



CAS High School “Heart of the Arts” Award Nomination - 2026

The deadline for returning the completed nomination to CAS is January 16, 2026.

In conjunction with the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools), CAS is pleased to open nominations for the 2026 “Heart of the Arts Award.”

The nominee could be any student, adult or group associated with the school’s performing arts program. This award covers a plethora of performing arts disciplines including music, speech, debate, theatre and visual arts.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of education-based visual or performing arts. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration.

For example, it could be awarded to an individual (or group) that:

- ★ has demonstrated exemplary ‘heart’ – i.e., integrity, citizenship, good character - in the chosen activity;
- ★ has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community; or
- ★ has overcome adversity or a challenging circumstance.

In the instance of a student, that student must be in good academic standing within his or her respective high school. Among the qualifying criteria that will be judged are the student’s grade point average along with activity and community involvement. Candidates should possess positive character traits such as a high level of integrity and ethics.

The nomination must be for something that occurred between January 2025 and January 2026. Nominated individuals do not necessarily need to still be enrolled in high school at the time of the nomination.

This nomination form is the primary criterion in the nomination process. Support materials are welcome, but not required. Please also submit a color photograph of the nominee(s).

Nominations received by January 16, 2026, will be judged by the CAS Performing Arts Committee. The winner will be recognized at the Arts Awards Ceremony in the spring. Schools

may nominate as many candidates as they deem qualified. Simply complete the attached two-page nomination form.

Inquires can be made to Cherese Odukwe at CAS, 203-250-1111 or via email at codukwe@casciac.org

Email or mail completed nominations to:

**CAS “Heart of the Arts” Award
Attn: Cherese Odukwe
30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410**

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NOMINEE INFORMATION (check one):

☐ Student ☐ Coach ☐ Administrator ☐ Official ☐ Trainer

☐ Performing Arts Administrator ☐ Athletic Administrator

☐ Other (*Specify* _____)

Name of Nominee: _____
(*first, middle, last*)

Current Address: _____
(*street address*)

(*city, state, zip*)

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

School (*if any*): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Name of Nominator: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

School: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nomination Form – page 2

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "CAS Heart of the Arts Award."