

Advanced Scholars Academy

Sandra Dunagan Deal Elementary



Application Packet 2025-2026

Student Name

School (Currently Enrolled)

Grade Level in 2025-2026

Introduction

The Advanced Scholars Academy (ASA) at Sandra Dunagan Deal Elementary is an innovative program of choice that seeks self-motivated, passionate students. A rigorous, personalized, and authentic learning experience has been carefully and deliberately created to meet the needs of the individual learner. The faculty and staff of ASA recognize that all children come to school with different levels of prior knowledge, skills, interests, and needs. ASA is eager to design customized schedules and instruction to better serve the unique needs of each student.

ASA will develop learning experiences that use the Georgia Standards of Excellence as the core knowledge for integrated thematic units of study which promote inquiry, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Project based learning will utilize a personalized learning platform that will reflect both a student's interests and learning style as they research, explore, and discover. Students will have enrichment activities extending beyond the traditional classroom into the community. Effective communication, both oral and written, is a necessary component. Students will be given opportunities to showcase their work and will be required to articulate understanding to real world audiences.

In addition to a curriculum with high expectations, it is the desire of ASA to develop the whole child. The staff is committed to producing well rounded students who also exhibit exemplary character and citizenship. Character development will be purposeful and practiced daily to nurture high standards in regards to respect and manners. All students will be part of community service learning. One of the most essential components of ASA will be a commitment from parents to be engaged in the entire learning process as valued partners and volunteers.

The Advanced Scholars Academy at Dunagan Deal Elementary Application Process

Requirements to Apply

Any Hall County School District student in K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade may apply. Parents of students who live outside the attendance zone must provide transportation for their children to and from school. If students live outside the Hall County School District, tuition will be required.

Application and Selection Procedure

1. Parents/Guardians and students complete a Student Application and submit it to Keri Smith:
The Advanced Scholars Academy at Dunagan Deal Elementary
Attn: Keri Smith/ keri.smith@hallco.org
2850 Ramsey Road
Gainesville, GA 30501
2. Parents/Guardians of rising 1st – 5th grade, please ask two teachers to serve as references for your child. Please share the confidential recommendation form (page 6 of the packet) with your references.
3. Completed application packets will be reviewed by the ASA Selection Committee. Students will be selected based on evidence from their applications, recommendations, and transcripts (test scores and report cards).
4. Depending on the number of applicants, it may be necessary to conduct student interviews and/or additional assessments. If that is the case, a member of the ASA staff will notify families of finalists and schedule the student interviews and/or assessment.
5. Committee decisions are final. Applicants not selected during the initial review will be placed on a waiting list and may be admitted to ASA if any selected students elect not to attend.

The Advanced Scholars Academy at Dunagan Deal Elementary Application Process

Criteria	Evidence/Documentation
<i>The student must:</i>	
Demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge, interest and aptitude.	Transcript Recommendation s Application (Interview, if necessary)
Exhibit outstanding communication skills	Transcript Recommendation s Application (Interview, if necessary)
Possess qualities associated with creativity, including curiosity, resourcefulness and a problem-solving disposition	Application Recommendations (Interview, if necessary)
Be highly motivated to excel in his or her studies	Transcript Recommendation s Application (Interview, if necessary)
Possess the maturity to work well independently and in small group settings	Transcript Recommendation s

Application Checklist

(Please check off as each step is completed.)

1. Complete all of the student and parent/guardian information in Parts I and II of the application packet.
2. Obtain official copies of your child's standardized testing history and most recent report card (attach these to the application packet).
3. Complete the *Parent Questionnaire* and attach it to the application packet.
4. For rising 1st – 5th graders, ask two teachers to complete short confidential recommendation forms. (Optional: Ask an individual who is not a teacher to submit a letter of recommendation.)
5. Complete *Parent Assurances* (page 5).
6. Sign and have your child sign the *Certification* statement on page 5.

**Regular admission deadlines – Submit the complete application
by March 3, 2025.**

*In the event that classes are not full, applications may be accepted until April 30th.

The Advanced Scholars Academy Student Application

I. Student Information

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current School: _____ Student ID#: _____

Indicate area(s) of special interest: _____

Student's Computer Skills: Excellent Good Fair Limited

II. Parent/Guardian Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

III. Academic Record

1. Print and/or photocopy and attach your child's standardized testing history. These must be official records, which may be obtained from the data clerk at your child's school, Infinite Campus and/or your own copies of standardized test score reports.
2. Photocopy and attach your child's most recent report card.

IV. Parent Questionnaire

Please answer the four questions below. All responses must be typed. Please print them and attach them to the application. Limit your responses to no more than two pages total.

1. **What are the gifts and talents that your child will bring to ASA?** (Feel free to discuss not only academics, but also issues related to character, leadership, etc.)
2. **What have been your child's greatest challenges in school, and what has been done to help your child overcome those challenges?** (For example: particular learning difficulties, social/emotional issues, illness, stress)
3. **Please share some of your expectations in the following areas:**
 - a. **Academics**
 - b. **Extracurricular activities**
4. **With what activities at your child's previous schools have you been involved? In what ASA activities do you envision yourself participating?**

5. Committee decisions are final. Applicants not selected during the initial review will be placed on a waiting list and may be admitted to ASA if any selected students elect not to attend.

The Advanced Scholars Academy Student Application

V. References

Please ask two teachers to complete short confidential recommendation forms, found on page 6. One of the references must be a current classroom teacher. The other reference may be another current or a former teacher.

Optional: You may ask one individual who is not a teacher to submit a letter of recommendation. This should be an individual who has observed your child's talents, work ethic, ability to work with others, etc., in ways that may not have been seen in school. This reference may not be a family member. The letter, which should not exceed one page in length, should be sent directly to or faxed to 770-297-1023.

VI. Parent Assurances

- I grant permission for the ASA Selection Committee to request and review my child's complete academic and discipline records.
- If I live outside the attendance zone, I will provide transportation to and from school for my child to attend ASA.
- I will commit to being a parent partner at Sandra Dunagan Deal Elementary School by seeking opportunities to be involved in school activities by volunteering, providing donations for school activities, helping with PTO etc.
- I understand that the nature of the ASA curriculum and the variety of individual and/or small group activities available at ASA require students to exhibit more maturity and self-control than would be expected of elementary schoolers in a traditional setting. Therefore, if my child has persistent problems with behavior and/or motivation, ASA may not be the best fit for him/her. I understand that there is a procedure to determine the correct placement for my child.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

VII. Certification and Signature Page

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if selected for ASA, falsified statements may be grounds for removal.

Student Name (Print please)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print please)

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

The Advanced Scholars Academy Student Reference

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for _____, who is applying to The Advanced Scholars Academy (ASA). Your confidential ratings of this student's interests and aptitudes, creativity and personal responsibility will be submitted electronically. Please e-mail our ASA TEAM desfrontoffice@hallco.org at to request a recommendation form. She will then e-mail the short form to you, along with instructions for the completion and submission of the form. Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environment of the ASA. Thank you for being an important part of the application process.

Sincerely,

Keri Smith
Principal
Advanced Scholars Academy
Sandra Dunagan Deal Elementary School

The Advanced Scholars Academy Student Reference

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for _____, who is applying to The Advanced Scholars Academy (ASA). Your confidential ratings of this student's interests and aptitudes, creativity and personal responsibility will be submitted electronically. Please e-mail our ASA TEAM at desfrontoffice@hallco.org to request a recommendation form. She will then e-mail the short form to you, along with instructions for the completion and submission of the form. Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environment of the ASA. Thank you for being an important part of the application process.

Sincerely,

Keri Smith
Principal
Advanced Scholars Academy
Sandra Dunagan Deal Elementary School

