



## DESMOND T. DOSS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

*"Changing the world one child at a time"*

### An Important High School Announcement for 2025-26

Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy now has permission from the Columbia Union Department of Education, and our DTD School Board, to announce to rising 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families that we are preparing to offer a new online high school connection on our campus next year. We will be working with Sycamore Academy which is in Keene, TX. Our plan is to offer "a bridge" for the next couple of years with the help of Sycamore until we have the enrollment and additional staff in place, necessary to begin a face-to-face 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade senior academy program at DTD. With that said, we hope that, by God's grace, we can meet your child's academic needs next year if you so choose.

After researching and discovering Sycamore Academy we are very excited. One reason is the director of Sycamore, Lori Nicholas. After speaking extensively with her we are confident that she and her teachers will be great to work with. Here is what we know about Sycamore Academy:

- Sycamore Academy has been in operation since 1981, and they incorporated in '82.
- They are accredited by AdvancedEd SACS CASI.
- Their program is used by schools like DTD and homeschools for grades 3-12 worldwide.
- Their program offers live high school Zoom classes to individual students on devices.
- They are 1 hour behind us in central time-zone, but they serve East coast students daily.
- They offer individualized tutoring, as needed.
- They offer 3 different HS diplomas: standard, regular, and advanced.
- They accept transcripts from accredited schools plus colleges & universities world-wide have accepted their graduates.
- They will allow seniors to take one class from a local face-to-face community college for dual credit. (Which we are very excited about.)
- SA supplies their students with their ID code for proficiency tests and college exams.
- They teach all required Math, Science, History, English, Honors English, extra classes: Art, Bible, Photography, Spanish, plus independent study electives for American high school graduation requirements.
- Full time 11-12 grade tuition is \$3,680.00/year with no interest payment installments over 10 months. Families will need to make enrollment arrangements with Sycamore themselves.

Director, Lori Nicholas is willing to answer your questions personally at: 817-645-0895

<https://sycamoreacademy.com/>

Our plan is that students who participate in this online school with us will also enroll with DTD using our online Facts Financial platform, just as our other students are going to. The reason is because we must charge \$1,000/year to cover the cost of teacher facilitation, a device to use, Go-Guardian firewall protection, Google App fees, Zoom, IXL subscriptions, Office 365 fees, student insurance, use of our Internet, and misc. supplies. DTD will not charge registration fees. Any textbooks required by SA would be purchased by families online. (These are available, reasonably priced, online used in good condition, we are told.) Students will need ear buds or headphones with voice input capability.

- Mrs. Ellen Lazo will be the DTD facilitator for all the enrolled Sycamore students. Her function will be to provide teaching assistance, work with Sycamore to follow a schedule, and help the students pace themselves.
- Because they will be officially enrolled as DTD students, as well as students of Sycamore Academy, all DTD rules and handbook policies will be abided by out of respect for Mrs. Lazo and for the example these kids will set as upperclassmen to our younger students.
- Participation in DTD Student Association and S.A.L.T. leadership training will be expected
- DTD families will complete their own enrollment process with Sycamore Academy and make their own financial arrangements with them. Local financial sponsorships may be available upon inquiry.
- Daily DTD attendance will probably be taken, but when absence occurs students would have the option of completing their daily work online at home, if possible, while sick. We are also willing to work with students in regard to dual enrollment with CVCC and part-time off campus jobs.
- If their classes are finished for the day, these students would be permitted to be picked up or drive home. However, we will request parents to submit a written schedule to inform DTD staff of their student's off campus schedules.
- As upper-class leaders, attendance for weekly for DTD school worship services and Week of Prayer twice a year will be required unless online or off campus classes conflict.
- Participation in DTD PE classes during spare time would be considered a privilege. This privilege would be suspended temporarily or permanently depending upon lack of self-control or un-sportsmen like behavior. PE should not cause missing online classes or lack of completion of work.
- After school DTD sports participation/assistance would be limited to helping but not to play in actual intramural games. This will only be possible if the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade student is recruited by Mr. Jeison.
- Participation by 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in DTD field trips and overnight trips is always welcome but will only be approved depending upon their demonstrating a consistent polite attitude with staff and other DTD students on our campus. They must arrange not to miss any online classes. Their class progress should be up to date. They will be asked to submit a written request form to attain DTD principal and their parent/guardians' permission to join on any overnight DTD trips. (This form is pending.)

God bless and guide us all as we endeavor to meet the needs of our kids, Ms. Jeannie