

## Creative Writing 2020-2021 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 1, 2019 by 1:00 pm and close at 9:00 am on January 3, 2020. 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. If you have a current DPS student, it will ask for their 6-digit ID. No other preparation/materials are needed to fill out this online application.

Please make sure you work yourself 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 to the next step 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 student's 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 and we will work you through the process. You are welcome to call the school to make sure your application was received online. Students may apply and audition for one major only.

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 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 Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020** 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 on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **STEP THREE:**

#### **The District School-of-Choice Form**

If you are a current DPS family and have a Parent Portal account, you will use this login to apply for SchoolChoice online from January 15, 2020 – February 18, 2020. To create a Parent Portal account, go to <https://myportal.dpsk12.org/> and click *Create an Account*, or if necessary, you can retrieve/reset your password so you are ready to participate in Choice. It does not matter when during the Choice window you apply, so long as it is submitted by February 18, 2020. *The exact time Choice closes on Feb 18th is determined/communicated by the DPS Choice Office.*

If you are an out-of-district family, you will need to request a Parent Portal account by pre-enrolling with DSA. Once you have a Student ID (lunch number) provided by DSA, you can create a Parent Portal Account. Be sure to do this well in advance of the closure of SchoolChoice, February 18, 2020. Alternatively, you can simply go to <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/> and create an account. Be sure you get confirmation of your application which is in the form of an email and/or text, whichever you select. The DPS SchoolChoice form will ask you to rank your top 12 preferred schools within DPS, including charter schools and magnet programs such as DSA. The DPS SchoolChoice online form must be submitted no later than February 18, 2020.

For more information about the new School Choice system, please visit <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/> . Their phone number is 720-423-3493 or you can email them with questions at [schoolchoice@dpsk12.org](mailto:schoolchoice@dpsk12.org)

### **STEP FOUR:**

**The Live 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

**Evaluation Form from student's current language arts/writing teacher.** The specific form they should fill out is available on the CW audition page of the DSA website. Please have the teacher seal the form in an envelope and initial the seal. You should include this form with the other audition materials listed below.

**Writing Samples (Must be submitted at check-in during the written audition on January 11th):**

- 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 2020-21 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 Wednesday, January 29th, 2020 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**

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.

**February 1, 2020: Callbacks for 8th and 9th grades 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
*(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback lists.)*

February 4, 2020: Callbacks for 10th – 12th grades 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback lists.)

February 8, 2020: Callbacks for 6th and 7th grades 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback lists.)

## **STEP SIX:**

### **The Notification Process**

#### **Tuesday, February 11, 2020**

All students who audition will be notified by email on February 11, 2020 regarding the outcome of their audition (either qualified to attend DSA or not qualified to attend DSA). If you are accepted via the audition process (qualified) and you have selected DSA as your top choice school, will be in at DSA! If you are not accepted at DSA, then the SchoolChoice process will move on to your other choices.

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 results of SchoolChoice. If DSA is your top choice, put it as your top choice. Then, if you qualify, it will be a match!

*All students will be notified of their 2020/2021 school assignment through the online system (email and/or text) in late March 2020. 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 you have selected DSA as your tip choice. If you do not select DSA as your 1st preference school, please know that it is possible that your child may get their MORE preferred choice and not be assigned to DSA.*