

Vancouver  
School of Arts  
& Academics



**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS**



## **We live outside the school district. Can our child apply?**

*Students in grades 5-7 who live outside the Vancouver Public Schools boundary are ineligible to apply. If the entire in-district applicants list has been exhausted, students from out of district would be invited to apply.*

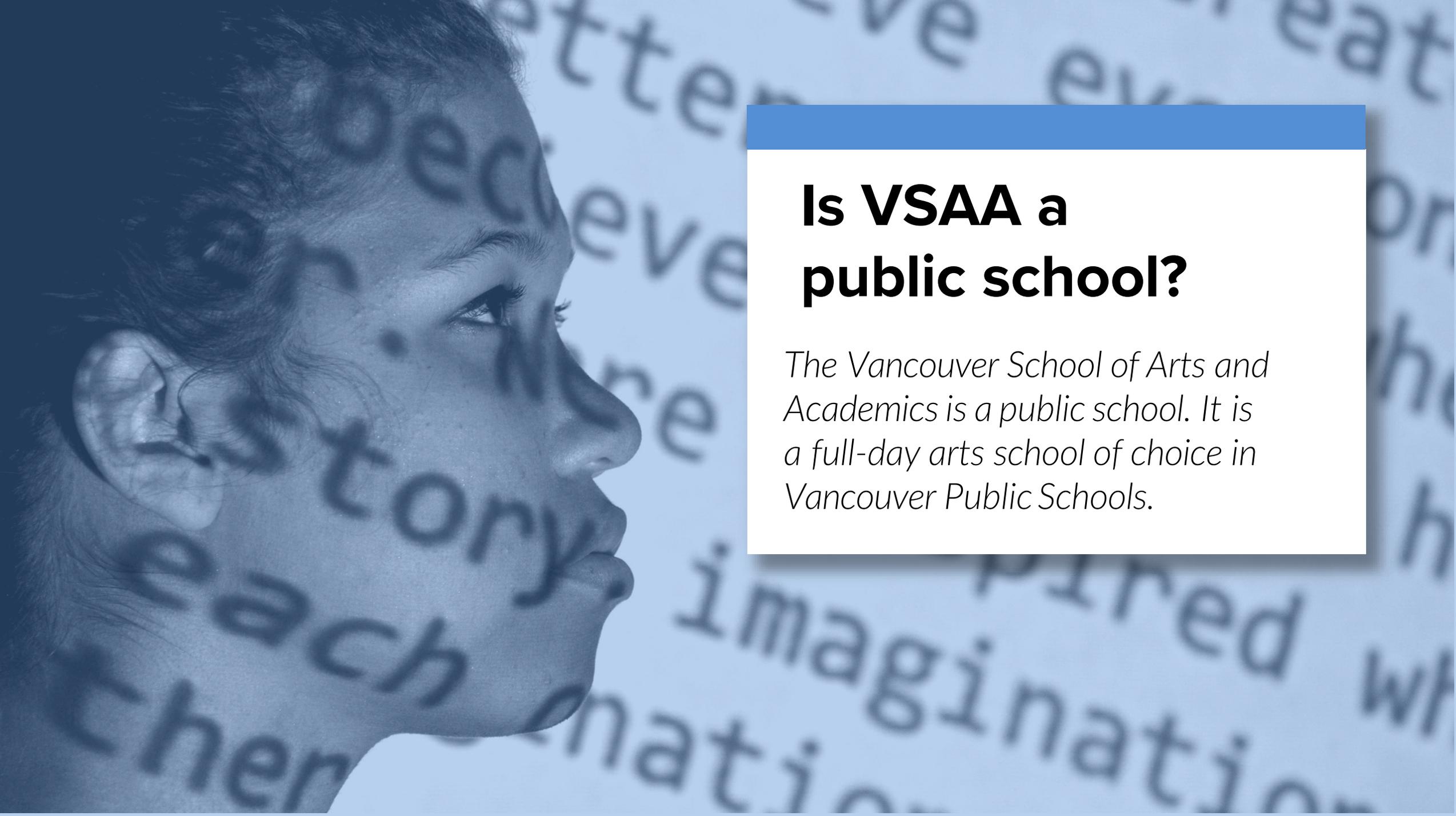
*Students in grades 8-10 who live outside the Vancouver Public Schools boundary are eligible to apply, but can only be admitted after all eligible Vancouver Public Schools applications at their grade level are admitted.*

*Students residing outside of Washington State are ineligible to apply.*



## **Do you have to reapply each year once you're in?**

*Once applicants have applied and been accepted, they do not have to reapply in the following years. If a student does not get accepted on the first try, they are encouraged to re-apply the following school year.*



## **Is VSAA a public school?**

*The Vancouver School of Arts and Academics is a public school. It is a full-day arts school of choice in Vancouver Public Schools.*

A student with long hair in a bun, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is standing in a classroom and taking a photo with a camera. The background shows a typical classroom setting with bookshelves, a clock, and an exit sign.

## **Are students in mixed classes or with students in their own grades?**

*Students are separated in their academics subjects into groups of 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Blue Team), 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> grade (Red Team), and 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Yellow Team). Grade levels are integrated in our arts classes and through advocacy.*

# Do you have special education?

*VSAA does have students in need of special education services. Through an inclusive model, students are given the necessary support to have a positive educational experience.*



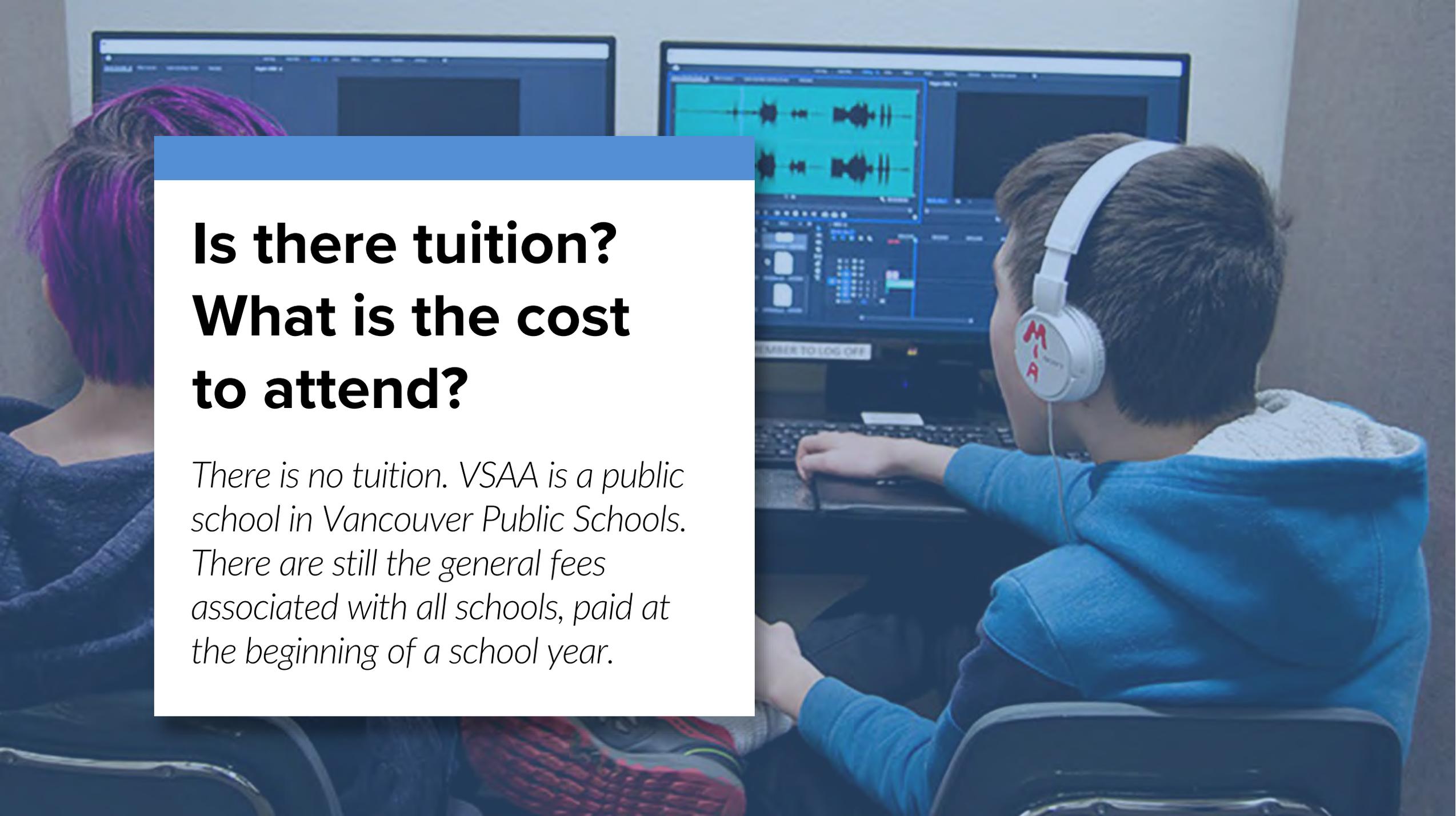
# What is Core?

*Core is teams of teachers who work together to help students learn mathematics, science, health, language arts, and social studies with a focus on the arts.*

*Course work is directed to the individual student needs and progress, and related to a yearly chosen “theme”.*

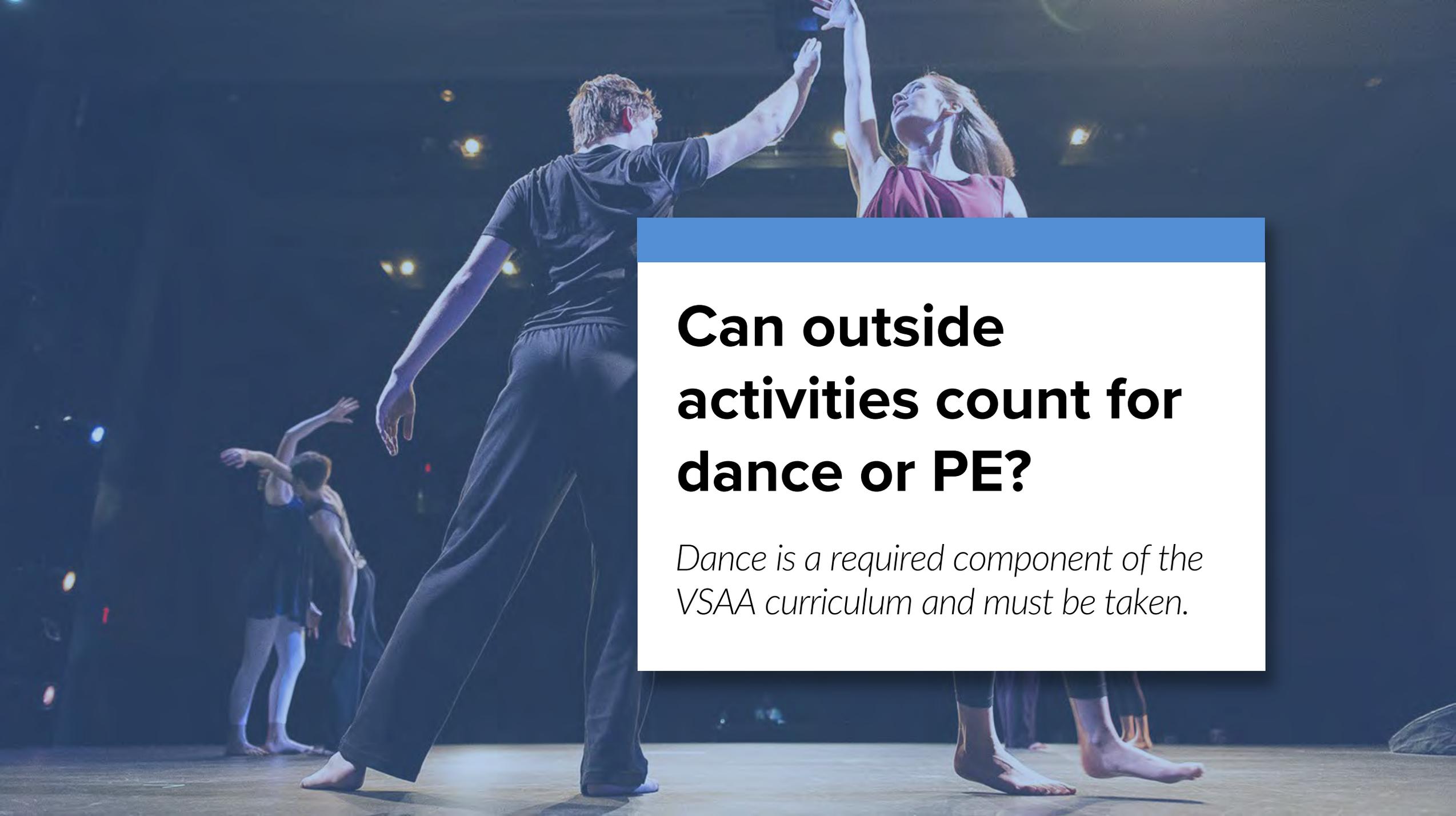
*Individual and group projects are a primary source of learning in Core.*



A person with purple hair is seen from the back, sitting at a computer. To their right, a person wearing white headphones with 'MIA' written on them is also sitting at a computer, looking at a screen displaying audio waveforms. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a classroom or computer lab environment.

## **Is there tuition? What is the cost to attend?**

*There is no tuition. VSAA is a public school in Vancouver Public Schools. There are still the general fees associated with all schools, paid at the beginning of a school year.*



## **Can outside activities count for dance or PE?**

*Dance is a required component of the VSAA curriculum and must be taken.*



## **What music offerings does VSAA have?**

*We offer vocal music, strings, guitar, and instrumental music (jazz band). We do not offer piano as part of our general music curriculum.*

# Do students have to be good at art to be accepted to VSAA?

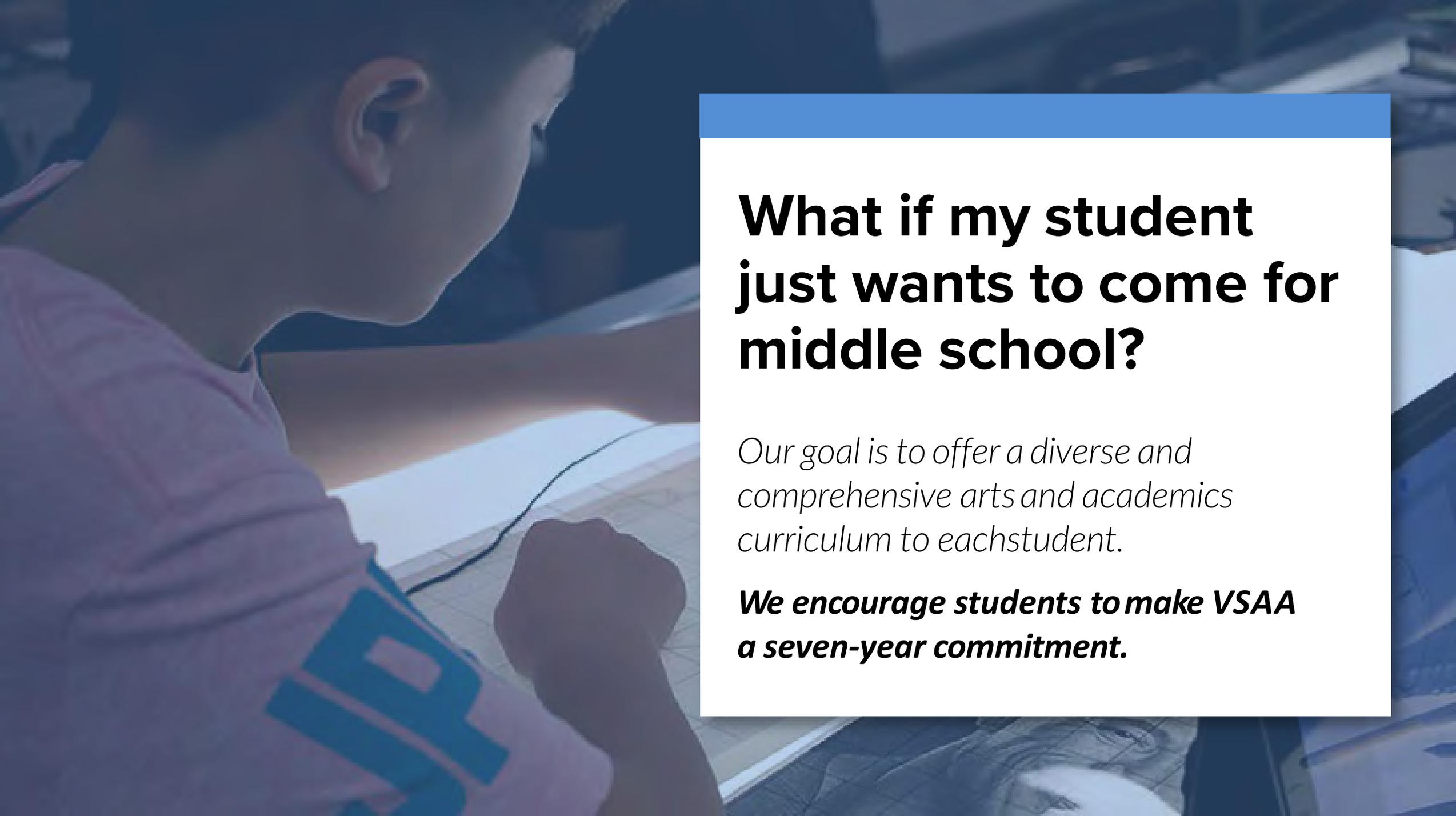
*Students will have the opportunity to experience each art form (visual art, dance, literary arts, theatre, moving image arts, and music) at an introductory level and advance in subsequent years to a higher level. Students should be willing and interested in exploring all the art forms.*



A large audience of students is seated in a school auditorium, looking towards the front. The students are diverse in age and appearance, and the room has a high ceiling with arched windows and wood-paneled walls. The lighting is warm and focused on the stage area.

# **We are moving to the area in the spring. When should we apply?**

*Students must currently reside in the [Vancouver Public Schools boundary](#) to apply. If the entire in-district applicant wait list has been exhausted, we contact out-of-district applicants for the next steps.*

A student in a purple shirt with 'VSA' on the sleeve is looking at a book. The background is a blurred image of a classroom or library.

## **What if my student just wants to come for middle school?**

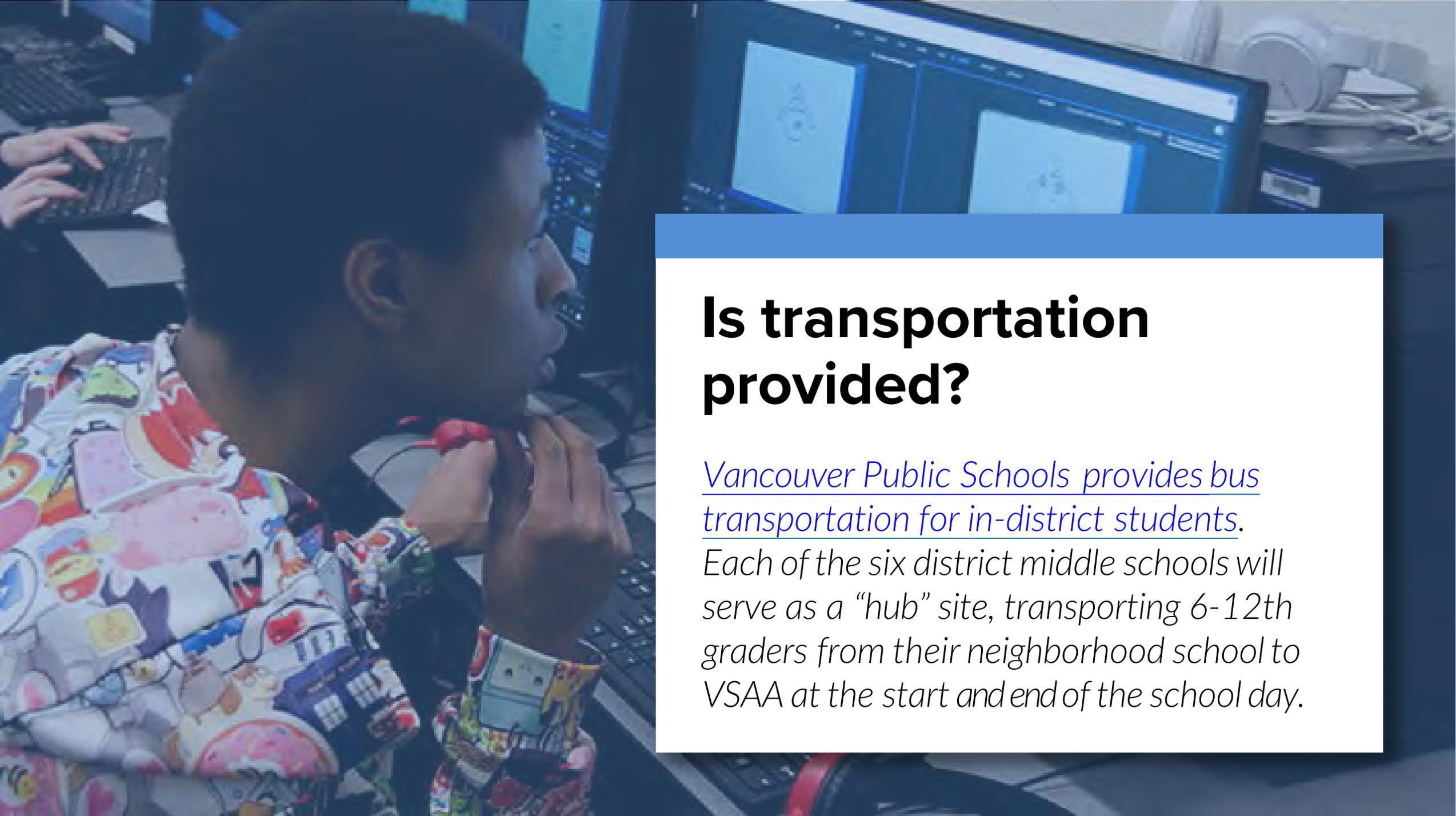
*Our goal is to offer a diverse and comprehensive arts and academics curriculum to each student.*

***We encourage students to make VSAA a seven-year commitment.***

A photograph of a band performing on stage. The band members are wearing dark clothing. One member on the left is wearing a white hat. The background is dark with blue lighting. A white text box is overlaid on the image.

## Can I do sports while attending VSAA?

*Students who wish to participate in sports may do so for one sport season (fall or spring at high school level) per year school. They will need prior early release approval from the principal for the athletic season (note that all students must still meet the graduation requirements in order to be approved for an early release). Additionally, families are responsible for transportation.*

A person wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned shirt is shown in profile, looking towards several computer monitors. The monitors display various graphical user interfaces, including what appears to be a network management tool. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the screens, creating a blueish tint. The person's hands are near their chin, suggesting a state of concentration or contemplation.

## Is transportation provided?

*Vancouver Public Schools provides bus transportation for in-district students.*

*Each of the six district middle schools will serve as a “hub” site, transporting 6-12th graders from their neighborhood school to VSAA at the start and end of the school day.*



## What is advocacy?

*At VSAA, every teacher serves as an advocate for 21-23 students, offering professional attention to each student. The advocate, in cooperation with the student and family, monitors academic progress and planning. Advocacy groups meet twice a week before or after lunch. Advocacy is considered an essential part of the VSAA curriculum and culture, and attendance is mandatory.*



## **Do you take students at semester?**

*VSAA makes every effort to maintain its student population. If space becomes available, at any grade level, during the course of the school year the waiting list will be reviewed. Invitations to VSAA will be extended on a space-available basis.*

# Do students have to take all art forms? What if they just want to take dance or visual art?

*We are tasked with introducing and developing students both academically and in the arts. Students will typically experience all six art forms in their first few years at VSAA. After exploring each of them, they may choose to focus in one or more of these art forms.*

