

# DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts



## a K-8 Arts School

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[www.desa.dekalb.k12.ga.us/](http://www.desa.dekalb.k12.ga.us/)

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 attendance, 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 attendance and behavior to maintain their enrollment at DESA.



Mural painted by the 8th grade class of 2021



### Vision:

Our vision is for all students to excel academically and artistically in order to be a well-rounded scholar when entering secondary education.

### Mission:

Partner with our community stakeholders to promote a high-quality Arts and STEM integrated academic program where scholars are encouraged to become 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

## Admission:

- **Students entering into grades K-1 must: 1)** 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)) and **2)** Be admitted through the DCSD School Choice lottery process.
- **Students entering grades 2-3 must: 1)** Apply through the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) School Choice Open Enrollment process. **2)** Have a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average (GPA) and **3)** Be admitted through the DCSD School Choice lottery process.
- **Students entering grades 4-8: 1)** Apply through the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) School Choice Open Enrollment process. **2)** Have a 3.0 (or higher) grade point average. **3)** Complete and submit the DESA Audition Application, and **4) Complete the DESA Audition Process. Note:** The DCSD School Choice lottery process does not apply to students entering grades 4-8 but the school choice application process must be completed and submitted.

## DESA Mandatory Uniform Policy

All DESA students wear uniforms identified by the school. We are preparing our students to be interview and audition-ready at all times. Our uniform policy is a reflection of our school pride.

**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.

## Audition Requirements for Grades 4 –8

Students must audition in **two** disciplines from all listed.

**Dance:** Perform a 60-90 second 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. Students must have 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Audition Requirements for Grades 4 –8

Students must audition in **two** of the following areas:

**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.).

