

### Magnet Fees

All DESA students must pay a \$60.00 magnet fee. Examples of what the fee covers: 1) Admission and transportation for two Performing Arts field trips. 2) Field Day T-shirts and awards. 3) In-house field trip. 4) Honor's Day certificates and awards. 5) Other identified program related expenses. Fees may be paid in full, by cash or money order, by the end of the first semester. Students participating in audition based performances will be assessed an additional fee for participation.

### DESA Mandatory Uniform Policy

All DESA students wear the uniform identified by the school. The goal is to offer students a comprehensive, arts integrated, instructional program in a structured setting. We are preparing our students to be interview and audition ready at all times. The dress and appearance of students should always be neat and appropriate, as it reflects both home and school.

### Transportation

The most current DeKalb County transportation policy will be followed. Students will report to selected satellite pick-up locations in their region for school bus transportation. The Department of Transportation provides the schedules.

### What makes DESA Special

- The students
- All students participate in arts classes daily
- All students are afforded one performance opportunity
- Our parents are engaged, supportive, and involved
- 13 of our 22 content teachers are gifted certified
- The majority of DESA's arts teachers are former or current professionals in their field and are currently working in their discipline
- The Woodruff Arts Center is our partner for all of the school's arts integration professional learning

## DESA Clubs & Performances

### Clubs

**\*\*Audition required**

Class Act Singers  
Jr. Beta Club  
KAST\*\*  
Kinderchoir  
Morning News Crew\*\*  
Portia Glover Advanced Chorus\*\*  
Safety Patrols  
Student Council  
Helen Ruffing Reading Bowl

### Performances

**\*\*Audition required**

Arts Integrated Social Studies Showcases  
Grade Level Shows  
Selected Musical for the Year\*\*  
Kindergarten Promotion  
7th Grade Promotion Performance  
Special Invitations Performances\*\*

# DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts (DESA)



*We are One!*

**3131 Old Rockbridge Rd.  
Avondale Estates, GA 30002  
678-874-1302  
[www.desa.dekalb.k12.ga.us/](http://www.desa.dekalb.k12.ga.us/)**





DESA has an excellent staff of qualified core academic and arts educators. Students are enrolled in grades K-7. The curriculum includes core academic classes along with drama/theatre, dance, vocal and instrumental music, and visual arts. Students in grades K-3 take dance, drama, music, and visual arts classes weekly. Students in grades 4-7 are enrolled in two of the following arts classes: dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, or visual arts. Students attend their major class three times a week and their minor class two times a week. Students in grades 1-7 must maintain a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average (GPA) to maintain their enrollment at DESA.

Grade	2018-2019 Number of Classrooms
Kindergarten	1
First Grade	2
Second Grade	2
Third Grade	3
Fourth Grade	3
Fifth Grade	3
Sixth Grade	4
Seventh Grade	3
Exceptional Education	2
Dance Teachers	2
Drama Teachers	2
Vocal Music Teachers	2
Visual Arts Teacher	1
Part time Band Teacher	1
Part time Strings Teacher	1
Paraprofessionals	9
Academic Coach & Instructional Support Specialists	3

### Vision, Mission, Core Values, & Motto

**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, and We are RESPONSIBLE and RESPONSIVE.

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

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!

With increased demands on students' time by the arts programs, our students must develop and maintain a strong academic and performing artist work ethic. Our students are engaged in the arts daily and must balance academic and performing arts requirements. They must develop and maintain a focus on being organized, completing and submitting all assignments, and managing their time during and outside of the school day.

### College Career Readiness Performance Index

CCRPI is a comprehensive school improvement, accountability, and communication platform for all educational stakeholders that will promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students. Our 2017 score in comparison to DeKalb County School District (DCSD) and the State:

	DESA	DCSD	State of GA
Elementary	83.9	67	72.9
Middle	95.2	67.8	73
Overall	87.2	69.9	77

We receive three scores because we serve grades K-7

### Admission: All DESA grades 4-7 audition applicants

**must:** 1) have a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average (GPA), 2) apply through the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) School Choice Open Enrollment process ([www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/school-choice](http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/school-choice)), 3) complete the DESA Audition Application, and 4) complete the DESA Audition Process. **Students entering into grades 2-3 must:** 1) have a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average (GPA), 2) apply through the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) School Choice Open Enrollment process, and 3) be admitted through the DCSD School Choice Lottery process. **Students entering into grades K -1 must:** 1) apply through the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) School Choice Open Enrollment process and 2) be admitted through the DCSD School Choice Lottery process.

### Grades 4-7 Audition Requirements

Students must audition in **two** of the disciplines below:

**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/demonstrate beginning ballet terminology and technique skills.

**Drama/Theatre:** Memorize and perform a monologue that is provided in the audition application. Students must also do an improvisation or a cold read (theatrical **cold reading** is reading aloud from a script or other text with little or no rehearsal, practice or study in advance of the selected piece). Student must sustain characterization with a clear understanding and interpretation of the monologue, improvisation, and/or cold read.

### Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra Instruments):

Audition instruments: Recorder, 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—7th grade applicants: Play two (2) one-octave scales.

**Visual Arts:** Submit a visual arts portfolio containing 3-5 pieces of art 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 on site.

**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 & 7th grade applicants: Sing a eight tone scales ascending and descending using **solfège**. All applicants: Select one song from the list below and sing 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 prepare to discuss previous performance experiences, goals, and knowledge of the disciplines and the piece(s) performed (discipline vocabulary composer, artist, choreographer, etc.).

**Music for auditions:** Must be age appropriate and brought in on a CD, iPod, or downloaded on a cell phone on airplane mode. Music from YouTube **cannot** be used during the audition.