

**Montgomery County Public Schools
Middle School Selective Magnets Timeline and FAQs
2018-2019**

	Roberto W. Clemente and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. middle schools	Eastern & Takoma Park middle schools
Grade 5 Student Eligibility by High School Cluster	Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill	Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Winston Churchill, Downcounty Consortium, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Northeast Consortium, Rockville, Sherwood, Walt Whitman, and Thomas S. Wootton

Parent/Guardian/Student Information Meetings

October 4, 2018 Middle School Options Fair 7:00 at John F. Kennedy High School

October 15, 2018 Middle School Options Fair 7:00 at Gaithersburg High School

Admissions process season

An application is NOT required.

Grade 5 students will be reviewed for each magnet themed program during September. Parents will receive the the results of the central review in early October 2018. Parents may decline or request consideration for their child to be evaluated (includes testing) for the magnet programs.

Testing

Grade 5 students who are being evaluated will assess at their home school during the assessment window of November 1-30, 2018. Information regarding the date of the assessment will be provided to families by the individual schools.

Selection Results Mailed to Parents

By January 18, 2019

Main Contact

The school counselor and the Grade 5 team leader share the role. School testing coordinators will support assessment administration.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the selective magnet programs and who is eligible?

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers two themed selective magnet programs: Humanities and Communication offered at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (beginning with Grade 6 in 2018-2019) and Eastern middle schools; and Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science at Roberto W. Clemente and Takoma Park middle schools. The magnet curriculum is for students with an interest and desire to engage in an enriched and accelerated themed curriculum. Students invited will attend the program for three years and be enrolled in three magnet courses per year. Students are eligible to be considered for the programs based on their high school cluster. Limited seats are available in each program and at the time of selection, a pool of invited students will be created as well as a pool of wait pool candidates. If vacancies occur,

candidates will be invited from the wait pool. Acceptance to a selective magnet program is not a guarantee for a high school magnet program.

2. Is transportation provided? How long is the ride?

Transportation is provided from central stops to the schools within the geographic cluster areas served, as determined by the MCPS Department of Transportation. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to central stops (usually at elementary schools or public libraries). Length of bus rides from pick-up sites to the assigned school varies, and may take up to an hour. Transportation should be a consideration for your child to endure a longer day.

3. What factors besides academic ability should I consider?

Consider your child's feelings about her/his home school and friends, and her/his readiness to adjust to a new school. Some students feel isolated before making new friends. Consider your child's maturity to enjoy the intellectual challenge of the program and to make new friends. It takes energy and stamina to respond to high expectations generated by the students and the teachers in these programs. Consider your child's ability to accept that he or she may no longer be one of the top performing students in the class. Most of the students who enter the program remain in the program.

4. What happens if we move during the admissions season?

Since assignments are based on your current home address, it is important to inform the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) office at 240-740-2540, of plans to move as soon as possible to ensure that your child is considered for the right magnet program. If the selection process has already taken place and your child is invited to attend, it will be for the center that your child is eligible at time of selection. Attempts will be made to accommodate your need for the center serving your new home address, but that may not always be possible. Capacities for each classroom are maintained and monitored.

5. What happens if my child is sick on the day the test is scheduled?

If your child is sick, do not send her/him to school on the test date. Your child will be offered an opportunity to take the test on a different day at their school.

6. What does it mean that they will ALL be reviewed for the middle school selective magnet process?

All Grade 5 students will be centrally reviewed using a variety of data. Students will be considered for both themed programs. The review outcome can result in the following outcomes:

- Academic needs can be met at her/his local middle school program with local enrichment (no test)
- Demonstrates the potential to thrive in a magnet program

7. What happens after all students are reviewed, and then considered for the magnet programs?

Students who are going to be considered for the magnet programs will complete an outside assessment at their elementary school during a November testing window. This information along with other measures will be collected and reviewed by a selection committee.

8. What happens if my child is not selected to move forward for the consideration process?

Parents have the option to accept the result or request that their child to take the assessment.

9. What happens if we are not interested in my child being considered for the magnet program?

Parents have the option to decline consideration for their child. The process will then stop.

10. What offerings are available for students who remain at their home middle school?

Based on the results of the central review process conducted in 2017-2018, significantly more students surfaced demonstrating the potential to thrive with enriched and accelerated instruction. While some students were invited to attend the magnet, based on the data, many more demonstrated an instructional need for enriched and accelerated instruction. In order to address the increased need, new enriched and accelerated courses modeled after the instructional

approaches and curriculum implemented in the Humanities and Communications and Math, Science, and Computer Science magnet programs are being implemented at local middle schools in twenty middle schools for 2018-2019.

As this process is expanding to the upcounty programs (Clemente and King), these courses will be available to entering Grade 6 students in 2019-2020. Decisions regarding the number of courses offered at each school will be monitored and finalized based on student enrollment and performance data. School staff will receive professional learning, consultation on master scheduling, and central services support.

11. What are the enriched and accelerated courses?

Applied Investigations into Mathematics (IM) 6

This course is designed to extend students' understanding of mathematical concepts aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards, accelerating the pace of instruction while diving deeper into concepts at an equal level of intensity. This is much more than an accelerated mathematics course as the program offers access to many academic competitions and the opportunity to conduct fieldwork. Students work with an academic cohort to conduct independent inquiries using mathematics, computer science, and the scientific process to solve real-world problems.

Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities 6

This course is built around the core Grade 6 social studies curriculum that includes historical content from early civilizations, the empires of Greece and Rome, the dynasties of China, and civilizations of the first millennium. Cohort students will go beyond this core however as they learn additional content, explore deeper connections to today, engage in investigative inquiry to strengthen their writing through Document Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant literature connections.

12. Will my child be considered for the enriched and accelerated courses if we decline testing?

Grade 5 students whose parents had opted them out of testing for the middle school magnet programs also are being considered for the enriched and accelerated courses. Middle school principals are reviewing their incoming Grade 6 student data and notification of individual student placements will be sent to parents in early April.

13. What if I have more questions?

For questions about identification and programming, parents may contact the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, 240.740.3110 or send an e-mail to Kurshanna_J_Dean@mcpsmd.org. After individual placement notifications occur in January, questions about course(s) availability, sections, and scheduling may be directed to your middle school principal.

For questions about the selection process and notification results, contact DCCAPS, at 240-740-2551 or send an e-mail to Carla_D_Malozowski@mcpsmd.org