

Interview Preparation Tips for Parents of Prospective Students at De La Salle College

Preparing for the admissions interview is not simply about answering questions correctly — it is about helping your child communicate who they are, what they value, and how they would contribute to the De La Salle community. De La Salle looks for students who demonstrate character, commitment, leadership potential, and a genuine desire to grow academically, spiritually, and personally within the Lasallian tradition. (delasalle.ca)

1. Research the School Thoroughly

Students should be familiar with:

- The Lasallian mission and values
- The school motto: “Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.”
- The importance of faith, service, leadership, academic excellence, and respect for all persons
- The school’s emphasis on competence, compassion, and courage
- Co-curricular opportunities including athletics, arts, clubs, leadership, and community service initiatives (delasalle.ca)

Parents should encourage their child to explain:

- *Why* De La Salle is the right fit for them
- How their interests and personality align with the school’s mission
- What they hope to contribute to the school community

2. Help Your Child Connect Their Experiences to the School’s Vision

Strong candidates can clearly articulate:

- Their passions and interests
- Long-term involvement in activities
- Leadership experiences
- Commitment to academics
- Community involvement and service
- Teamwork, discipline, and resilience

Students should be prepared to discuss both:

- **Inside-school involvement:** academics, clubs, student leadership, athletics, arts, volunteering
- **Outside-school involvement:** sports teams, music, dance, tutoring, church/community work, camps, hobbies, entrepreneurial initiatives, etc.

Admissions teams value consistency and dedication over simply having a long list of activities.

3. Emphasize Passion, Commitment, and Academic Excellence

Students should communicate:

- A strong work ethic
- Curiosity and willingness to learn
- Pride in their accomplishments without sounding rehearsed
- Genuine enthusiasm for school life
- A desire to challenge themselves academically

Most importantly, throughout the interview it should be abundantly clear that the student genuinely wants to attend De La Salle College for the upcoming academic year. Students who communicate sincere enthusiasm for becoming part of the De La Salle community often leave a much stronger impression than those who appear uncertain or indifferent. Interviewers should be able to clearly see that the student has intentionally chosen De La Salle because of its values, opportunities, and community.

It is important that students demonstrate maturity, confidence, and composure throughout the interview process.

4. Prepare Thoughtful and Detailed Questionnaire Responses

The student questionnaire is taken very seriously and often provides the admissions team with a first impression of the applicant.

Parents should encourage their child to:

- Write responses carefully and thoughtfully
- Avoid one-word or generic answers
- Be authentic and reflective
- Provide specific examples
- Demonstrate personality, values, and motivation

Strong responses often show:

- Self-awareness
- Gratitude
- Leadership potential
- Initiative
- Resilience
- A sincere interest in becoming part of the De La Salle community

5. Encourage Professional Interview Habits

Students should:

- Maintain eye contact
- Speak clearly and confidently
- Offer complete answers rather than short responses
- Show enthusiasm and positivity
- Be polite and respectful to everyone throughout the process
- Practice answering common interview questions beforehand

Helpful preparation strategies include:

- Mock interviews at home
- Reviewing extracurricular experiences together
- Discussing current interests and goals
- Practicing speaking calmly under pressure
- Encouraging confidence without over-rehearsing

Students should also be prepared emotionally for the interview process. Remaining composed, confident, and poised under pressure reflects maturity and readiness for the expectations of an academically rigorous environment.

6. Co-Curricular Involvement Matters

Students should mention activities from the **past two to three years**, even if they believe they are minor.

Admissions committees appreciate:

- Long-term commitment
- Balance between academics and activities
- Leadership and teamwork
- Initiative and involvement beyond the classroom

Students should not undersell their experiences.

7. Prepare Thoughtful Questions for the Interviewers

At the conclusion of the interview, students should be prepared with **at least two thoughtful questions** for the interviewer. Strong questions demonstrate maturity, preparation, curiosity, and genuine interest in the school community.

Questions should go beyond information that can easily be found on the website and instead focus on deeper aspects of the student experience.

Examples include:

- “What qualities do you believe make a student truly successful at De La Salle College?”
- “What opportunities are available for students who want to become involved in leadership or service initiatives?”
- “How does De La Salle help students grow both academically and personally?”
- “What makes the De La Salle community unique compared to other schools?”

Thoughtful questions can leave a strong final impression and help elevate the overall interview experience.

Final Thought

The strongest applicants are not necessarily the students with the most achievements, but those who demonstrate:

- Character
- Humility
- Commitment
- Passion for learning
- Respect for others
- A genuine desire to contribute to the De La Salle community and live out its Lasallian values. (delasalle.ca)