Denver School of the Arts Video Cinema Arts Program Pre-Audition Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

List of requirements for all DSA VCA applicants:

The LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION- The form for the letter of recommendation can be found on the VCA website, <http://dsa.dpsk12.org/admissions/video-cinema-arts-audition-requirements/>

The letter should be mailed to the school by Friday, January 17th, 2020. One additional letter is OPTIONAL.

THE VIDEO/STORY PROJECT - **ALL VIDEO PROJECTS DUE by 3pm on Friday, January 17th**

If you would like to see a sample of audition videos made by two students who were accepted into DSA check out:

MS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiXYrpoL3P8>

HS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBwNFykqRBE&feature=youtu.be>

VCA applicants will create a 2 minute video project, which can be documentary or fiction form. The project *must* tell some kind of a story. Our preference is to view your project on youtube or vimeo. Your student should avoid using copyrighted music as their video may be blocked by youtube or vimeo. You can find royalty free music that can be used in videos at <https://www.zapsplat.com/> or [bensound.com](http://bensound.com)

1. Please email the link to your video project to [David\_Higgins@dpsk12.org](mailto:David_Higgins@dpsk12.org) by **3pm on Friday, January 17th**
2. If you do not have access to video equipment, you may prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Your photo presentation must tell some kind of story (including a text component), as well as show evidence of your composition skills. This project should be emailed to [David\_Higgins@dpsk12.org](mailto:David_Higgins@dpsk12.org) by **3pm on Friday, January 17th**
3. It is the expectation of the DSA Video Cinema department that all video/photo projects presented for auditions represent primarily the work of the applicant. We are interested in seeing the writing, shooting, and editing capabilities of each applicant.
4. As a companion to the video or photo piece, all applicants must write a “treatment”- a written explanation of the story of their video project. This treatment will be featured in the student’s portfolio, to be presented at the time of their audition. Additionally, applicants may want to include storyboards, shot lists, or any other planning documents in their portfolio.

THE PORTFOLIO- Bring this with you to your audition. Use this list as a checklist, and please make sure that your portfolio includes all of the following elements. We will be holding on to these portfolios to help us make our decisions. They will be available for pickup during DSA office hours (7am-3:30 pm, M-F) from **February 3rd-Feb. 14th** After that time, portfolios will go into recycling. Portfolios will be judged on content, NOT on style, so if you’d like to present your portfolio in a manila folder with copies of original work so you don’t have to worry about picking it up, that’s fine with us.

1. The first section of all VCA applicant portfolios should be the student’s resume. Please see the attached sample resume for a suggested format
2. The second section of your Portfolio should contain the written story or “treatment” that you developed for your audition video or photo project. If you designed storyboards, shot lists or any other planning documents for your project, put them here.
3. The third section of your portfolio should include photos, drawings, short stories or other writing, cartoons, designs, or any other relevant work that will help us see how you think about telling stories and expressing them visually.
4. Finally, if you have awards or documentation regarding other activities that you want us to know about, you can include these in the back of your portfolio.

THE AUDITION- All students should show up for their audition **45 minutes prior** to their interview time to begin the written portion of their audition.

1. The first element of your audition is a written exercise. Students will be asked to develop a story idea for a film based on a visual prompt. Students will also watch a brief film clip and answer some questions about what they saw. The writing component will take between 30-45 minutes. Written answers will be composed on chromebooks, unless a student requests paper/pencil for the tasks.
2. After you complete your written audition, you will have a meeting with the VCA audition panel. This panel is generally comprised of both VCA teachers, as well as a community member or VCA grad with knowledge of our program. During your interview, you will first present your video or photo project to the panel, and then be asked to explain your project and its story. The panel will then ask a number of questions regarding your interests and experience related to film and video production.

**NEED ACCOMODATIONS FOR THE AUDITION PROCESS?**

If your student is on a 504 or IEP and you believe there are accommodations needed for the audition the main office needs a hard copy of the document in the DSA Main Office to the attention of Ms. Aspen Burkett, Assistant Principal by Friday, January 17th

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: School of Choice Requirements**

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 either request a Parent Portal account by Pre-enrolling with DSA and 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)