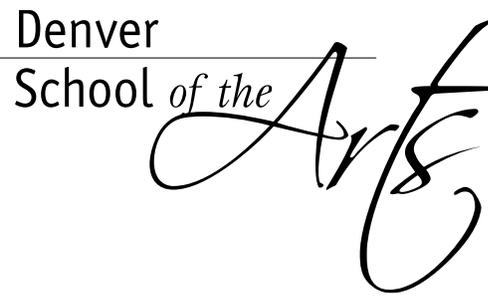


Denver School of the Arts
7111 Montview Blvd.
Denver, Colorado 80220
720-424-1700



August 16, 2017

Dear Creative Writing Community,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We have been busy preparing for the upcoming year and are excited to get started. Each year presents an opportunity for us to review and refine our program. In order to give Azar and I opportunities to work with more of your kids, this year for the first time we will swap classes at the semester for all the levels of our program, including seniors.

As most of you know, Azar will be out on maternity leave beginning around the first week of September for approximately eight weeks. During this time, we've hired two fantastic guest artists: Lindsay King-Miller for middle school (2nd/3rd year students) and Matt Daley for high school (9th–11th). Both guest artists are seven-year graduates from our program who've worked in both education and literary arts for years. We are excited for the unique skills and talent these guest teachers will bring to our students.

Below you will find our schedule of CW events. As you review our schedule of events, please make sure to mark your calendars. Also, please note several of our CW events are mandatory for students to attend.

2017-18 CW Events

- "Uncensored" High School Open-Mic Fundraiser: **November 15th** 7 p.m. Black Box Theatre (Optional. Contains mature content.)
- Fall CW Middle School Performance Event: **December 6th** 7 p.m. Schomp Theatre (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- 9th Grade Performance Project: **February 1st** 7 p.m. Schomp Theatre (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- 'Telling Stories' Collaborative HS Project: **February 9th** 7 p.m., Schomp Theatre (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- Middle School open-mic night: **February 23rd** 6 p.m. Commons (Mandatory for MS majors)
- Senior Projects: **March 15th** 7 p.m, Concert Hall (Mandatory for HS majors)
- *Stories on Stage* Performance Project: **April 19th** Concert Hall, 7 p.m. (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- Senior Readings/Chapbook signing and end-of-year potluck: Saturday **May 12th**, 6 p.m., Althea Center (Mandatory for all CW Majors)

Fundraising:

Last spring, Principal Kohut sent all DSA families a letter about the funding gap at our school and the related *Fill The Gap Campaign* currently underway. He clearly described the following challenges to delivering a nationally-recognized educational program:

- a.) We receive no extra money from DPS for the arts.
- b.) We receive less than half of the funding of comparable schools across the country. **DSA's funding "gap" is over \$1200 per student per year.**

We encourage you to participate in this campaign at whatever level is right for your family. Making a donation is very easy, just click on the link below, or go to the graphic on the main page of the DSA web site.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E201119&id=16>

Our department will continue to raise funds for things that specifically benefit us – like travel and fieldtrips. But we won't need to raise money for our guest artist program, which will be a big relief to us – and I suspect to you, as well. We also will continue our King Soopers rewards program, as this is a great and easy way to supplement donations. Each time our CW community reaches \$5000 or more in card reloads or purchases, we earn 5% of the total from King Soopers. Reloads can be purchased with a credit card for those folks who like to earn points/miles. **Thanks to everyone who used their cards last year. We received almost \$2500 in checks from King Soopers!** If you still have your refillable grocery card, great. We will be giving out new cards at Back-to-School-Night on Thursday, August 24th.

Azar and I are excited to work with all of your kids this year, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Moss Kaplan and Azar Kohzadi

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