

Gyeonggi Arts High School

Uijeongbu, Gyeonggi, South Korea



Gyeonggi's only publicly funded arts high school, housing music, fine art, theatre-film and animation studios under one dormitory roof.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	49/100
Academic outcomes	62/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	22/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	44/100
Transparency	21/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Gyeonggi Arts High School occupies a distinct niche in South Korea’s specialist arts sector: it is Gyeonggi-do’s only publicly funded arts high school, and that matters. At ****₩3,000,000**** a year, it sits far below the fee level parents associate with specialist creative education. The proposition is clear: serious pre-professional arts training inside the Korean National Curriculum, delivered in Korean, for students aged ****16-18****. The school’s draw is not polish or international branding. It is access, specialisation and concentration. Families looking for **serious arts training** without private-school pricing should pay attention.

What puts it on a shortlist is the combination of public funding and dedicated arts infrastructure. The school groups multiple disciplines under one roof — music, fine art, theatre-film and animation — and pairs that with a dormitory that houses **200+** students. That creates a *work-focused atmosphere* and a campus culture built around rehearsal, studio time and peer comparison. For the right student, that intensity is the point. Teenagers who want a broad, low-pressure secondary experience should look elsewhere. This is a school for young artists who want their daily environment shaped by performance deadlines, portfolio development and technical practice. It offers *conservatoire-style focus* at school level.

Its market position is therefore strong but narrow. This is not a general academic school with good arts electives; it is an arts high school with public backing. That makes it compelling for families in Gyeonggi who want a *clear vocational direction* early, and who value a specialist peer group over the wider extracurricular spread of a conventional school. The ideal student is disciplined, resilient and already committed to an art form — or ready to commit fast. Students who thrive here will value critique, repetition and competition. Students who need constant flexibility or who remain undecided about their artistic path will find the model restrictive. For the *driven young performer*, the *obsessive draughtsman*, or the student who wants *immersion rather than dabbling*, Gyeonggi Arts High School earns its place on the list.

STRENGTHS

- Operates as a public specialized (special-purpose) high school, keeping fees far below private or international arts academies.
- Offers distinct departments including drama and film, fine arts, music and dance, allowing early specialization within the national system.
- Located in Uijeongbu, Gyeonggi province, within commuting range of Seoul's film, broadcasting and performing arts industry hubs.
- Follows the Korean National Curriculum, giving graduates a recognized domestic secondary qualification alongside arts training.

TRADE-OFFS

- All instruction is conducted in Korean, making the school largely inaccessible to non-Korean-speaking expatriate students.
- As a day school with no boarding provision, non-local families must arrange independent housing or a daily commute.
- Entry is audition- and portfolio-based, favoring applicants who already have several years of prior arts training over late starters.
- Being a public specialized school, facilities and class sizes are shaped by Gyeonggi provincial education budgets rather than private endowment.

ADMISSIONS

Admission follows Korea's special-purpose high school process: students apply to a specific department (such as drama and film, music, dance, or fine arts) and are assessed through document review, a practical skills audition or portfolio, and sometimes an interview. Places are limited and competition varies by department and cohort year. Applicants are typically Gyeonggi-province middle school graduates with prior training in their chosen art form. Non-Korean speakers face a substantial barrier since instruction, auditions and interviews are conducted in Korean.

WTS RATING 

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