Our goal is to provide a high quality education by integrating the core academics and the arts. The DESA faculty and staff are committed to partnering with parents for the academic success of all students! We have an excellent staff of qualified core academic and art educators. The curriculum includes core academic classes along with drama/theatre, dance, vocal and instrumental music, and visual arts courses. Our students must develop and maintain a strong academic and performing artist work ethic to balance academic and performing arts course work requirements. They must also focus on consistently being organized, completing and submitting all assignments, and managing their time during and outside of the school day.

Students in grades: K-3 take dance, drama/theatre, general music, and visual arts classes weekly. Students in grades 4-8 are evaluated and their evaluation score determines which arts course(s) they are enrolled in; dance, drama/theatre, vocal music, instrumental music (band or orchestra), or visual arts. Students in grades 4-6 are enrolled in two arts courses. Students in grades 7 and 8 are enrolled in one arts course. Enrollment continues through 8th grade as long as performance and behavior expectations in all courses are met each year according to our DCSD Magnet Performance Guidelines. Students in grades 1-8 must maintain a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average (GPA) and all students must maintain satisfactory behavior to maintain their enrollment at DESA.

Vision:
To achieve excellence and student growth in the academics and the arts.

Mission:
Partner with our stakeholders to promote a high quality arts integrated academic program that encourages students to become leaders and life-long learners.

Core Values:
We ROAR!
We always Respect each other
We are One
We learn through Arts integration
We are Responsible and Responsive

Motto:
We are ONE! Optimizing learning opportunities with a New focus on Exceeding expectations.

Mural painted by the 7th grade class of 2019
Audition Requirements for Grades 4 –8

Students must audition in two disciplines from all listed.

**Dance:** Perform a 60-90 seconds dance selection in ballet, modern, jazz, tap, lyrical, or ethnic/cultural dance (liturgical, mime, and hip-hop dance will not be scored). Applicants MUST dress in proper dance attire (leotard, tights, etc). No costumes. Choreography should demonstrate the student’s technical ability and skill. Students may be asked to define or demonstrate beginning ballet terminology and technique skills.

**Drama/Theatre:** Memorize and perform a monologue that is provided. Students must also perform an improvisation during the interview. Student must sustain characterization with a clear understanding and interpretation of the monologue and improvisation task.

**Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra Instruments):** Audition instruments: Woodwinds, brass, double reed, and percussion instruments, violin, viola, cello, & bass. All applicants: Play a selection with or without accompaniment. Rising 4th grade applicants: Play and read one pentachord in any key. Rising 5th-8th grade applicants: Play two (2) one-octave scales. **Option for rising 4th grade audition students ONLY:** If a student is interested in being a beginning band or strings/orchestra student he or she may audition in one area and participate in the instrument evaluation process for band or strings during auditions.

Visual Arts: Provide a portfolio with 3-5 pieces of work in at least two different mediums completed in the past two years. **Do NOT submit any work on lined notebook paper.**

Produce a still life drawing from 3 or more objects.

**Vocal Music:** All applicants: Sing major arpeggio using solfège DO-MI-SOL-MI-DO. Rising 4th & 5th grade applicants: Sing a five tone scale ascending and descending using solfège.

Rising 6th grade and above applicants: Sing an eight tone scales ascending and descending using solfège.

**All applicants:** Select one song from the list below and sing it with or without accompaniment:

- Simple Gifts – Traditional Shaker Hymn
- America the Beautiful – Traditional
- Dona Nobis Pacem – Traditional Canon

**Interview:** Students are interviewed as part of the audition process. They should be prepared to discuss previous performance experiences, goals, and knowledge of the disciplines/piece(s) performed (vocabulary composer, artist, choreographer, etc.).

**Music for auditions:** Must be age appropriate & brought in by the applicant on an appropriate device (jump drive, phone, etc.).