

OPEN HOUSE
ALL GRADES

Prospective students and their parents are invited to visit Desert Academy at our open house: **Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 6:00 pm.** During this informative and interactive evening, students will attend a variety of classes and electives. Parents will hear about Desert's approach to education from each department, and learn what it means to be an IB school. Information will also be available about the admissions process, merit scholarships and financial aid.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
VISITOR DAY
GRADE 7-8

Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Visitor Day is an opportunity for students and parents to experience 21st century education in action! After a brief opening presentation, parents and students will split up to get a feel of what Desert is really like. Parents will attend panel discussions on topics ranging from the International Baccalaureate Programmes, with a focus on the Middle Years Programme, to extra-curricular activities and school culture, and students will attend classes offered by some of Desert's dynamic teachers. Information about financial aid, merit scholarship, and college counseling will be provided. A light brunch will be served.

YOUR NIGHT,
YOUR FUTURE:
HIGH SCHOOL
ADMISSION
NIGHT
GRADE 9-12

Monday, November 14th, 2011 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Admission Night is Desert Academy's answer to your questions about high school options, our programs and about colleges. It will be an opportunity for students and parents to experience 21st century education in action! Parents will attend panel discussions on topics ranging from the International Baccalaureate Programmes, with a focus on the Diploma Programme with its different options, to extra-curricular activities and school culture. Students will also meet with high school faculty.



SHADOW DAYS

Offered November-April

Students are encouraged to spend a day at Desert Academy by taking part in our shadowing program. Student Ambassadors will host students in the morning, providing an opportunity to tour the school and learn Desert's history and culture, visit classes, and meet Desert's students and faculty. Come experience the best shadowing program in town! Call Isabelle Thiebaut at 992-8284 extension 14 to schedule your student's visit today.

COFFEE WITH TERRY PASSALACQUA

Coffee with the Headmaster:

Fridays at 8:40 am: November 18, December 2, 9, January 6, 20

PARENT VISITS

Parents are always welcome at Desert Academy. If you would like to visit with the Admissions Director, tour the school, talk to available members of the faculty, and get a glimpse of some classes in action, please call Isabelle Thiebaut at (505) 992-8284 ext 14 for an appointment.

ADMISSION

The deadline for admission to Desert Academy is **Saturday, February 17, 2012**. Prospective students must have submitted their completed application and current school records by this date. Decision letters will be mailed as soon as possible in March 2012. New student enrollment contracts will be due by the deadline stipulated in the enrollment letter. The application fee is \$65.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Desert Academy's much anticipated Merit Scholarship Assessment will be held on **Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 9 a.m.** These awards will be granted on the basis of merit only, and are completely separate from need-based financial aid. The competition is open to all new prospective students in grades 7 through 12. The deadline to submit the Merit Scholarship registration form to the school is 12:00 noon on Friday, January 20, 2012. Registration forms are available on our website or at the front desk. There is no registration fee.

FINANCIAL AID

Desert Academy strives to help families manage the cost of a quality education. Financial aid is not related to the Merit Scholarship awards. The deadline for the financial aid application is also **Friday, February 17, 2012**. Detailed instructions on how to apply for financial aid can be found on the Financial Aid Policies and Procedures page in the application folder.



Application for Admission

APPLICANT'S NAME

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PLEASE ATTACH PHOTO OR SNAPSHOT

Form fields for applicant information: LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE, BIRTH DATE, M OR F, DATE OF APPLICATION, PROPOSED ENTRANCE DATE, GRADE LEVEL, HOME ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, PHONE, SCHOOL MOST RECENTLY ATTENDED, GRADE(S) ATTENDED, SCHOOL ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, PHONE, PREVIOUS SCHOOL, GRADE(S) ATTENDED, PREVIOUS SCHOOL ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, PHONE

FAMILY INFORMATION

Correspondence should be sent to:

- both
listed first
listed second

Form fields for family information: PARENT (AND STEP PARENT / GUARDIAN IF APPLICABLE), HOME PHONE, CELL, EMAIL, HOME ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER, BUSINESS PHONE, BUSINESS FAX, BUSINESS ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, PARENT (AND STEP PARENT / GUARDIAN IF APPLICABLE), HOME PHONE, CELL, EMAIL, HOME ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, BUSINESS / OCCUPATION / EMPLOYER, BUSINESS PHONE, BUSINESS FAX, BUSINESS ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP, SIBLINGS NAMES AND AGES, WITH WHOM DOES THE APPLICANT LIVE?

BILLING INFORMATION

IF DIFFERENT ++FROM ABOVE

Form fields for billing information: MR./MS., HOME PHONE, CELL, BILLING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/ZIP



Parent Questionnaire

APPLICANT'S NAME

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

What are your child's most outstanding characteristics?

What are your child's immediate educational needs?

Has your child ever been identified for special education?

NO YES

Please comment on your child's primary interests and abilities in the following areas. (Please use additional paper, if necessary.)

ACADEMIC

CREATIVE

STUDY HABITS

SPORTS

OTHER

Has your child ever been expelled or suspended from school? If yes, please explain.

NO YES

Indicate whether your child has ever had any of the following:

- EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION
- IEP
- PERCEPTUAL OR NEUROLOGICAL EXAM

- SPEECH THERAPY
- COUNSELING

- PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION
- TUTORING

If so, please describe briefly and attach a copy of the report.

Do you plan to apply for financial aid?

YES NO

How did you hear about Desert Academy?

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Parents must provide the Admissions Office with all educational, medical, psychological, and behavioral information. This information is essential to continued enrollment. Failure to provide it may result in disenrollment, with financial implications as described in the published refund policy on the contract.

All information and materials of any kind received by Desert Academy from any source are completely confidential and will not be disclosed except as the school administration may choose, for official purposes only.

SIGNATURE

MOTHER / FATHER / GUARDIAN (CIRCLE ONE)

DATE



Teacher Recommendation - English
Middle and High School applicants

APPLICANT'S NAME

TO BE COMPLETED BY ENGLISH TEACHER

Please comment on the primary interests of the applicant

ACADEMIC

CREATIVE

STUDY HABITS

SPORTS

OTHER

What are the applicant's strengths and weaknesses?

Please rate the applicant in the areas at right

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
Intellectual curiosity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scholastic aptitude	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic achievement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effort and drive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written expression	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Critical thinking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Imagination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social maturity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participation in a discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to work in a group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to work alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attention span	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of classroom conduct	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent participation in student's education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendation for admission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the applicant? Please attach additional paper.

Thank you for your help in assessing this prospective student. We assure you that your comments will be kept confidential and used for the admissions process only.

TEACHER/
COUNSELOR
INFORMATION

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE APPLICANT?

SCHOOL

PHONE NUMBER



Teacher Recommendation - Mathematics
Middle and High School Applicants

APPLICANT'S NAME

TO BE COMPLETED BY MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Please comment on the primary interests of the applicant

ACADEMIC

CREATIVE

STUDY HABITS

SPORTS

OTHER

What are the applicant's strengths and weaknesses?

Please rate the applicant in the areas at right

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
Intellectual curiosity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scholastic aptitude	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic achievement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social maturity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Participation in a discussion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to work in a group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to work alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Quality of classroom conduct	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the applicant? Please attach additional paper.

Thank you for your help in assessing this prospective student. We assure you that your comments will be kept confidential and used for the admissions process only.

TEACHER/
COUNSELOR
INFORMATION

NAME SIGNATURE DATE

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE APPLICANT?

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER



DESERT ACADEMY

Request for Records

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND SUBMITTED TO CURRENT SCHOOL REGISTRAR

DATE

Dear Registrar/Records Office:

STUDENT NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

is applying to Desert Academy for the 2012-2013 school year.

Please send an official transcript, current health records, grades from the previous two years, and any recent standardized/diagnostic test scores to:

Isabelle Thiebaut, Director of Admissions
Desert Academy
313 Camino Alire
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
FAX 505.992.8270
ithiebaut@desertacademy.org

The Family Rights and Privacy Act indicates that it is no longer necessary to obtain written parental consent to release records between schools. No individual or agency outside the school will be permitted to inspect or receive this school report without permission.

HISTORY AND ACCREDITATION

Desert Academy is a college preparatory, independent, co-educational day school for grades 7 through 12. Desert Academy is an International Baccalaureate World School. It was founded in 1994 and is located 1½ miles from the historic Santa Fe Plaza. Desert Academy is accredited and is in good standing with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) and the New Mexico Department of Education. Desert Academy is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools.

STUDENT BODY

Total enrollment: 174 students
 Middle School (grades 7–8): 54
 High School (grades 9–12): 120
 Percent of student body receiving financial aid or scholarships: 45%
 Average academic class size is 13 students
 Student/teacher ratio: 8:1

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School: Terry Passalacqua	Director of Finance/Human Resources: Jud Osborn
Assistant Head of School: Amy Miller	Director of Admissions: Isabelle Thiebaut
Head of High School: Rod Mehling	Registrar: Tamara Rossi
Head of Middle School: Karen Lindeen	College Counselor: Jennifer Dryfoos

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of 29 credits as follows:	Physical Education and Health: 1 credit
English: 4 credits	Technology: 1 credit
Mathematics: 4 credits	Fine Arts: 2 credits
History/Social Studies: 4 credits	Electives: 6 credits
Science: 4 credits (at least 2 labs)	
Foreign Language: 3 credits in one language	Creativity, Action and Service hours are required each year.

GRADE SCALE AND WEIGHTING

Grading system is based on a 4.0 scale. IB courses at C or better receive an additional 0.25 grade weight.

	IB			IB	
A	4.0	4.25	C+	2.33	2.58
A-	3.67	3.92	C	2.0	2.25
B+	3.33	3.58	C-	1.67	1.67
B	3.0	3.25	D+	1.33	1.33
B-	2.67	2.92	D	1.0	1.00

Advanced coursework is also available through concurrent college enrollment.

COLLEGE PLACEMENTS

Desert Academy graduates have been admitted to the following colleges and universities:

Academy of Art University	Juilliard	Scripps College
American University of Paris	Knox College	Seattle University
American University, Washington, D.C.	Kansas City Art Institute	Skidmore College
Antioch College	Lake Forest College	Southwestern University
Austin College	Landmark College	Smith College
Bard College	Lesley College	St. John's College, Annapolis and Santa Fe
Bennington College	Lewis and Clark College	Stanford University
Boston Conservatory	Loyola University	Stephens College
Boston University	Marymount Manhattan College	Swarthmore College
Chicago Art Institute	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Texas Tech University
College of Charleston	Miami University of Ohio	Trinity University
College of Idaho	Middlebury College	UMass - Amherst
College of Santa Fe	Mills College	University of California, Santa Cruz
Colorado Institute of Art	Mount Holyoke College	University of Colorado, Boulder and Colorado Springs
Colorado State University	Musicians Institute	University of Denver
Columbia University	Naropa University	University of Hawaii at Manoa
Connecticut College	New Mexico State University	University of Illinois
Cooper Union	New York University	University of Iowa
Davidson College	Northeastern University	University of New Hampshire
Drew University	Northern Arizona University	University of New Mexico
Eckerd College	Occidental College	University of Miami
Emerson College	Pacific University	University of Portland
Eugene Lang: The New School	Parsons School of Design	University of San Diego
Evergreen State College	Pitzer College	University of the South, Sewanee
Fort Lewis College	Pomona College	University of the Pacific
Franklin College, Switzerland	Pratt Institute	Vassar College
Gaucher College	Reed College	Wagner College
Georgetown University	Regis University	Wake Forest University
Grinnell College	Rhode Island School of Design	Wellesley College
Humboldt State University	Rhodes College	Whitman College
Hampshire College	San Francisco Art Institute	Willamette University
Ithaca College	Sarah Lawrence College	Wooster College
Johnson and Wales	Savannah College of Art and Design	

Desert Academy graduates have also engaged in these post-graduation activities:

- Apprenticeship with Richard Avedon, world-renowned photographer
- Apprenticeship at "Greasepaint," a theatrical makeup studio in London
- Teaching English to elementary school students in Nepal
- Apprenticeship with a documentary filmmaker in India
- Rainforest ecology study in Thailand and Panama
- NOLS, Wilderness Leadership Training in Patagonia



DESERT ACADEMY

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

In addition to an IB college prep curriculum, Desert Academy offers several unique opportunities for students to gain experience in areas of interest and to develop leadership skills.

Assistance Dog Training Program: Assistance Dogs of the West, **ADW**, teaches students to train dogs to help people with disabilities. Students learn from professional ADW trainers in structured Assistance Dog Program classes and emerge from the program with increased leadership skills, compassion, self-esteem, and civic responsibility. See www.assisteddogsofthewest.org for more information about the organization.

CAS (Creativity, Action, Service): Participation in CAS encourages students to share of themselves and their talents while developing better self-awareness. Each year, students set CAS goals, complete meaningful tasks, and reflect on their experiences through journal or essay writing. Students complete from 45 to 75 hours of CAS per school year, depending on their grade level. The ultimate goal of CAS is to help our students develop an “informed heart.”

Advisory Program: Every student at Desert Academy has a faculty advisor. The role of the advisor is to support students by listening, facilitating solutions, and providing students with a skill set necessary for success. Advisors may act as liaisons for students when needed. Advisory groups are organized according to grade level. Topics covered in Advisory include time management, organization, coping with stress, goal setting, and life skills.

Desert Academy is pleased to offer a comprehensive learning services program, **The Shelton Way**. The Shelton School and Evaluation Center is the largest school for students with learning differences in the world, serving more than 800 students in grades Pre-K through 12. Components of the Shelton program that have been integrated into the Desert Academy curriculum include explicit instruction in reading, writing, study and life skills, as well as a multi-sensory, structured approach to teaching that engages students of all learning styles. Desert Academy also offers the SEE program (Sequential English Education) in our seventh grade English courses, as well as in small group situations with our students who have diagnosed learning differences. This program has been researched extensively for over 40 years, resulting in significant gains for all students, especially those with learning differences.



Application Fee	\$65	Due with application
Tuition	\$16,485	\$1,000 deposit due with contract
New Student One Time Fee	\$625	Due with contract (goes toward facility development)
Annual Parent Association Fee	\$60	Due with contract (one per family)
Annual Book Fee	\$300	Per student included in payment options
Annual Technology Fee	\$300	Per student included in payment options
Middle School Activity Fee	\$150	Per year included in payment options
High School Activity Fee	\$250	Per year included in payment options
Assistance Dogs Fee	\$50	Per semester

There may be additional charges for special programs, field trips, sports trips, etc; however, there are no fees for sports participation.

In order to reserve space for the student, the \$1,000 enrollment deposit is to be paid and returned with the completed Enrollment Contract. Families are given three payment options for the balance of tuition after Financial Aid and/or Merit Scholarship awards are applied. An option must be chosen and indicated on the Enrollment Contract.

PAYMENT OF TUITION

The following payment options reflect credit of enrollment deposit (\$1,000) plus basic fee charges.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Prepayment	\$15,870 High School \$15,770 Middle school	Includes 3% discount on tuition balance due if paid in full by May 15, 2012
Two Payments	\$8,167.50 High School \$8,117.50 Middle School	One half of the balance of tuition is due on July 1, 2012; the other half is due on November 17, 2012
10 Monthly Pymt	\$1,633.50 High School \$1,623.50 Middle School	The balance of tuition and basic fees is divided into equal monthly payments and paid by the first of each month (usually July 1 through April 1). Families must enroll in FACTS Tuition Management to qualify for monthly payments

TUITION INCENTIVES

3% discount for prepayment of tuition by May 15, 2012.

5% sibling discount will be applied to tuition for additional students attending Desert Academy.

Discounts are applied to the balance of tuition after Financial Aid and/or Merit Scholarship awards are applied.

TUITION AND FEES FOR PARTIAL YEAR (late enrollment)

Students enrolling during the first academic quarter are expected to pay full tuition.

Students enrolling during the second academic quarter will receive a 25% reduction in tuition.

Students enrolling during the third academic quarter will receive a 50% reduction in tuition.

We generally do not accept students for the fourth quarter. Term dates are published in the Student Handbook.

All other additional fees apply as stated.

FINANCIAL AID

The Desert Academy community is committed to providing access to families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend the school at full tuition. Our financial aid program is guided by National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) principles. Families are expected to contribute according to their means, taking into account total income, net assets, number of dependents, and other appropriate information. As with all Desert families, Financial Aid award recipients are expected to be involved in the school, through volunteering, committees, or other areas. Families must reapply for financial aid every year. Applicants in good standing who are currently enrolled and already receiving aid will receive first consideration for aid on an annual basis with award criteria, listed below, guiding our decisions. Financial aid funds are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The School and Student Services (SSS) online financial aid application will be available by November 15, 2011 at www.nais.org/financialaid/sss. Questions about the form should be directed to the SSS helpline: 866-387-2601.

Your student may be eligible for financial aid even if he or she is also awarded a Merit Scholarship.

The deadline for all financial aid applications is February 17, 2012.

Financial aid application procedures:

1. Go to www.nais.org and complete the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) and submit it online. Be sure to include Desert Academy's Code Number 2812 on the PFS in order to have the analysis sent to Desert Academy.
2. Submit a copy of your 2010 federal income tax returns with all schedules (or the latest year with filing extension verification) and W-2s to Desert Academy by February 17, 2012.
3. As part of your application, you may also submit a letter explaining the circumstances that have led you to apply for financial aid. Although this is optional, the information is often helpful to the Financial Aid Committee.

Financial aid decision letters will be mailed as soon as possible in March 2012. Recipients have 10 business days upon receipt of the award letter to accept the financial aid award. The signed enrollment contract along with the deposit and the signed award letter must be returned to the Desert Academy Admissions Office by the due date.

AWARD
CRITERIA

Academic—student must be working at his or her academic potential.

Financial—financial need as identified by the Parent Financial Statement (PFS), tax returns, and supporting documents. Family tuition payment history with Desert Academy will be considered for returning students. Families with delinquent or past-due accounts may not be eligible for assistance.

Behavioral/Social—attendance and behavioral record for previous school years will be considered in making a financial aid award. Any serious disciplinary actions will be reviewed by the committee and could affect the award amount.

Extracurricular—participation in extra-curricular school sponsored or outside activities is a consideration in awarding financial aid.

Application Deadlines—applications must be submitted by **February 17, 2012** to be considered for the initial financial aid award. After February 26, the Financial Aid Committee will make awards based on available funds.

Desert Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational, admissions, or financial aid policies, or in any other programs or policies.