

Classen School of Advanced Studies  
**Application for Admission  
2019 - 2020 School Year**

**An International Experience in  
Academics and the Visual and Performing Arts**

1901 North Ellison Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
Voice: 405-587-5400 Fax: 405-587-5405



This application is to be completed by incoming interested students currently enrolled or residing within the OKCPS district and current CSAS students who wish to change majors. Other applicants may complete this application but will be considered **only** on “specific program need” basis for the 2019 - 2020 school year and must be able to fulfill program requirements. Grade 11 applicants may be admitted only if space is available and the student can meet all program requirements.

Mr. Scot McAdoo, Principal  
Gina Bonner, Assistant Principal, Visual and Performing Arts Program  
Mitch McIntosh, Assistant Principal, International Baccalaureate Program  
John Tsofgh, Assistant Principal

**DEADLINE — Friday, January 25, 2019**

December 10, 2018

Dear Student and Parent,

The faculty and administration are pleased that you are considering making application to Classen School of Advanced Studies, a school with a strong commitment to academic success. We believe that by becoming a learning community all participants in the learning process will be strengthened in order to reach their maximum potential.

Classen School of Advanced Studies is a rigorous school. The Visual and Performing Arts programs are strenuous requiring a significant amount of time, preparation, and rehearsal. The International Baccalaureate Program is an intense academic program requiring much effort and time. Please understand that these programs will differ from previous school experiences for most students. Transitioning from elementary to middle school is a major life change for students everywhere, but even more intense for Classen students. However, when you are accepted to Classen School of Advanced Studies, you enter the Comet family. With proper communication between parent, student, and educator, all students can be successful!

### **This We Believe**

Classen School of Advanced Studies seeks to admit bright and promising students from a broad range of socioeconomic, cultural and Oklahoma City community origins. We look for students who have the potential to develop academic competence, artistic talent, creativity and leadership. We employ a variety of measures to predict a student's preparedness to succeed at Classen.

While academic successes gauged by test scores and grades are an important factor, subjective measures are utilized to measure a student's willingness to take on the challenges of the Classen experience.

Classen seeks to combine a diverse population of student interests that provide a rich variety of experiences and worldviews. Learning to live in a diverse world transcends classroom interaction and promotes a community of reflective, principled and caring learners. The student selected for admission to Classen is one that will enrich the learning environment, thus increasing the value of education for the entire student body.

Successful students at Classen shall make a commitment to the rigor of the requirements and will sacrifice some activities to fulfill that commitment. Due to the nature of the college preparatory curriculum, students--with parental support--will be expected to be prepared to complete accelerated work at each grade level. It will be the student's responsibility to participate in intervention plans to reinforce areas of deficiency.

### **Exit Policy**

Attending Classen School of Advanced Studies is a privilege. Students are admitted through the application process. Since Classen SAS does not have an attendance boundary every student will be on a special intra-district transfer on a year-by-year basis. Transfers may be revoked at the end of the school year for low academic performance, poor attendance or failure to abide by school rules. Major infractions resulting in long-term suspensions will result in the revocation of a transfer. Students that are failing two or more subjects will not be allowed to return the following school year. **All students must sign the Parent/Student contract included in this application.**

# Description of our Academic Programs

## **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program**

An academic program recognized worldwide in which students pursue coursework in advanced/honors courses in English, a world language, mathematics, science, social studies, and an approved elective area. Additional requirements include successful completion of a course of study in Theory of Knowledge, an extended essay of 4,000 words, and 150 hours of community service. Students in grades 6-8 will study honors core subjects and begin the formal training in an acquired language; students in grades 9-10 will study the Pre-IB curriculum; and students in grades 11-12 will participate in the IB Diploma Program. Students must sit a series of six examinations at the end of their senior year.

### **Admission requirements for the IB Diploma Program:**

- \* Above average grades and standardized test scores; please include all recent state/school standardized assessment scores
- \* Minimum 85% on reading/math placement tests
- \* Excellent school attendance
- \* Exemplary discipline
- \* Positive teacher recommendations

## **Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Program**

A nationally recognized program for artistically gifted students. Students must be motivated to complete coursework in selected fine arts major, as well as complete a college-preparatory curriculum, which includes the option of several Advanced Placement courses. A senior recital, performance, or exhibition is a culminating activity for a fine arts student at Classen. A student may major in band, dance, drama, guitar, piano, strings, visual art, or vocal music. Students admitted to this program must participate in rigorous after-school rehearsals and performances. (See following page for specific program requirements.)

### **Admission requirements for the Visual and Performing Arts Program**

- \* Above average grades and standardized test scores; please include all recent state/school standardized assessment scores
- \* Minimum of 70% on reading/math placement tests
- \* Commitment to pursue college preparatory curriculum
- \* Excellent school attendance
- \* Exemplary discipline
- \* Positive teacher recommendations, one from area in which student plans to study
- \* Audition in one of the following areas: band, dance, drama, guitar, piano, strings, visual art, or vocal music

**ALL SIXTH GRADE IB AND VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS APPLICANTS  
MUST SIT FOR THE MATH AND READING PLACEMENT TESTING  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019 - 8:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M**

# Classen SAS Student/Parent Contract

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: IB \_\_\_\_\_ Band \_\_\_\_\_ Dance \_\_\_\_\_ Drama \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar \_\_\_\_\_  
Piano \_\_\_\_\_ Strings \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Art \_\_\_\_\_ Vocal Music \_\_\_\_\_

Classen's mission is to place students in colleges in the most competitive positions.

To ensure this, all students must agree to the following:

1. Remain in good standing, meeting all program requirements, in either in IB or VPA;
2. Take core courses at CSAS, minimum of four per year;
3. Maintain academic excellence – a 2.00 unweighted overall GPA;
4. Demonstrate proficiency in all end-of-instruction tests prescribed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education;
5. Exhibit exemplary disciplinary conduct; and
6. Plan to enroll in a post-secondary educational facility upon graduation.

**Academics:** Because CSAS is a college preparatory school, each student must be committed to maintaining high academic standards. All students must maintain an overall 2.00 unweighted GPA.

**Middle School** – any middle school student who earns two semester F's during a school year will be returned to his home school.

**Senior High School** – any senior high school student who earns two semester F's during a school year will be returned to his home school.

Students in the International Baccalaureate Program must be enrolled in coursework leading to the awarding of the IB Diploma. Students in the Visual and Performing Arts Program must be enrolled in at least four academic courses and two VPA courses per year.

There is no early graduation at CSAS and a student must remain in his/her major to receive a diploma of distinction. Absolutely no major changes will be approved for the junior or senior year. Progress reports will be sent home with students periodically. Letter grades will be awarded that reflect the student's progress to date. Only semester grades are reported on the student transcripts. Students who have attended CSAS for at least six semesters (grades 9-12) and maintain an overall 4.00 will be designated as senior valedictorians.

**Student Conduct:** Each student is expected to comply with all guidelines as outlined by the Student Code of Conduct in the OKCPS Student Handbook. Parents will be contacted on disciplinary referrals.

**Attendance:** A No Credit (NC – equivalent to an F) for a course is awarded when a student exceeds four unexcused absences in the course. By state law, an NC is also given when a student's absence total exceeds twelve. A student that has 10 unexcused absences or 20 consecutive medical absences result in the student's withdrawal from school and reported as a drop-out. Both may result in the student's driver's license being revoked.

I have read and agree to follow the guidelines set forth by Classen School of Advanced Studies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Classen SAS Application Important Dates

Please examine all application materials carefully and note the following dates:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Application Window Open	December 10, 2018
Family Tours	January 22, 2019 (5:00 PM & 6:00 PM)
Application Due Date	January 25, 2019 (4:00 PM)
Placement Testing* (6 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	January 26, 2019 (8:15 AM – 11:30 AM)
Auditions**	Strings: February 7, 2019 All Other Majors: February 8, 2019
Notification Letters Mailed	March 8, 2019

\*Parent meeting will be held for 6th grade applicants during placement testing on January 26th.

\*\*See page 7-8 in this application for specific information about auditions in each program.

**Dates are subject to change. In the event of school closings or other significant events we will communicate all changes through the school website and the Classen SAS Mailing List. If you are interested in receiving updates and reminders about the Classen SAS application process please register to receive text messages below:**

**Classen SAS Application Mailing List**  
**<https://bit.ly/2GbQXue>**

# Classen SAS Application Checklist

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!!!**

- **All** parts of application must be turned in at the same time
- Incomplete applications will **not** be processed
- Faxes will **not** be accepted
- Classen SAS staff members are **unable to make copies** for applicants.

## **Your completed application packet must include the following materials:**

\_\_\_\_\_copy of report cards (fourth grade year and first semester of fifth grade year) most recent report card if applying in grades other than sixth

\_\_\_\_\_transcript of all high school credit courses. High school students must provide a transcript and current schedule

\_\_\_\_\_copy of most recent standardized test scores administered by your school or other appropriate organization (state tests, ACT, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_recommendation forms from three teachers/administrators from your school in sealed envelopes. Teacher/administrator must sign across the seal of the envelope.

\_\_\_\_\_proof of residence: copy of current utility bill. This is the home where the student resides. Rental property where you do not live or business addresses are not accepted. Please write your child's name on the copy of the utility bill

# Audition Schedule for all Visual & Performing Arts Applicants

Please read the description for the area of application and follow all dates, times and expectations. All auditioning students will **report to Classen SAS** for registration.

The length of auditions vary by program and depend upon the number of applicants. Please provide an accurate telephone number in the application. You will be contacted if there are any changes to the information below.

## **Band Applicants**

**9:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

Students must play at least one major scale and have a piece prepared to play (a copy of the music must be provided for the judges). A sight-reading test may be given.

## **Guitar Applicants**

**1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

All applicants should be prepared to play a selection that demonstrates technical ability (a copy of the music must be provided for the judges) and any scales known (applicant should be able to name each scale). A short sight reading and written test will be given.

## **Piano Applicants**

**9:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

Applicants must have a piece prepared by memory and any scales known. A sight reading test and written theory test will be given (a copy of the music must be provided for the judges).

## **Strings Applicants**

**4:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Thursday, February 7, 2019**

Students must play at least one major scale and have a piece prepared to play. A sight-reading test will be given (a copy of the music must be provided for the judges).

## **Vocal Music Applicants**

**9:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

Incoming sixth grade applicants must have an accompanied folk song and a Broadway selection. Applicants for high school will be asked to perform a selection from “The 24 Italian Songs and Arias” and a selection from a Broadway musical. Students may bring CD accompaniments – **accompanist will not be provided.**

## **Dance Applicants**

**9:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

The audition will be conducted much like a **dance class**. Participants should wear leotard and footless tights or leotard with tights and ballet slippers, or tight fitting, easy to move in shorts and T-shirt. Hair should be tied back and secured.

**\*NOTE:** A physical will be required to enroll if accepted to the Classen dance program.

### **Drama Applicants**

**9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

Drama Applicants - Drama/Technical Theatre Only - 9am-11am

Drama Applicants - Drama/Musical Theatre - 11am-12pm

Students need to wear comfortable clothing they can easily move in. All applicants need to memorize one of the attached monologues for the audition. Please prepare monologue with appropriate vocal/physical expression. Students will also participate in a cold reading exercise and will write a short essay. Musical Theatre is an optional addition to the Drama Major audition. It is not required, but will be additional points to total score. For Musical Theatre, students can prepare any musical theatre song A cappella and participate in a short dance audition. **Monologues are attached at the end of the application.**

### **Visual Art Applicants**

**10:00 A.M. – Friday, February 8, 2019**

All Visual Art applicants must report to Classen School of Advanced Studies for the drawing session. A thirty-minute pencil drawing session will be conducted (pencil and paper will be provided). **Please arrive at 9:30 A.M.**

A portfolio must be submitted with a completed application by the application deadline (January 25, 2019). The portfolio must include a MAXIMUM of five works (no cartoons): one still life, one portrait, and one landscape in any medium. It also must include one piece that has color and one must be in black and white. If the student's main interest is PHOTOGRAPHY, the portfolio may also contain a MAXIMUM of ten photographs that may be commercially developed or printed on photo paper. Portfolios will be available for pick up after March 22, 2019.

**Please place contact information on outside of portfolio  
Portfolio dimensions should not exceed 24" x 36"**



# Classen School of Advanced Studies Application 2019 - 2020 School Year

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA)\* Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please check ONE audition area (for VPA applicants only):**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Band</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drama</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Guitar</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Piano</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Visual Art</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vocal Music</b>

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last)
(First)
(Middle)

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Current school: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

Current math class: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> African American/Black	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian/White
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Mother's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

**I grant permission for my son/daughter to make application and, if accepted, to attend Classen School of Advanced Studies. I also give permission for Classen SAS school officials to obtain reports on my student's achievement/aptitude test scores from other schools. I understand that all grades, test results and teacher/other recommendations will be held in confidence by all members of the Admissions Committee and that the application will not be returned to the student or parent and will become the sole property of Classen School of Advanced Studies.**

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019

**RELATED BACKGROUND ACTIVITIES**

Please list hobbies and interests. Describe briefly.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list academic achievements and awards. Describe briefly.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list other achievements and awards. Describe each briefly.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate participation in special programs outside of the school day. Some examples are academic camps, fine arts activities, sports, or organized programs.

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Describe</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

(if more room is needed, use additional paper)

**Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019**

## Confidential Teacher Recommendation for Applicant

**Classen School of Advanced Studies**  
 1901 North Ellison Avenue  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
 Voice: 405-587-5400 Fax: 405-587-5405

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** Please check which area your student is applying for (select only one).

IB                       Band                       Dance                       Drama                       Guitar  
 Piano                       Strings                       Visual Art                       Vocal Music

**To the Teacher:** All information you provide will be held confidential. Thank you for your time in completing this evaluation.

Please FILL IN the appropriate box for each descriptor (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being least suited--5 being most suited)

	1	2	3	4	5
Academic Potential					
Intellectual Curiosity					
Ability to Concentrate					
Ability to Write					
Critical/Abstract Thinking					
Oral Expression of Ideas					
Self-Motivation					
Participation					
Seeks help					
Work well in groups					
Honesty/Integrity					

How long have you known this applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity have you known or worked with the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments (include any academic/discipline concerns):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this recommendation in a sealed envelope (signature across seal) and return to applicant. This completed form **MUST** be submitted WITH completed application or mailed to the school.

### Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019

# Confidential Teacher Recommendation for Applicant

## Classen School of Advanced Studies

1901 North Ellison Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
Voice: 405-587-5400 Fax: 405-587-5405

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** Please check which area your student is applying for (select only one).

IB                       Band                       Dance                       Drama                       Guitar  
 Piano                       Strings                       Visual Art                       Vocal Music

**To the Teacher:** All information you provide will be held confidential. Thank you for your time in completing this evaluation.

Please FILL IN the appropriate box for each descriptor (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being least suited--5 being most suited)

	1	2	3	4	5
Academic Potential					
Intellectual Curiosity					
Ability to Concentrate					
Ability to Write					
Critical/Abstract Thinking					
Oral Expression of Ideas					
Self-Motivation					
Participation					
Seeks help					
Work well in groups					
Honesty/Integrity					

How long have you known this applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity(ies) have you known/worked with the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments (include any academic/discipline concerns):

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Please enclose this recommendation in a sealed envelope (signature across seal) and return to applicant. This completed form **MUST** be submitted WITH completed application or mailed to the school.

## Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019

# Confidential Teacher Recommendation for Applicant

**Classen School of Advanced Studies**  
 1901 North Ellison Avenue  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106  
 Voice: 405-587-5400 Fax: 405-587-5405

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** Please check which area your student is applying for (select only one).

IB                       Band                       Dance                       Drama                       Guitar  
 Piano                       Strings                       Visual Art                       Vocal Music

**To the Teacher:** All information you provide will be held confidential. Thank you for your time in completing this evaluation.

Please FILL IN the appropriate box for each descriptor (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being least suited--5 being most suited)

	1	2	3	4	5
Academic Potential					
Intellectual Curiosity					
Ability to Concentrate					
Ability to Write					
Critical/Abstract Thinking					
Oral Expression of Ideas					
Self-Motivation					
Participation					
Seeks help					
Work well in groups					
Honesty/Integrity					

How long have you known this applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity(ies) have you known/worked with the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments (include any academic/discipline concerns):

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Please enclose this recommendation in a sealed envelope (signature across seal) and return to applicant. This completed form **MUST** be submitted **WITH** completed application or mailed to the school.

**Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019**

# Monologue for Drama Applicants Only

Each drama applicant will select ONE of the monologues on the next two pages for the audition on February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

## Monologue #1 Marissa

*Marissa can't believe how her friend Susan; acts like she is from another planet.*

That's it for Susan! I mean it, that's really it this time! Who does she think she is? What's the big... who cares if I weigh more than she weighs? She goes, "I'm going to be a model. I'm thin enough and my hair is beautiful." Then she walks around the room with a book on her head and poses like this. (She strikes an exaggerated model pose) I'm totally sick! Totally sick! She says she is going to be rich and famous because she is beautiful and that I'm not because I'm not beautiful or thin and have great hair like her.

Mom says Susan can't see the future and she's not an expert on anything. My dad says that he thinks I'm way more beautiful than Susan or any other girl he has ever seen except for my Mom and that I'm going to be pretty like my Mom when I grow up. But ya know, he's my Dad and you gotta expect that from a Dad. Susan has gone mental! Totally mental! My grades are better than hers!

## Monologue #2 Ernie

*This having-a-baby business is a little more complicated than Ernie thought it was going to be.*

They brought Max home from the hospital yesterday. He's my new baby brother. Well, my only baby brother. Mom carried him around inside her forever, and now he's out and noisy! When Mom was carrying him around, she wasn't the same, and they told me things would change after he was born, too.

They sent me to a siblings' class at the hospital. The nurses told me what was going to happen. How everybody at home will do new and different things, how I won't have the same attention that I had before. That my parents still love me as much as they ever did and junk like that. They said my brother will be fun to have around after a while. Me and the other kids learned how to change diapers and burp and stupid junk like that and it was okay, but a little boring, and once I had to miss my baseball game.

Well, Max is here, and every time people like my relatives come over, they all rush to see him. Uncle Ralph talks to me but the rest walk right past me. I don't care much, but I'm not changing any stupid diapers, okay? Besides, I couldn't get through that crowd even if I wanted to.

## Monologue #3

RAY

*Ray is upset because he can't figure out why people treat kids differently than they treat grown-ups.*

I hate going shopping-ever. And Christmas is the worst time, okay? I tried to buy Mom and Dad a Christmas present, and every time they'd chase me and my friends out of the store. I didn't do anything. One time I was trying to ask the lady behind the counter about stockings, and she just walked away and then the security guard came and told me to leave. At first, I didn't understand what he meant, so he pushed me to the door. Another time I had my money out and was counting to see if I had enough to buy my dad some handkerchiefs and a man chased me out again. I almost dropped the money. What's up with these people?

There is no sign that says kids can't shop. Other kids walk around with their parents and nobody says anything to them. One time me and dad were buying Mom a present for Mother's Day and the man tried to chase me because he thought I was alone. "Take your hands off my kid before I call a real cop," then goes to me, "Come on, Ray, we'll shop somewhere else. They don't need our business." Then the store manager came over and a big discussion started. We walked out and went for pizza. I got mom flowers.

## Monologue #4

D'Randa Marie

*Dee is extremely proud of her Naval Officer Father and anticipates his arrival.*

Daddy's coming home! My dad's coming home! I can't believe it. It's so awesome. He's been away on a ship, like, forever 'cause he's like, in the Navy, right? He's an officer, a Captain. I'm not too sure what it means, but it's a big deal. See this? This is his back-up formal, ceremony sword thingy. I saw him salute with one once. He picked it up and put it in front of his face. (She demonstrates the moves), like this, and then he put it down here like this, but he did it better. He looks taller in his uniform. He'll be home this afternoon. We're going to meet his ship as soon as Mom gets back from getting her hair done and my little brother finds his socks. He's been away in the South China Sea for a million years and, he once called us from the Island of Bali in Indonesia. I have little flags stuck in a big map in the den for all the places he's been. There's a billion flags, right? He's gone so much and for so long it's hard to keep track, so the flags help. Sometimes I try to think about what he's doing and if he's thinking about me while he's away. I'm a lot taller than I was when he left. Mom says he won't mind a bit. My grades are good, I do chores around the house, and I almost always do what Mom says. That should count for something.