

**Downtown School Fundraising Auction**  
**Ricochet | 400 Locust St suite 105, Des Moines**  
**April 20, 2023 • 6-8:30PM**

# Auction Information

During the Spring Conferences, a Scavenger Hunt was set-up to share information about the upcoming Auction. Didn't get to read all the info? Here it is!

Still have questions about the Auction? Let us know by emailing [downtownschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:downtownschoolpta@gmail.com).



## What is Ricochet, and where is it?

Ricochet is a bar and game lounge located in the Capitol Square Building in downtown Des Moines. The space overlooks Cowles Commons and the Des Moines Civic Center.

You can enter from any door for the DTS Auction, but the check-in table is near the inside door facing the Capitol Square Lobby.

The cash bar will be open for attendees, the PTA has arranged for a food truck to be available near Cowles Commons, and the games are open and free to play.

Thank you to Ricochet for generously donating the use of this space to DTS for the Auction. Ricochet is located at 400 Locust Street, Ste 105, Des Moines.

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### Where do I park?

Street parking is available near Ricochet; just remember to download the new DSM Parking app to make the evening easier. Coins and credit cards are also accepted at all parking pay stations.

The parking garage on 5th Street between Grand and Locust is connected to Ricochet by Skywalk. But other public parking garages are also nearby. Parking is also available in several parking ramps near Capitol Square, where Ricochet is located.

[www.catchdesmoines.com/maps](http://www.catchdesmoines.com/maps) is an excellent resource for parking and skywalk maps. [www.catchdesmoines.com/visitor-info/transportation/parking/](http://www.catchdesmoines.com/visitor-info/transportation/parking/) has even more information on parking downtown Des Moines.



### How will the funds raised at the Auction be used?

At DTS we don't ask students to raise money via endless catalog sales (selling magazines, pizzas, cookie dough, etc.). Instead, we ask that families and friends participate in a way that makes sense for their family during the bi-annual Fundraising Auction.

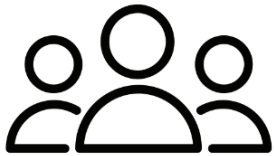
This every-other-year auction is the biggest fundraiser for DTS. At a minimum, the Auction funds PTA-sponsored events and activities for two whole years! This year those events included sponsoring the snow cone truck at back-to-school night, the Back-to-School Bonfire, Movie Night, Skate Night, and the End of Year Picnic. The funds also allow the PTA to provide a T-shirt to every incoming Kindergartener, coffee in the teacher workroom throughout the year, and more. In past years, the Auction also raised enough money to pay for significant purchases for the school (library furniture, classroom technology, etc.).

We all know Iowa schools are challenged by shrinking budgets while paradoxically facing more significant demands for results. Your generosity, in any capacity, is appreciated and put right back into supporting the Downtown School community.

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### Who can come? Can I invite friends and family?

The short answer: Anyone, except your students and friends under age 21, can come. This is the only PTA-sponsored gathering that is kid-free. But please, invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to the Auction. This is a community event to support Downtown School!

The whole DTS community is invited - teachers, staff, family, extended family, and friends.



### What if someone wants to participate or contribute, but cannot be there in person?

Good News! Anyone can participate in the silent auction through the auction website! We cannot mail items to people, but, with the winner's permission, we can send their items home with you. Or we can arrange for pick-up at school. So help your friends support your students, and offer to deliver the winnings to them.

Not interested in buying stuff? Anyone can donate money directly to the Auction event on the PTA website! Share the donation link with them – <https://dtspta.com/blog/>



### What sort of items will be auctioned off?

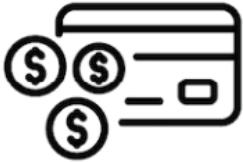
Gift cards, experiences, one-of-a-kind art. You name it; it could be there.

Some of the most sought-after items might be those made in your student's classroom. To check off this scavenger hunt item, ask your student to see what their classroom is making or donating to the auction!

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### If I win, how do I pay for auction items?

This is a cash-free event! All items, except food and drink, will be paid for on the Auction app/ website. The link to the Auction page, where bidding and buying happens, will be available the week of the Auction (week of April 17). For smooth sailing at the event, check the Facebook page, your email, and probably your student's backpack for details to get signed up and logged in before April 20.

Then at the end of the Auction event, show your paid page to the check-out staff to get stuff.



### What will happen that night?

In addition to an evening of fundraising, the Auction is also a chance to meet other Downtown School families and friends. Even if you don't want to participate in the auction, please come to enjoy time connecting or reconnecting with DTS families and friends.

The silent auction, with all items available for bidding online, will close during the event. There will be no "in-person" silent auction bidding - no auction sheets to walk through - but you can place a bid at the check-in table if the online system glitches on your phone. Bring your phone with internet to keep bidding early and often.

The event will include a handful of live auction items.

DTS teachers and staff are also invited to the event. And we'll take some time to welcome, acknowledge and appreciate their hard work and dedication during the event.

The event is free to attend. There is also no dress code. From DTS T-shirts to tuxedos, it is all welcome.