30 minutes. The drawings will be made on 12 x 18" drawing paper. The rendering is to be a life-sized likeness showing the full bust of the model. Artists are allowed and encouraged to engage the background negative space but the background should not overwhelm the

likeness of the model. No color will be allowed in these portraits. Artists are encouraged to research the sitter and practice portrait drawing in advance of the competition using the reference photos above.

As a special thank you to the model, the winning drawing will be given to the sitter for their collection.

All works will be formally documented.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion.

Still Life Challenge

Two individuals from each school

Individual artists compete in this challenge. 12 x 18-inch paper will be provided and contestants are encouraged to provide their favorite pastel media (oil or chalk). The still life will be set up on a table, with contestants surrounding the table with their chosen point of view.

All works will be formally documented, and judgment will occur immediately upon completion.

Single Elimination Speed Portraiture (Face to Face Competition)

Judge: TBA

Open to all willing participants.

Speed portraiture is a demanding event that requires a good deal of practice to master. Competing artists will sit facing each other. Using only copy paper and **black ballpoint pen**, the artists will draw their opponent seated directly across from them. Each heat will result in the elimination of half of the competitors by a judge assessing each pair of drawings from each competing pair. Artists will rearrange to face a new opponent in the next heat. Each heat will last 3 minutes. There will be up to 6 heats, depending on the number of participants. The final heats will determine the awarded scores. When the final 6 artists compete, one competitor will be eliminated. When the final 5 artists compete, the judge will choose the 5th, 4th, and 3rd place winners. The final two artists will then compete in the final round to select the 2nd and 1st place point winners.

Scoring

In each event, points will be awarded to individuals with their scores contributing to the team total.

First Place= 10

Second Place= 7

Third Place= 5

Fourth Place = 3

Fifth Place= 1

Final judging placements will be binding and judges are not required or allowed to explain or defend their final decisions to anyone. Contestants, parents, and coaches are not to approach and/or question judges independently after their decision is rendered.

Awards

Like other interscholastic events points are awarded and tallied. At the end of the competition individual competition winners will be acknowledged as well as team awards for the most total points accrued.

Press

Participating schools are asked to communicate their involvement to their systems and any community partners or organizations that they wish.

Each team should secure proper parental, school, and district release forms from their respective systems to allow for maximum potential coverage.

Volunteers

Each team may bring a few volunteers to handle peripheral concerns, logistics, and extra documentation. Please remember that there will be limited parking. Teams should maximize carpooling and MARTA.

Feedback/Debriefing

It is the intention of these competitions to keep the arts actively in the public eye while affording the students an elevated experience, solidifying and activating art programs in the

schools, and creating a greater sense of consistency and collegiality between art programs across the region.

Documentation

All participants are encouraged to fully document the experience from start to finish.