FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **DAYTON REGIONAL STEM SCHOOL**

Who can attend DRSS? Any student that resides in the Miami Valley Region in grades 6-12 who has been, or will be promoted to the next grade level. We currently serve students from 9 different counties and 36 different school districts.

How are students chosen for admissions at DRSS? All qualified students with a completed application, submitted by the March 5, 2021 deadline are placed in a random lottery.

Is there tuition? No, DRSS is a public school and financed by state funds. We do charge minimal school fees to help cover technology costs. (2020-2021 school year fees were: $200 for all students). For some high school courses, there are additional charges, ranging from $10.00 - $25.00 depending on the course.

Is lunch available? Yes, we currently contract with BAKED BY ANITA and they cater our meals. Lunch price for the 2020-2021 school year is $3.50. DRSS is also a National School Lunch Provider (NSLP), so free or reduced priced meals are available upon qualification. We do not serve breakfast.

What is the class size? In grades 6-8, the class size will be about 25-28 students per classroom (125 per grade level), in the upper level classes, due to more elective class choices; the number of students per class is smaller.

How do you communicate with parents? Dayton Regional STEM School communicates with parents and partners by using the ONE CALL system (text or voice calling) and by CONSTANT CONTACT (email system). We also utilize all methods of social media – such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

TRANSPORTATION

How do students get to DRSS? During the 2020-2021 school year, we have 5 districts that provide transportation to and from our school. (Beavercreek, Kettering, Fairborn, West Carrollton and Xenia) For those districts that do not provide transportation to our school, some districts (not every district) provide an In Lieu of Transportation Stipend to the parent for transportation costs. (Contact your district for more information) The Dayton RTA also has a stop at our school for those students that choose to utilize that mode of transportation. A comprehensive car pool directory is shared with parents each summer in order for parents to establish their own car pools. DRSS does not provide any transportation.

What time can my student be dropped off? DRSS doors open at 7:30 am and students can enter the building. Students, depending on grade level, are grouped into different areas of the school until they are dismissed to their cubby and first period class. First period starts at 8:15 am.

How late can my student stay after school? DRSS provides an after school care program for students who need to stay later for transportation. There is a daily charge for this service. Students must be picked up by 3:45 in order to avoid the after school charge. Students are allowed to stay at DRSS until 5:30 pm for a minimal charge.

How do you handle inclement weather? During times of inclement weather, the DRSS administration may choose to hold a Plan "E" Day, on which occasion students participate in class electronically and complete their assignments at home. During periods of extended bad weather, a snow day may occur and school will be cancelled.

What happens if your district of residence is closed due to weather and DRSS has chosen to remain open? Your child is expected to come to school, unless you feel it is too dangerous. The student will then be marked as absent, excused and will be required to make up all missed assignments. Please see attendance policies and procedures that are in our student handbook.

AFTER SCHOOL AND BEYOND

What kinds of extra-curricular activities does DRSS offer? DRSS has a variety of after school activities that students can participate in. Some examples include: Student Government, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Key Club, Builders Club, Robotics (FLL and FTC), JCOWA, Student Ambassadors, Destination Imagination, Green Team, Science Olympiad and CyberPatriots.

Can my student participate in sports at their home district? DRSS does not offer sports. The Ohio Revised Code 3313.537 states that students are allowed to participate in sports at their resident district. This must be a collaborative effort between the student-athlete, the parent, the coach and DRSS. ***Students are NOT allowed to leave academic classes early to make it to an athletic practic***e.

APPLICATIONS

How will I know if my application is complete? An email confirmation is sent to the parent and will indicate that the application is complete and eligible for the lottery or it will indicate that the application is incomplete with a list of items that are missing.

How many students will be admitted? We will accept a full class of 6th graders (approximately 125 students) and for grades 7-9; we will accept students to fill vacancies. DRSS does not accept students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

How will I know if my child has been accepted? Email notifications are sent out during the month of March. The email will let you know if you have been accepted, or put on a waiting list.

Do I have to re-apply each year? No, once your child has been accepted, they do not need to re-apply each year.

Is preferential assignment given to siblings of current students? We do our best to keep siblings together, however, this is not always be possible given class size limits and demand.

Explain the waiting list…. The DRSS waiting list is more typical of a waiting pool of applicants. Students are not numbered on the list and not listed in any particular order. If your child has been notified that they are on a wait list, then the most likely scenario is described as:

Throughout the summer, if a seat opens up (either by one of our current students withdrawing or a new student changing their mind), we will take the waiting pool of applicants and conduct another lottery. Notification at this time can either be made by phone call or by email – depending on the time frame.

We will do everything that we can to maintain a full class at each grade level. It is our policy to accept students until approximately the third or fourth week of school.

If your child is not selected in the lottery and they are interested in re-applying for the next school year, they must submit another completed application.

CURRICULUM AND SERVICES

Does DRSS offer services for students on Individual Education Plans (IEP's)? Yes, we have 3 Intervention Specialists on staff that work with our students on Individual Education Plans.

Do students get a diploma from the STEM School or do they get a diploma from their resident district? A student, after meeting all DRSS requirements, will receive a diploma from the Dayton Regional STEM School.

Do we offer Advanced Placement Classes (AP Classes)? We currently offer an advanced placement "AP" calculus class. Some of our students choose to take other AP exams, after completing upper level courses. We do, however, offer several options to receive college credit.

Do we offer College Credit Plus (CCP) opportunities? DRSS participates in the State of Ohio's College Credit Plus program. Several college credit options are available on-site each year. Students typically earn college credit through Wright State University and Sinclair Community College. Students must qualify to participate in this program. Counseling sessions, which detail risks and benefits, are offered in late February.

The Dayton Regional STEM School graduation requirements compared with the State of Ohio graduation requirements are shown by comparison here:

COURSE	DRSS Requirements	STATE Requirements
English	4 Credits	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 Credits	4 Credits
Science	4 Credits	3 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits	3 Credits
Health	½ Credit	½ Credit
Physical Education	½ Credit	½ Credit
Electives	4 ½ Credits	5 Credits
Foreign Language	2 Credits (Must Be Chinese)	
Art	1 Credit	
Internship	½ Credit	
Total Credits Required	24	20