Creative Writing Audition Information

Timeline for school year 2027-2028 applicants

Step 1: **Complete the online application**	Anytime October 19, 2026 to December 1, 2026.
Step 2: The Creative Writing Pre-Audition Meeting	November 9th, 2026 7 p.m. Attend pre-audition meeting at this link
Step 3: Attend the live-from-home writing audition Google form link will go live on the CW website at 6:00 p.m.	December 2, 2026 6-8 p.m. **https://dsa.dpsk12.org/creative-writing/**
Teacher evaluation form must be received by DSA	Deadline for the teacher evaluation form is December 1, 2026
Callback list posted on CW website This list will include those who are moving to the final interview round.	**https://dsa.dpsk12.org/creative-writing/** List will be posted on Dec 18th by 4 p.m.
Callback interviews	January 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2027
Step 4: Complete DPS SchoolChoice Students who are offered a seat at DSA for the 2026/27 school year need to complete DPS SchoolChoice as their final step.	**Round 1 opens** on December 1, 2026. You must complete it prior to Round 1 closing on Tuesday, January 19, 2027 and choose "DSA" as your first choice.
Audition outcome notification emails will be sent on Monday, January 11, 2027 to all applicants who completed an audition.	

IEP/504 Accommodations for Auditions

If a student will need special considerations or accommodations in the audition process, the student (or parent/guardian) must request the special considerations sought or accommodations needed and must provide supporting documentation (such as an IEP or Section 504 Plan). It would be discriminatory for the District to assume that special considerations or accommodations are necessary without first receiving such a request and appropriate supporting documentation.

At least one week prior to the audition, please provide a copy via email of the Section 504 Plan or IEP to the following DSA staff members depending on the grade level of the student:
All 504s to: **amber_brydon@dpsk12.net**
Middle school IEPs to: **heidi_kinsella@dpsk12.net**
High school IEPs to: **jeana_mustain@dpsk12.net**

The admission of an identified student with disabilities eligible for special education and related services is contingent upon the determination of an IEP Team that the student can receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment at the school.

Interpretation for the Audition

If the parent/guardian would like interpretation services available at either the pre-audition meeting or audition itself, please email **auditions_dsa.groups@dpsk12.net** and be sure to include what language is needed.

PRE-AUDITION MEETING

The Creative Writing pre-audition meeting will be held via Google Meet on **Monday, November 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.** You may join the pre-audition meeting at the following link:

https://meet.google.com/iqb-goxv-yey

The purpose of the pre-audition meeting was to provide information on the audition process, allow time for answering family and student questions, and provide details about the **live-writing-from-home portion of the audition scheduled for December 2, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.** More details on this below.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The Creative Writing Department at DSA requires all students to complete the following steps in order to be considered for acceptance into the program.

Please Note: *Our CW audition timeline and process is slightly different than other majors because we need time to read/evaluate each student's work. Please note*

carefully the applicable dates and links as you review the information below so you have time to prepare.

1. **The Live-From-Home Writing Audition**

On Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 6 p.m. we will post a GoogleForm link on our CW Department Homepage: https://dsa.dpsk12.org/creative-writing/
Students will have two hours working from home to complete the writing prompts from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. After that, we will stop accepting uploads into the Google Form. No late entries will be accepted. **Students must work on this creative written material alone without any assistance from additional materials or people. Additionally, our program has a zero tolerance policy for A.I. usage.** Please make sure to watch the time as well as giving yourself time to upload your portfolio samples (details on this below) before hitting "Submit."

We have tried to be as clear as possible in our instructions within the Google Form, so proceeding through the various writing prompts should be straightforward, but in case there are questions or technical issues while students are working on the material, we will be standing by from 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. to answer any questions at the following GoogleMeets link: https://meet.google.com/iqb-goxv-yey

Please Note: You *do not* need to join the link to participate in the writing session. This is only if you have questions or technical issues.

An audition make-up session will be provided for emergencies only on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. If your child cannot attend the Wednesday evening session on December 2, 2026 please reach out as soon as possible to **zachary_linville@dpsk12.net**.

2. **Three writing samples - to be uploaded as part of the live-from-home writing audition on December 2, 2026**

- 1 complete story (1500 words max)
- 1 poem (1 page max)
- 1 writing sample of choice. Form/genre is up to you, and it can be an excerpt from a longer piece if desired. (500 words max)

The final part of the live-from-home writing session on December 2, 2026 will be for students to upload the above writing samples. **Students will write these three pieces ahead of time** and have the file ready to go for the writing audition on Dec 2nd. We recommend combining these samples into one document for ease of uploading. **Please convert your document into a PDF before uploading. This will ensure we have no issues viewing the file.** You will click "Add File" and either

drag in or attach your file(s), then click the blue "Upload" button in the bottom left corner. *Please DO NOT upload additional writing, photos, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, etc.*

If you have technical issues uploading your file on Wednesday evening, please email the samples to **miranda_popp@dpsk12.net** with the student's name in the subject line.

Live-From-Home Writing Audition and Writing Samples will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Language Usage
- Imagination and Creativity
- Literary Techniques
- Narrative Ideas
- Writer's Voice

3. **Current Snapshot/Photo**

After uploading your writing samples, you will be asked to upload a recent snapshot of yourself. This is only for our records—another way to get to know you—and the photos will not be published anywhere. It does not need to be a professional photograph.

4. **Evaluation Form from Student's Current Language Arts/Writing Teacher**

All applicants must have **one** current writing teacher submit an evaluation on their behalf. Below is the Google Form link for the teacher recommendation. Feel free to forward this link as needed to the teacher of your choice. **The deadline for us to receive the evaluation form is December 1, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.** Recommendation form link: https://forms.gle/zn2L9wSyvUawepTN9

Portfolio Prep Class Opportunity

Please note: This class is NOT a required part of the audition process.

Would you like some guided writing practice before your audition? Need a little help reviewing your own work? Check out these classes offered through Lighthouse Writers Workshop on November 14 and 21.*

In this 5-hour workshop for Denver's young writers, we will explore creative writing prompts and best practices across various genres to prepare for auditions and submissions. From crafting image-rich sentences, to developing compelling characters and unique poetic concepts, participants will enhance their submissions' originality and quality, while refining new and existing work.

**Please note the class on 11/21 is offered at no cost, though that class will be bigger than the one on 11/14. If you are unable to secure a spot in the free class, any student in need may apply for a scholarship through Lighthouse to attend either class at no cost.*

Sign up with Lighthouse here:

Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Capacity: 12 students)

https://lighthousewriters.org/workshop/portfolio-preparation-and-creative-writing-best-practices-ages-10?session=9527

Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Free Class, Capacity: 25 students)

https://lighthousewriters.org/workshop/portfolio-preparation-and-creative-writing-best-practices-ages-10?session=9528

For more information, contact Azar Kohzadi at thepenandleaf@gmail.com

CALLBACKS

Callback Interviews: If you have completed the initial registration process, you will receive an email with an audition number. After judges have determined scores for the writing portion of the auditions, **select students will be asked to participate in a ten-minute Google Meet interview.** We will post this callback interview list on our CW homepage **(https://dsa.dpsk12.org/creative-writing/) on Friday, December 18, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.**

For privacy reasons, we will not be posting the names of students we wish to interview. Instead, **we will identify students using their audition number, so please save the audition number email or write it down**. Below are the dates and range of times we will be conducting interviews. Depending on your child's incoming grade level, please keep that date and time-frame free, as it is not possible for us to schedule alternate times for these interviews. The posted callback list will include a specific time and GoogleMeets link for their interview.

If your audition number does not appear on the callback list, you will not be able to move on to the next step of the audition and we will not be offering you a spot in Creative Writing for the 27/28 school year.

Interview Information:
Please note: An invitation to attend the interview does not guarantee a spot in the Creative Writing department. Openings are determined by positions available in each grade level, as well as scores on the interview and written audition materials.

Monday, January 4, 2027: Callbacks for 6th grade
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)

January 5, 2027: Callbacks for 10th, 11th, & 12th grades
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)

January 6, 2027: Callbacks for 7th – 8th grades
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)

January 7, 2027: Callbacks for 9th grade
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
(A specific interview time will be assigned to you on the posted callback list.)