



2027-2028 Audition Application Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for considering DeKalb Arts Academy (DAA), a K–8 magnet school where academics and the arts unite to inspire excellence. We proudly offer programs in dance, drama/theatre, vocal and instrumental music, and visual arts. Our vision is to provide high-quality, arts-integrated instruction that meets and exceeds district and state standards, preparing students to thrive both academically and artistically.

At DAA, students are expected to excel in both academics and the arts. All scholars **must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA**, demonstrate strong attendance and punctuality, and uphold an exemplary discipline record. Students who do not meet these expectations may be placed on a one-semester probationary period. The school day runs from **7:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**, and gifted students are served through an in-class model in alignment with state guidelines.

To promote professionalism and readiness, DAA has a mandatory uniform policy. Students are required to wear the designated uniform each day with neat and professional presentation. This standard reflects our belief that DAA scholars should always be prepared for interviews, auditions, and performances.

A mandatory magnet fee, due by **August 30th** each school year, supports enrichment opportunities for our students. This fee covers expenses such as a school-wide field trip, a Field Day t-shirt, Honor's Day certificates and awards, and other program-related costs. Students who participate in audition-based clubs or performances may also incur an additional activity fee.

Finally, in accordance with DCSD policy, transportation will be provided to and from designated regional satellite bus pick-up and drop-off locations for the 2026–2027 school year. At DAA, we believe success is built on a strong partnership among staff, families, and students. Together, we will ensure that your scholar achieves the highest standards of academic success, artistic growth, and personal excellence.

In partnership,

Benjamin Polite

Benjamin Polite, Principal

Benjamin Polite, Principal



Curriculum

At DeKalb Arts Academy (DAA), students benefit from a rich curriculum that combines core academics with a strong focus on the arts.

- Grades K–3: Students rotate weekly through classes in dance, drama/theatre, general music, and visual arts.
- Grades 4 and above: Students are evaluated, and their performance determines placement. Based on their evaluation score, students enroll in one or two specialized arts areas: dance, drama/theatre, vocal music, band, orchestra, or visual arts.

This approach ensures every child receives both a well-rounded academic education and personalized arts instruction.

Admissions Requirements

- Families and students must reside within the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) attendance zone.
- Students must have and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher each semester while enrolled at DAA.
- Applicants for grades 4 and above must:
 - o Apply through the DCSD School Choice Open Enrollment process.
 - o Opens: October 1, 2026.
 - o Closes: December 11, 2026

Audition Dates (Grades 4 and above)

- To be determined for January - February

Application Checklist

*Applicants **must** submit the following:*

- A copy of the 2026 spring semester final report card.
- A copy of the first semester progress report.
- A copy of the discipline record, signed by an administrator.
- A copy of attendance records

Please upload all documents as one PDF file. (Use Adobe Acrobat to Merge PDF files into one file)

Provide teachers with the following document

- Two letters of recommendation: one from an academic teacher and one from a Fine Arts teacher (Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Dance, Drama, or Visual Art).

Audition Guidelines

- Students must audition in two Fine Arts disciplines and participate in a brief interview.
 - o Disciplines: Dance, Drama/Theatre, Vocal Music, Band, Orchestra or Visual Arts.
- Dance students must wear proper attire (see rubrics).
- Music for auditions must be age-appropriate, provided on an iPod, or downloaded to a phone on airplane mode (YouTube may not be used).
- The DAA Selection Committee's decisions are final.

Apply Here ([Click here for the application](#))

- Submit a completed DAA Audition Application by December 11, 2026, at 11:59 p.m (no exceptions).
- Complete the audition process in two arts areas (dance, drama/theatre, vocal music, band, orchestra/strings, or visual arts).



Discipline-Specific Requirements

Please select the two areas your student is interested in auditioning for. Please click the link to prepare your student for the audition. All preparation should occur BEFORE the student arrives for their audition.

Dance: [Click here](#) for Dance Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Drama/Theatre: [Click here](#) for Drama Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Visual Arts: [Click here](#) for Visual Art Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Band: [Click here](#) for Band Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Orchestra: [Click here](#) for Orchestra Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Vocal Music: [Click here](#) for Vocal Music Audition Requirements and Scoring Rubric

Interview

All students will participate in a brief interview. Students should be prepared to:

- Discuss their experience and goals in the arts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of their chosen discipline(s).
- Reference elements of the piece(s) performed (vocabulary, genre, composer, author, artist, choreographer, etc.).

Acceptance

- All acceptance notices will be sent through the DCSD Schools Choice Office.
- Only students whose names appear on the official DCSD School Choice Application list for DAA, and who have successfully auditioned, will be accepted.

Thank you for considering DeKalb Arts Academy. We look forward to welcoming our future applicants and witnessing the amazing talent they will bring to our community.

We are ONE!



Teacher Recommendation Form

Dear Parent: Please provide your child's recommending teacher with this recommendation page. The link/QR code provided in the recommending teacher section of this document should be used to submit the recommendation for the DAA Performing Arts Magnet Program. A student's application is not complete until the School Choice application, DAA application, and recommendation forms are all received.

Dear Recommending Teacher: Please complete the student recommendation form, including your work ID and work email address using the following link. If you are outside of the Dekalb County School District, please use the alternate link/QR code.

[Click here](#) for teacher recommendation or scan QR code below for teachers WITHIN Dekalb County Schools

Teacher Recommendation Form
for Dekalb Arts Academy



[Click here](#) for teacher recommendation form or scan QR code below for teachers OUTSIDE of Dekalb County School.

Teacher Recommendation Form
for Dekalb Arts Academy

