Office of Admission
Morristown Beard School

How to Complete Your Middle School Digital Portfolio

Guidelines, Recommendations, and What to Expect

Morristown Beard middle school students discover and develop their individual pathways to success, because success does not look the same for every student. In our office, the Admission team wants to make sure that our application process reflects the many types of students who thrive at MBS. The goal of the portfolio is to get to know our applicants beyond the more formal, traditional application questionnaires.

The Middle School Portfolio is a weighted component of your student's application and is a powerful opportunity for applicants to introduce themselves to the entire Admission Committee. Applicants should focus on creativity over technical expertise, put in their best effort, and follow the guidelines provided below while having fun with the process.

Materials Needed:

- Video Recording Device (phone, tablet, computer, etc.)

MBS Requirements:

- One Digital Portfolio Video
- One Creative Portfolio Submission
- Each file cannot exceed 100MB in file size, and any video should be between **60 and 90 seconds long.**
    - We recommend that you set your video to record in 480p to ensure that you will not exceed the upload limit
    - If the videos are too "large" to be uploaded, we recommend that you use the Handbrake software to help compress the videos. Handbrake is open source and free but does require a desktop or laptop computer: https://handbrake.fr/

MBS Recommendations and Advice:

- We encourage students to be creative and to use this as a medium to express themselves and their interests. Students have done slideshows, video montages, or filmed themselves speaking in their rooms.
    - Props, guest stars, and alternate locations are welcome!
- Some digital portfolios are highly edited, with jump cuts and captions, and some are more simply executed. However, unless a student has indicated a passion for video editing or creation, the admission committee does not judge a student's videos on the production value.
- Some students may find a written script helpful. We do encourage students to prepare and rehearse for their videos.
- Parents, guardians, siblings, and friends are allowed to help film, though we do want the video to reflect your student's thoughts and skills.

Prompts:

1. **Digital Portfolio:** Morristown Beard has six core values which can be found here: MBS's Values. If you were in charge, what NEW value would you add to the list and why?
2. **The Creative Portfolio:** Morristown Beard values creativity and innovation in all aspects of our learning community. Middle School Creative Portfolio submission examples include, but are not limited to:
    - a creative writing piece you previously submitted in school
    - a display of athletic prowess
    - a landscape painting you completed in your after school art class
    - a violin recital recording
    - a diorama you built for science class
    - a puppet show you wrote and performed
    - a powerpoint of your Odyssey of the Mind competition
    - or photos of your most recent Rube Goldberg machine.

As you are completing the portfolios, we're happy to answer any questions you have. If you are having trouble uploading the content, please let us know, we are happy to help.