



DENVER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Bringing creativity to education and education to life.

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CEEB Code: 060443

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EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

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2023-2024 School Profile

School Overview

Denver School of the Arts (DSA) is a public arts magnet school within Denver Public Schools (Denver County School District #1). DSA is the only comprehensive, conservatory-based secondary arts school in the Rocky Mountain region. Founded in 1991, the school serves roughly 1,100 students in the 6th through 12th grades. DSA is committed to fostering a lifelong love of the arts in a culturally diverse, academically challenging environment.

Admission Guidelines

Entrance to DSA is through a robust audition process. Each year, over 500 students audition for approximately 225-275 open seats.

Awards and Honors

DSA has consistently been recognized as one of the “Best High Schools in America” by *U.S. News & World Report* and has received their Gold Medal award annually since 2009. Currently, DSA is ranked #197 in the National Rankings and #5 among Colorado high schools.

DSA frequently earns recognition at the regional, state, and national levels in the performing arts, visual arts, creative writing, instrumental and vocal music, film, Speech & Debate, Spelling Bee, National History Day.

Accreditation and Membership

DSA is fully accredited by the Colorado Department of Education. The school is an *Exemplary Designee School* as determined by the Arts Schools Network.

Academic Calendar

DSA follows a semester calendar and is in session 174 days per year. DSA high school employs a modified block schedule for an 8 period day. Students are allowed to have free periods.

Arts Curriculum

DSA students “major” in one of eleven art forms:

Bands

Orchestra

Guitar

Piano Vocal Music

Visual Arts

Video Cinema Arts

Creative Writing Theatre

Dance

Stagecraft & Design

FAST FACTS

Founded in 1991

Public arts magnet school

Grades 6 through 12

Urban setting

11 Arts Majors

59% Acceptance Rate for SY 23/24

Enrollment

Total Students: 1093

Middle School (grades 6-8): 422

High School (grades 9-12): 694

High School Demographics

Male/Female/Other: 42%/55%/3%

White/Anglo: 68%

Hispanic/Latinx: 15%

Black/African American: 6%

Asian: 5%

Multi-Race/Other: 6%

Free/Reduced Lunch: 10% (SY 22/23)

MultiLingual Learners: 15% (SY 22/23)

Special Education: 5% (SY 22/23)

High School Faculty

Full Time Faculty: 43

Faculty with Master's Degrees: 38

Number of Guest Artists: 85

22/23 School Year Performance

High School Attendance Rate: 92%

2023 SAT Mean: 1174

AP Participation Rate: 43%

AP Exam Pass Rate: 78%

Class of 2023 Outcomes

Graduating Seniors: 165

On-Time Graduation: 163

Graduated w/ DSA Honors: 123

Graduated w/ NHS Honors: 61

Graduated w/ Seal of Biliteracy: 58

Applied to College: 99%

Grants/Scholarships: \$13.3 million

The 7-year developmental plan (grades 6-12) for each art major includes a comprehensive study of the history, theory and practice within the field.

Arts Electives

DSA offers numerous arts electives that are open to all students, including: Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Workshop Orchestra, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Literary Journal, Film Studies, Photography, and Audio Production.

Academic Curriculum

98 minutes per day (2 periods) is dedicated to the arts major; the other 6 periods are for academic and elective courses. Students may opt for 1 free period in 9th/10th grades, and for 1-2 free periods in 11th/12th grades. DSA offers 2 world languages (French & Spanish) starting in 9th grade. Athletics are not offered at Denver School of the Arts.

Advanced Placement (AP)

At Denver School of the Arts, 9th grade students may choose to take AP Human Geography; 10th grade students may take AP U.S. History; and 11th and 12th grade students may choose from any of the AP courses offered at the school. For the 2023/24 school year, DSA is offering the following AP courses:

AP Human Geography
AP United States History
AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition
AP Government & Politics
AP Statistics
AP PreCalculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Environmental Science
AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP French Language & Culture

79% of DSA students participate in the AP program. In 2023, DSA students sat for 465 AP exams in 21 different subjects, with 78% of the tests earned as a passing score of “3” or higher.

Concurrent Enrollment (CE)

Denver Public Schools and Denver School of the Arts have partnered with the University of Colorado at Denver and the Community College of Denver to offer concurrent enrollment courses during the school day at DSA. Courses are taught by faculty from these institutions and are the same as those offered on the college/university campuses with respect to their content, quantity and quality of work required of students, and the standards used to evaluate the students’ learning and performance. These classes are open to students in 11th and 12th grades at DSA. Students earn both high school and college credits, and will receive transcripts from both DSA and the college/university. For the current school year, DSA is offering these concurrent or dual enrollment courses:

ENGL 1020: Core Composition I / UC-Denver
ENGL 1601: Storytelling: Literature, Film, and Television / UC-Denver
FINE 2600: Art History Survey I / UC-Denver
FINE 2610: Art History Survey II / UC-Denver
PSY 1001: General Psychology I / CC-Denver
PSY 1002: General Psychology II / CC-Denver
MUS 161: Computer Music Applications I / CC-Denver
MUS 163: Audio Production I / CC-Denver

Grading System

DSA follows a semester calendar with final grades issued at the end of each term. A standard system of marking A-F is followed in all departments. Cumulative high school GPAs and class rankings are calculated on both a weighted and unweighted basis using all courses taken in grades 9-12. DSA students who complete additional requirements (incl. Senior Project) graduate with “DSA Honors”.

Graduation Requirements

All students are required to earn a minimum of 240 credits (48 course-semesters) in order to graduate.