

Admissions at DeSoto School, Inc.

We are excited you are considering DeSoto School for your family and choice of education for your child. We encourage you to tour our school and explore our website and social media channels to learn more about our school's academic programming, extracurricular activities, and culture.

Our goal at DeSoto is to make the admissions process easy, relaxed, and informative. We consider your child's education to be one of the most important decisions you make, and we are here to assist in any way we can.

DeSoto is a thriving community we call the Thunderbird Family. We desire to find like-minded families to partner with us to develop the next generation of leaders. Before applying, please take a moment to understand our Purposeful Enrollment Approach and Admissions Criteria.

Purposeful Enrollment is the framework by which all admissions decisions are made at DeSoto School. We are looking for families who will grow our culture spiritually, academically, and athletically. Families who align with these ideas will be considered for enrollment.

#1 Mission

The mission of the Faculty, Administration, and Board of Directors of DeSoto School Inc., is to strive to serve the educational and social needs of its students through high quality instruction with emphasis on the college-bound student. The school will strive to promote character development and life skills in a safe environment while encouraging family participation. Success has been evidenced by the large number of DeSoto graduates who have entered college and are making a positive contribution to our society.

The mission of DeSoto School is to develop future leaders who engage in and enhance their culture. We believe it is our responsibility to nurture the growth of our students in spiritual, academic, social, and physical parameters. The entire learning process should produce individuals who are capable of being productive members of society. We desire students who want to continually develop their minds and hearts.

#2 Purpose

DeSoto School takes pride in providing the community with excellent private education in a wholesome and traditional learning environment. The continued success of DeSoto's graduates indicates the quality of education they are receiving. The purpose of DeSoto School is simply and directly stated as quality education. As DeSoto strives to achieve this objective, emphasis is given to helping students acquire a desire for knowledge and respect for learning, an understanding of our cultural heritage and respect for our country, a strong moral character, and a well-developed sense of personal responsibility.

#3 Academics

DeSoto School is dedicated to academic excellence and the continual improvement of its academic offerings. DeSoto is fully accredited by the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) and is an Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA) Non-Accredited Associate. Whether students are in an elementary classroom or a college English class, you can be confident they are receiving a first-class education taught by fully licensed and certified teachers from DeSoto or affiliates. We also offer online courses from Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA), Southern Arkansas University (SAU), and Red Comet. We desire students who want to explore, create, and develop their minds through an academically challenging and intentional learning environment.

We believe in hard work and advanced opportunities as we prepare students for college and life. At the same time, DeSoto is committed to serving families and does not select students based solely on academic abilities. We understand that God has uniquely

gifted each student. Through the admissions process, we strive to determine if a student can be successful at DeSoto School. We also seek to understand if DeSoto can meet the needs of each student. We desire to see all of our students succeed academically; therefore, we will compare a student's needs with our available learning services. DeSoto School may not be the best fit for every student. We reserve the right to determine whether or not a student is a good fit for admissions, continued enrollment, or re-enrollment.

#4 Servant Leadership

DeSoto School is rooted in servant leadership and provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills beginning as early as Pre-K3. Students are given leadership roles within their classrooms and their grades. Elementary students are taught to be leaders in their words, actions, and examples. Middle and high school students learn the fundamentals of leadership. High School students also have the opportunity to grow their personal and team leadership skills through extracurricular leadership programs. At DeSoto School, we want to reach beyond our walls. DeSoto students serve adults and children across Phillips County by teaming up with local organizations to make a positive difference in our community. We desire students who want to engage their culture and enhance it through servant leadership.

#5 Involvement

DeSoto encourages its students to explore and cultivate all of their talents through elementary art and music classes and secondary extracurricular activities. Students who are involved are more likely to find their niche and quickly engage in the Thunderbird Family. Athletic opportunities begin at the elementary level and culminate in varsity sports for males and females. We want our students to be actively involved in the DeSoto Family.

#6 Community

We cultivate community within the DeSoto Family. The DeSoto Family is made up of families and students from all different backgrounds who have come together with a common goal to develop and educate the next generation of individuals. This is neither an easy task nor one that is taken lightly. We desire to maintain the culture, values, and “small-town feel” of the DeSoto Family while we grow and embrace new families. We are committed to finding the right families who will partner with us and further our mission.

Admissions Criteria and Wait Pool

Admissions Criteria

DeSoto School is a school that seeks to enroll students who are committed to success in the educational programs of the school. Admission to DeSoto is selective and based on family values, previous school performance, pastor/teacher recommendations, testing results, and a record of exemplary behavior in school and the community. In evaluating an applicant and making admissions decisions, the following areas are considered:

- Availability of space in the class/grade
- Academic profile of the applicant and the class/grade
- Three Reference Letters (previous teacher, coach, pastor, family friend)
- Potential contributions of the applicant to the school community
- Extracurricular interests of the applicant
- Character of the applicant as portrayed in admissions interactions
- Sibling relations
- Involved alumni

Admissions Wait Pool

We desire to see our school grow as well as honor our current DeSoto Family. Our “right size” approach involves controlled class sizes, student-to-teacher ratios, and scheduling flexibility. There is a predetermined classroom capacity for every grade level at DeSoto, as well as a predetermined enrollment limit for the school. This may limit the number of available spots each year, and the number of applicants can exceed availability in a designated grade level. Our goal is to maintain optimal class size in each grade level, and the Admissions Wait Pool enables us to achieve this goal. The Admissions Wait Pool is an unranked group of students who have been selected during

the admissions process, and we hope these students will be able to join our school as space becomes available.

Once selected for the Admissions Wait Pool, families can expect to be notified of grade-level openings for the upcoming school year. Families remaining in the Admissions Wait Pool after grade level openings are filled will stay in the wait pool and will be notified if openings occur in the future, as space can become available anytime throughout the school year due to life changes. Admissions Wait Pool students do not need to reapply from year to year. Their application will remain open until an opening is offered or the family requests that their application be withdrawn.

If you believe your student and family would be a good fit at DeSoto, please read through our Admissions Process and Timeline and make a note of important dates!

DeSoto School admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. DeSoto School does not discriminate based on race, color, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance, and athletic or other school-administered programs. As a private institution, DeSoto School reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant whose academic preparation, character/personal conduct, or family values are determined to be inconsistent with the principles, purposes, and objectives of DeSoto School.

Withdrawal Policy

Families must notify the school of any intent to withdraw before the start of the upcoming quarter. If a withdrawal is not made before the beginning of a quarter, the full quarterly tuition/ fees for that period will be charged.

Nondiscriminatory Policy

DeSoto School admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and athletic or other school-administered programs.