

Creative Writing 2019-2020 Audition Information

The Creative Writing Department at DSA requires all students to complete the following steps in order to be considered for acceptance into the program.

STEP ONE:

DSA Online Application: The online application will open on November 5th, 2018 before noon and close on January 4th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. At any point during this online audition application window, you must apply online.

For this online application – all you are doing is filling out basic information on your child: name, grade, address, parent name, etc. No other preparation/materials are needed to fill out this online application.

PLEASE make sure you work through the entire audition application. You will create an account first. That is **not** the audition application. As soon as you create an account, you will proceed by adding your child's name, grade, major, etc. Only completed audition applications will be considered for auditions. *You should receive an automated email confirmation that you applied. This email will contain your students name, grade and major. This is your confirmation that you applied.*

If you do not have access to a computer, you may come to DSA during the online application window and someone in the counseling center will help you get online. If you have any technology issues, please call the school at 720-424-1701 and we will guide you through the process. You are welcome to call the school to make sure your application was received online.

Please note – Incoming 7th graders will audition for the waitlist only. Traditionally, the 7th grade is the hardest grade to get into at DSA. Why is that? Our 6th and 7th grade academic teams are the same size. Unless a current 6th grader decides to leave the school, there is no room for an auditioning 7th grader.

STEP TWO:

CW Information Night: A parent or an adult designee for the applicant must be in attendance at the pre-audition meeting in order to move ahead in the audition process. An adult other than a parent is allowed to stand in the place of the parent in case of emergencies/vacations/work/etc. However, someone must be at this meeting to represent the student and sign up for an audition time at the end of the meeting. The student applicant DOES NOT have to attend the meeting but is highly encouraged to do so.

Our CW preaudition meeting will be at **6:00 pm on Thursday, January 10th, 2019** in the Schomp Theatre. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the audition process, allow time for answering parent and student questions, and provide the opportunity for **students to sign up for the live writing portion of the audition**

which will take place on Saturday, January 12th, 2019.

STEP THREE:

The District School-of-Choice Form

If you are a current DPS family and have a Parent Portal account, you will be able to select your choice online from February 1st, 2019 – February 28th, 2019. To create a Parent Portal account, go to myportal.dpsk12.org and click Getting Started.

If you are an out-of-district family, you will need to either request a Parent Portal account prior to the choice deadline or pick up a hard copy of the choice form at any DPS school and turn it into any school by February 28th, 2019 at 4:00 pm. Visit schoolchoice.dpsk12.org to learn how to request a Parent Portal account.

The DPS SchoolChoice form will ask you to rank your top 5 preferred schools within DPS, including charter schools and magnet programs such as DSA. The DPS SchoolChoice form must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm on February 28th, 2019. If you desire to attend DSA, be sure to indicate DSA as your #1 choice.

For more information about the School Choice system, please visit <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/>. Their phone number is 720-423-3493.

STEP FOUR:

The Writing Audition: At the pre-audition meeting, students will sign up for one of the three 1-hour writing audition time slots for Saturday, January 12th. Each session will begin promptly at 9, 10 or 11 a.m. in rooms 228 and 232. Please plan on the writing session lasting approximately one hour. A make-up session will be provided for emergencies only on Tuesday, January 15th, from 3-4 p.m.

Please note: If your student requires accommodations for the audition, as written in a 504 or IEP, please provide a copy of the 504 or IEP to Assistant Principal Aspen Burkett ONE WEEK before your student's audition date.

Audition Components:

Writing Samples (Must be submitted at check-in during the written audition on January 12th):

- a. 1 story (1500 words max)
- b. 1 poem (1 page max)
- c. 1 writing sample of choice (500 words max)

Please enclose the three writing samples in a plain manila envelope. Include on the envelope student name and grade level for the 2019-20 school year. Audition materials will not be returned.

Please DO NOT include additional writing, photos, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, etc. The portfolio should ONLY contain the three specified pieces of writing.

Audition and Writing Samples will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Language Usage
- Imagination and Creativity
- Literary Techniques
- Narrative ideas
- Writer's voice

STEP FIVE:

Callback Interviews: After judges have determined scores for the writing portion of the auditions, select students will be asked to attend an interview. When you sign up for your initial audition slot, you will receive the audition number. In order to determine if you've been selected for an interview, you will need to **look on the DSA Creative Writing page to see if your number has been posted.** If your number does not appear on the webpage, you will not move on to the next step of the audition; furthermore, we cannot offer you a spot in Creative Writing next year. **We will post the interview callback list on Friday, February 1st, 2019 by 3 pm.**

Please do not schedule anything on interview dates below, as we cannot offer make-up times for the interview if your child proceeds to this round.

Interview Information

High School Audition Interview Date: Tuesday, February 12th, 2019

A specific interview time between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.

Middle School Audition Interview Date: Saturday, February 16th, 2019

A specific interview time between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.

Please note: An invitation to attend the interview does not guarantee a spot in the Creative Writing department. Openings are determined by positions available in each grade level, as well as scores on the interview and written audition materials.

STEP SIX:

Notification Process: All students who audition will be notified by email on February 26, 2019 as to the outcome of their audition (either qualified to attend DSA or not qualified to attend DSA). This February 26th date gives families two days to turn in the Choice form with the desired ranked schools before the February 28, 2019 deadline.

If your child receives confirmation that he/she has qualified for DSA, this does not mean that he/she also has an enrollment “offer”. Students will be assigned to DSA based on their qualification status plus the desired school(s) indicated on the DPS School Choice form.

All students will be notified of their 2019/2020 school assignment through a written letter in mid April 2019. This will come from the DPS Office of Choice and Enrollment Services.

The only students who will be considered for enrollment at DSA will be those who successfully qualify via the DSA audition process AND have ranked DSA on their DPS School Choice form. If you do not select DSA as your 1st preference school, please know that it is possible that your child may not be assigned to DSA. If you have any questions about the new School Choice student matching system, please call the DPS Office of Choice and Enrollment Services at 720-423-3493.