



PK-12
FIELD TRIPS
AT THE CENTER
FOR THE ARTS



Dear Educators,

Welcome to the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech! We are thrilled to present high-quality student matinees, memorable gallery tours, full-space theatre tours, and SOL-guided arts activities.

We hope the PK-12 field trip experience you choose helps you connect the arts to your in-classroom curriculum in ways that you find valuable. In the following pages, you will find helpful resources for setting up your field trip and information about the student matinee performances, as well as a variety of pre-visit tips!

Please pick and choose from the guide to meet your class’ unique needs, and contact **Bethany Costello**, engagement manager, by email at **bethanycostello@vt.edu** for further connection. We look forward to inspiring and educating your students through the arts at the center!

Table of Contents

About the Center for the Arts	2
Field Trip Guidelines	3
Directional Map	6
Field Trip Activities	
Resources and Sources	7
Student Matinees	7
Theatre Etiquette	8
Theatre and Gallery Tours	9
Additional Activities	9



About the Center for the Arts

Located at the crossroads of Virginia Tech and downtown Blacksburg, Virginia, on the corner of Main Street and Alumni Mall, the Center for the Arts is a thriving community where the arts are a catalyst for engagement, inspiration, and discovery.

The center operates as both a presenting organization and as a 147,000-square-foot, top-caliber arts center. Since opening in 2013, the center has brought innovative, significant, and diverse programming to the campus and the region.

The Center for the Arts and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) form a partnership unique in higher education. Together, the performing arts center and research institute blur the lines between formal and informal learning and have helped create a higher-education prototype looked to by institutions around the world.





Field Trip Guidelines

Reservations

Please email the necessary party with your reservation request (see Resources and Sources). Please have in mind your preferred dates, times, and activities of interest.

If your preferred field trip includes a student matinee performance and you need to reserve tickets, please email bethanycostello@vt.edu for more information.

After reservation, if your party turns out to be smaller than the number of registrants you have reserved or you need to cancel, please inform the Center for the Arts as soon as possible by reaching out to your field trip contact. This is especially imperative for student matinees, as we may be able to release your tickets to those on the waiting list.

Payment

PK-12 field trips and tours are of no cost; however, sometimes additional activities can incur labor or supply costs, which can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Performances and Resources

To supplement your students' learning, cross-curricular study guides are available for each student matinee and PK-12 gallery tour. These tailored study guides are provided via email in advance of the event.

Accessibility

The Center for the Arts is committed to being accessible to all of our patrons. Differently-abled and neurodivergent individuals and their companions are accommodated through wheelchair seating, parking, and other special requests throughout the center at all levels. Assistive listening and noise-canceling devices are available. Service animals are permitted. Sign interpretations and large-print programs are available with advance notification. Sensory free rooms and sensory aids are available upon request. If you or your students have questions regarding accessibility or would like assistance, please contact **Jamie Wiggert** at wiggertj@vt.edu.

Transportation

Car/Van Transportation

- Cars and vans may be parked in the North End Center Garage (300 Turner St. NW), one block from the center's Turner Street entrance. A valid university parking permit, validation from one of the retail tenants, or payment of the daily fee is required to park in the North End Center Garage.

Bus Transportation

- The bus drop-off location is on the Alumni Mall side of the center, located at 190 Alumni Mall on the campus of Virginia Tech. Drivers may pull their buses into the driveway loop directly in front of the center. Staff will be on site to assist. Recommended arrival time is 15-30 minutes before a matinee and 10-15 minutes before a gallery tour.

Arrival

When you arrive at the center, please check in with a staff member to let them know your party has arrived. Staff is on site to assist your group, direct you to the restrooms, and answer any questions.

Restrooms

If attending a matinee, please seat your entire group before taking restroom breaks so that you can be easily found. Students **MUST** be accompanied by adult chaperones when going to the restroom. We encourage that you take groups so that there are fewer trips.





Chaperones

Chaperones have a job to perform while at the Center for the Arts. Please make sure that your chaperones are interspersed among students and that they are prepared for the day's responsibilities. Please discuss restroom visits, emergencies, behavior, etc. with your chaperones prior to arrival.

Behavior

Students and teachers are encouraged to enjoy performances and applaud and express enthusiasm in a manner appropriate for the performance, yet not disruptive for others. We request that all phones, tablets, and any other electronic devices be completely turned off or on silent mode during performances. We ask that chaperones on upper levels watch for students tossing or throwing items to lower levels and prevent students from climbing or leaning on railings. No student can leave the theatre without an accompanying chaperone.

Departure

Following a field trip at the Center for the Arts, please wait to be dismissed by center staff to ensure a smooth and speedy departure in the correct direction! Staff and volunteers will assist school groups in meeting their buses in the Alumni Mall driveway.

Lunch

There is no set dining facility for classes to eat lunch in the center, however, accommodations can be made for schools to bring a bagged lunch and eat in the space by contacting the Engagement staff well in advance. We recommend classes eat lunch at a campus dining hall, at a park en route to/from the venue, or on their bus.

If you did not opt into the Center for the Arts' email list when you requested tickets to a show, you can subscribe to the list by visiting artscenter.vt.edu.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

190 Alumni Mall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-5300

Building Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 8 AM-5 PM
Sat., 10 AM-4 PM

Gallery Hours:

Tues.-Fri., 10 AM-5 PM*
Sat., 10 AM-4 PM*

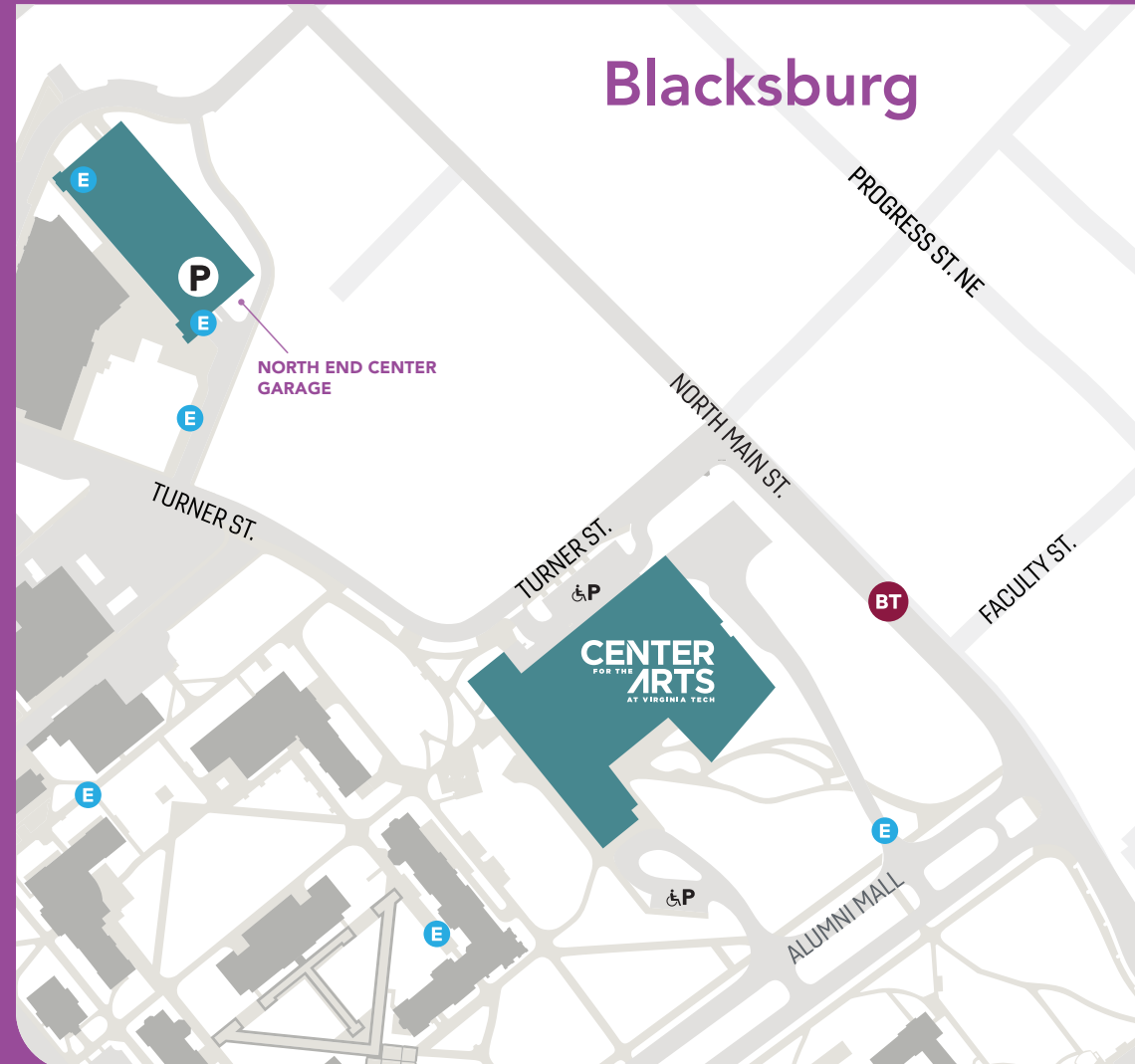
**during exhibition run dates*

Find Us on Social

@artscenteratvt



Blacksburg





Field Trip Activities

Resources and Sources

Center for the Arts
artscenter.vt.edu
540-231-5300

Bethany Costello
Engagement Manager
bethanycostello@vt.edu
540-231-0806

Student Matinees

The Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech is dedicated to providing transformative arts experiences to children through gallery tours, artist engagements, and special school-day matinee performances from renowned touring artists for children, teachers, and families.

Explore exciting new opportunities to connect with the arts through performances, activities, and study guides created especially for young audiences. Mark your calendar now and register to attend these engaging performances and discussions.

Check the **website** to see what PK-12 school-day performances are coming up this season! You can also join our email list and select "K12 and school-day events" to learn more about the Center for the Arts' matinees and activities with visiting artists.

These free events are open to public, private, and homeschool students; teachers; and families; but reservations are required. All school-day performances are held in the Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, unless otherwise noted.

How to Practice Theatre Etiquette

A live performance is a unique experience shared between performers and audience members. Unlike television or movies, distractions can disrupt the performers, production, and audience. Before you arrive at the Center for the Arts, please review the following information with your students and chaperones, and help artists and staff to create a meaningful experience for all.

- Arrive early to find your seat and settle in before the show begins! This is for the safety of the students and artists, as the lights go down promptly at show time. If you happen to arrive after the performance has started, the ushers will assist you in finding a suitable time to be seated without disrupting the experience for others.
- Food, gum, and beverages are not allowed inside the theatre.
- For the enjoyment of all, please turn off any devices that may create light or sound during the performance.
- While we love capturing memories, please note that photography, audio, or video recording are not permitted in the theatre.
- Buckle up! Keep all feet on the ground and hands, legs, and bodies in the seats at all times so everyone has a great view of the stage.
- When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please stop talking at this time.
- Many performers enjoy engaging with the audience and may invite you to clap, sing along, or even dance in your seat! Feel free to join in and have fun, but save conversations with classmates for the journey back to school to maintain the magic for everyone.
- If you need assistance during the show, please find your nearest usher.
- As you enter and exit the theatre, remember to walk and stay with your group.
- Open your eyes, ears, mind, and heart to the entire experience.
Enjoy yourself!





Theatre Tours

The theatre tour includes a close-up look at the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre stage, the Cube, and other Center for the Arts facilities. During the tour, students will learn about the STEAM-related aspects of performance and production and gain a better understanding of prospective careers in the arts.

Please refer to the Center for the Arts building hours when planning your ideal dates and times, while noting that theatre tours cannot occur prior to student matinees, as the performers and crew are often getting the last-minute details ready for the show!

Gallery Tours

Gallery tours offer a personal exploration of current center exhibitions. These detailed tours give students a better perspective of the high-level thinking that goes into creating meaningful art, as well as the detail it takes to arrange an exhibition.

Please refer to the Center for the Arts gallery hours when planning your ideal dates and times.

Additional Activities

Additional learning activities can be arranged through the engagement manager. These activities can include:

- Matinee or Exhibition SOL Study Guide Activity
- PK-K Grade Workshop: Opposites, Opposites
- 1st-2nd Grade Workshop: The Dot
- 3rd-5th Grade Workshop: Share Your Story
- 6th-8th Grade Workshop: Composing a Landscape
- 9th-12th Grade Workshop: Career in the Arts

Additional activities must be scheduled in conjunction with another field trip activity.

Please email **Bethany Costello**, engagement manager, at **bethanycostello@vt.edu** for more information.