

## Creative Writing 2021-2022 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.*

***Please Note:** our CW audition timeline and process is slightly different than other majors because we need time to read/evaluate each student's work. Please note carefully the applicable dates and links as you review the information below so you have time to prepare.*

### STEP ONE:

The online application will open on November 2, 2020 by 1:00 pm and close at **9:00 am** on January 1, 2021. At any point during this online audition application window, you must apply online. We will not take any late applicants after 9:00 am, January 1, 2021.

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 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 have any technology issues, please call the school (720-424-1700) 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 Zoom 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 fill out the GoogleForm at the end to indicate your attendance. The student applicant DOES NOT have to attend the meeting but is highly encouraged to do so.

Our CW pre audition Zoom meeting will be at **6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** **The link for this meeting will be placed on our CW Department Homepage (<http://dsapresents.org/creativewriting/>) the morning of January 6th and is also available below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86292625645>

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the audition process, allow time for answering parent and student questions, and provide details about the **live writing portion of the audition scheduled for Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9 a.m.** More details on this in Step Four below.

### **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, 2021 – February 18, 2021. 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, 2021. 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, 2021. 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. (You do not have to list all twelve schools, and if you are out-of-district and only interested in DSA, then just list the one.) The DPS SchoolChoice online form must be submitted no later than February 18, 2021.

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: Saturday, January 9th from 9-11 a.m.**

We normally have students come to DSA to participate in a live writing audition. Obviously, that isn't possible this year, so we have tried to develop a system that gives some of the benefits of the live writing, but also addresses the reality that it must be done remotely.

**On Saturday, January 9th, at 9 a.m. we will post a GoogleForm link on our CW Department Homepage. (<http://dsapresents.org/creativewriting/>)**

We have modified our live-writing prompts to work as a GoogleForm. Students will have two hours to complete the writing prompts from 9 am - 11 am. After that, we will stop accepting uploads into the Google Form. No late entries will be accepted. Students must work on this material alone without any assistance from additional materials or people. Please make sure to watch the time as well as giving yourself time to upload your portfolio samples (details on this below) before hitting "Submit".

We have tried to be as clear as possible in our instructions within the GoogleForm, so proceeding through the various writing prompts should be straightforward, but in case there are questions or technical issues while students are working on the material, we will be standing by from 9-11 a.m. to answer any questions at the following Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86292625645>

Please note: An audition make-up session will be provided for emergencies only on Tuesday, January 12th, from 4-6 p.m. If your child cannot attend the Saturday session, please reach out as soon as possible to [Moss\\_Kaplan@dpsk12.org](mailto:Moss_Kaplan@dpsk12.org)

Also, if your student requires accommodations for the audition, as written in a 504 or IEP, please provide a copy via email of the 504 or IEP to Assistant Principal Aspen Burkett one week before your student's audition date. Her email is: [Aspen\\_Burkett@dpsk12.org](mailto:Aspen_Burkett@dpsk12.org)

#### **Other Audition Components:**

**Teacher Evaluation Form**

**Three Writing Samples**

**Current Snapshot**

**Evaluation Form from student’s current language arts/writing teacher.** All applicants must have **one** current writing teacher submit an evaluation on their behalf. Below is the GoogleForm link for the teacher recommendation. Feel free to forward this link as needed to the teacher of your choice. **The deadline for us to receive the rec form is Friday, January 15th.**

Recommendation Link: <https://forms.gle/ujZmsGkK3iBxorre8>

### **Three Writing Samples:**

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

The final part of the live writing session on January 9th will be for students to upload the above writing samples. Students will write these three pieces ahead of time and have the file ready to go for the writing audition on January 9th. We recommend combining these samples into one document for ease of uploading. **Please convert your document into a PDF before uploading. This will ensure we have no issues viewing the file.** You will click “Add File” and either drag in or attach your file, then click the blue “Upload” button in the bottom left corner. *Please DO NOT upload additional writing, photos, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, etc.*

If you have technical issues uploading your file on Saturday morning, please email the samples to: [Moss\\_Kaplan@dpsk12.org](mailto:Moss_Kaplan@dpsk12.org) with the student’s name in the subject line.

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

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

### **Current Snapshot:**

After uploading your writing samples, you will be asked to upload a recent snapshot of yourself. This is only for our records—another way to get to know you—and the photos will not be published anywhere. It does not need to be a professional photograph.

## **STEP FIVE:**

**Callback Interviews:** If you have completed the initial registration process in step one, someone from our administrative office will reach out to give you an audition number. After judges have determined scores for the writing portion of the auditions, **select students will be asked to attend a ten-minute Zoom interview.** We will post this callback interview list on our CW homepage (<http://dsapresents.org/creativewriting/>) **on Friday, January 29th, 2021 by 3 pm.** For privacy reasons, we will not be posting the names of students we wish to interview. Instead, we will identify students using their audition number. Below are the dates and range of times we will be conducting interviews. Depending on your child's incoming grade level, please keep that date and timeframe free, as it is not possible for us to schedule alternate times for these interviews. The list will include a specific time and Zoom link for their interview.

If your audition number does not appear on the callback list, you will not be able to move on to the next step of the audition; furthermore, we cannot offer you a spot in Creative Writing next year.

### **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 2nd, 2021: Callbacks for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades 4 p.m.-6 p.m.**

*(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)*

**February 3rd 2021: Callbacks for 7th – 8th grades 4 p.m.-6 p.m.**

*(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)*

**February 4th, 2021: Callbacks for 9th grade 4-6:30 p.m.**

*(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)*

**February 6th, 2021: Callbacks for 6th grade 9 a.m-4:00 p.m.**

*(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)*

## **STEP SIX:**

### **The Notification Process**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

**All students who audition will be notified by email on February 9, 2021 as to 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 aren't accepted anywhere more preferred through the Choice process, you 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 2021/2022 school assignment through the online system (email and/or text) in late March 2021. 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 not received something more preferred via SchoolChoice. 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.***