

DSST was founded on six Core Values, which create common agreements to develop a strong, healthy community. Every individual has their own unique set of personal values and living a values-driven life is an ongoing journey for staff, students and families at DSST and beyond. We commit to create a welcoming, values-driven environment for anyone that enters our school in order to create a vibrant and inclusive DSST Community. Healthy communities support individuals to become the best version of themselves in order to contribute to the human story. We create shared commitments, aligned to the following Core Values to create strong DSST communities which help us achieve our mission. Staff and students agree to live out the following Core Values for the purpose of creating a stronger community and sense of belonging:

### Student Pledge:

**Responsibility:** We acknowledge that our actions and choices impact ourselves and our community. We take ownership for what we do and how we choose to do it.

- Ask for help or clarity when accepting a task.
- Be trusted and depended upon to complete tasks and follow directions.
- Be accountable for my actions when I fall short of an expectation.
- Follow the DSST dress code.
- Be prompt, arriving by 8:00 A.M. to begin school.
- Come prepared to learn every day.

**Curiosity:** We are eager to learn, question, and explore. We have a thirst for knowledge, a love of investigation, and a desire to learn about ourselves, our community, and our world.

- Be eager to learn and explore.
- Ask questions.
- Learn from new ideas and experiences.

**Integrity:** We act and speak with honesty, fairness, and thoughtfulness. We consistently align our words and actions.

- Be truthful, fair, and trustworthy in my words and actions.
- Express myself respectfully.
- Do what is right, even when nobody is watching.
- Interact with others in productive and positive ways that build trust.
- Follow the academic honor code, submitting only individual work that is entirely my own.

**Doing Your Best:** We put our best effort into everything we do. We know that individual and collective effort are required for our community to thrive.

- Put my best effort into everything I do.
- Always work, think, and behave according to DSST Core Values.
- Do whatever it takes for my fellow students and me to learn.

**Courage:** We possess the confidence and resolve to take risks, push ourselves, and persevere in the face of pressure, adversity or unfamiliar circumstances.

- Take risks and make good decisions in the face of pressure.
- Be willing to take steps to make the community stronger, even though it may require me to step out of my comfort zone.
- Honestly reflect and act on any feedback.

**Respect:** We appreciate each person and their story through our words, actions, and attitudes. We value their unique perspective and treat others with dignity.

- Have empathy for others and treat them with dignity.
- Be an attentive listener and an engaged student.
- Show respect through my words, actions, and attitude to treat people respectfully.

## Parent/Guardian Pledge

**Responsibility:** We acknowledge that our actions and choices impact ourselves and our community. We take ownership for what we do and how we choose to do it.

- Support DSST's demanding academic program, high standards of conduct, and mission.
- Make sure my child arrives at DSST every day on time and remains at school until the first dismissal at the end of the day. If my child is assigned the second dismissal, I will make arrangements for a pick up at second dismissal.
- Ensure that my child attends school every day, unless sick or unable to attend because of a family emergency. I will notify the school before 8:00 AM if my child is going to miss school.
- Make sure my child follows the DSST dress code.
- Attend the required parent meetings four times a year and contact DSST if I have any questions throughout the year.
- Hold my child accountable when he or she falls short of an expectation. This includes making sure that my child follows through with College Prep, Mandatory Tutoring, Refocus Sessions, and other consequences that may be assigned.

**Curiosity:** We are eager to learn, question, and explore. We have a thirst for knowledge, a love of investigation, and a desire to learn about ourselves, our community, and our world.

- Be eager to learn and ask questions to gain a deeper understanding about my child's education and learning.
- Seek to learn from new ideas and experiences, so I can better support my child at school.

**Integrity:** We act and speak with honesty, fairness, and thoughtfulness. We consistently align our words and actions.

- Express myself appropriately by using professional and courteous language in school.
- Communicate directly and honestly and interact with others in productive and positive ways that build trust.

**Doing Your Best:** We put our best effort into everything we do. We know that individual and collective effort are required for our community to thrive.

- Check my child's homework.
- Sign his/her planner nightly.
- Sign my child's weekly paycheck.
- Encourage my child to do his or her best daily.
- Encourage my child to follow up on any issues or concerns with his or her advisor.

**Courage:** We possess the confidence and resolve to take risks, push ourselves, and persevere in the face of pressure, adversity or unfamiliar circumstances.

- Give honest feedback in an appropriate and respectful way to make the school community stronger.

**Respect:** We appreciate each person and their story through our words, actions, and attitudes. We value their unique perspective and treat others with dignity.

- Treat people appropriately with common courtesy; have empathy for others and treat them with dignity.
- Understand that my child must follow DSST's expectations and Core Values to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals at DSST.