

2020 SENIOR DECATS Information Sheet

Mission Statement:

- To identify and challenge young scholars at a critical period in their lives
- To encourage and motivate scholars to accept the social responsibility that accompanies intellectual giftedness
- To make direct impact on the learning environments of participants and positively influence the lives of other students with whom participants interface and to be a valuable partner of the elementary schools participating in the identification and motivation of the nominee

Criteria for Admission:

- Enrollment is limited to students who have completed the sixth, seventh or eighth grades prior to June 1.
- Former attendance in either Junior DECATS or Senior DECATS with a confirmation of acceptable behavior and attitude (behavioral updates completed by home school)
- Achievement Test Scores: Minimum of 115 Composite Total on CogAT and 95th percentile in two or more curricular areas on ITBS.
- Outstanding Achievement or giftedness in Music, Art or Drama, even though test scores may not meet the rigorous standards of the academically talented candidate. For this candidate, a nominating teacher must submit a letter of support. This type of nominee is considered for acceptance only if there is space available.
- Sibling of a Senior DECATS Alum – this criteria is unique to Senior DECATS; relationship must be noted on application

Nominees make application to the program. Final selection is dependent upon application information, student's behavior report and availability. Application does not assure acceptance.

Curricula:

- Students are challenged cognitively with relevant tasks that promote critical thinking and synthesis
- Students are challenged to use their talents to develop leadership and social skills resulting in contributions to the outside community
- Students study several courses intensely during the session. These courses address the needs of an academically talented student to have a qualitatively different educational experience
- Hands-on, cooperative, student-directed learning and extensive use of outside resources are key components in making the experience meaningful. Students must be self-starters and ready to explore various academic domains.
- Areas of intense daily study include, but are not limited to the following Majors: Culinary Arts, Drama, Journalism, Math\STEM, Mock Trial, Psychology, Rock Opera, Science and Visual Arts, (students choose ONE Major for the entire three-week period)
- Areas of exploratory electives include one hour classes that change each week. Each student chooses from a catalog of classes. The goal is to give scholars opportunities to try new areas of interest.
- Suggested for all eighth graders: one week (15 hours) of Community Service, credited in many high school programs. This class is open to seventh graders, but not mandatory.

Schedule:

- June 2-18, 2020 * Monday-Thursday; 9-4; Friday 9-12
- Staff is on campus from 8-5; students dropped off earlier or staying later are not supervised
- Monday, June 1 is Teacher In-service; and Thursday, June 18 is the last day of classes, so that families can attend Jr. DECATS closing ceremonies, if desired. Performances and open houses are in the evenings June 17 and June 18.

Fees:

- \$630 total tuition (includes \$150 deposit)
- \$150 deposit (part of total tuition) due with application
- \$480 (balance for 2020) due by May 1, 2020
- Partial scholarship assistance available: please submit request along with application; form is on srdecats.org

Deadlines:

- Nominations due from schools: Friday, December 13, 2019
- Invitations e-mailed to nominees: Tuesday, January 14, 2020
- Applications and all requests for tuition assistance due: Saturday, February 22, 2020
- Acceptance and tuition awards sent via email: Monday, March 2, 2020
- Complete tuition due: Friday, May 1, 2020– A late fee is added if payment is not received in full.
- Parent/Student Orientation for new students to DECATS - Monday, June 1, 2020; 6PM at school.

Additional Information: Director: Pat Shotland (214-957-0057) **Director of Operations:** Jeff Solomon (972-672-4472)

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