Montgomery County Public Schools

MCPS Center for Enriched Studies (CES) At-A-Glance

Topic	Timeline
Central Review of Grade 3 Students	• Late January to early February • All Grade 3 students will be reviewed for the CES process and notified in early February 2018. At that time, parents will have the option to accept, decline or request consideration. • Private/home schooled students interested in being considered for the program should contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540. • For questions, contact your school school's Gifted and Talented (GT) Liaison.
CES Testing	February 2018 (early) in current elementary schools (ES) on the schools' assigned test date *Private school students will test in February. Contact DCCAPS.
Selection results mailed to parents	On or about April 20, 2018

Center for Enriched Studies Locations and Eligibility

Regional Centers	High School Clusters Served:
Lucy Barnsley ES	Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wheaton
Chevy Chase ES	Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Whitman
Clearspring ES	Clarksburg (except Daly ES and Fox Chapel ES), Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Watkins Mill
Cold Spring ES	Churchill, Wootton
Dr. Charles R. Drew ES	Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook
Fox Chapel ES	Clarksburg (only Daly ES and Fox Chapel ES), Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley
Pine Crest Elementary School/Oak View ES	Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood
Local Centers	
Piney Branch, Rachel Carson, Spark Matsunaga, Stonegate elementary schools*	Only current students attending one of these elementary schools are eligible for consideration to the local center. *Students are ineligible to be considered for the regional centers.

1. **Who is eligible to be considered for the program?**

    All Grade 3 students who are residents of Montgomery County are eligible to be considered. Montgomery County Grade 3 students who are home or private schooled interested in the process may call the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS), at 240.740.2540 for more information.

    All Grade 3 students will be considered for a regional CES program which is based on their address, unless they attend a school that houses a local program. The CES curriculum is the same for both regional and local programs.

    - Elementary schools that currently house a regional program include Lucy V. Barnsley, Chevy Chase, Clearspring, Cold Spring, Dr. Charles R. Drew, Fox chapel and Pine Crest/Oak View.
    - Elementary schools that currently house a local program include: Rachel Carson, Piney Branch, Spark Matsunaga, and Stonegate.

2. **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 or starting a new program. Will s/he have the maturity to enjoy the intellectual challenge of the program and to make friends? It takes energy and stamina to stand up to the high expectations generated by the students and teachers at the centers. Consider your child's ability to accept that s/he may no longer be the top student in the class. Also, consider your child's feelings and reactions to a possible lengthy bus ride.

3. **What does it mean that ALL Grade 3 student will be reviewed for the CES process?**

    All Grade 3 students will be centrally reviewed using a variety Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) data over their third grade year. Students demonstrating an overall performance above-grade-level will be automatically considered for the CES process and will be tested in February at their elementary school.

4. **What happens if my child is not identified for testing?   Or is identified, and we are not interested in the program?**
    Parents have the option to request or decline testing for their child.

5. **Is there a committee who will select students?**

    Yes, there is a committee made up of various staff members who will review and select students.

6. **Is transportation provided to the centers? How long is the ride?**

    Transportation is provided from central stops to the centers within the geographic cluster areas served, as determined by MCPS Department of Transportation. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation to central stops (usually at elementary schools). Length of bus rides from pick-up sites to the assigned centers vary, and may take up to an hour. In your decision to consider, please consider your child's ability to endure a longer day.

7. **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 for testing. Your school will arrange a make-up test date and notify you.

8. **What happens if we move during the year?**

    Eligibility for a center and testing may be impacted due to an address change. Contact your current school to notify them of an address change**.** If the selection process has already taken place and your child is invited to attend the center serving your former address, attempts will be made to transfer your student to the center serving your new home address.

    Note this may not always be possible. Capacities for each classroom are maintained and monitored. Movement after the first quarter of each year will not be considered.

9. **Does entrance into the center program mean continuation into middle and high school magnet programs?**

    No, students' abilities and interests change over time. There is a separate admission process for the magnet middle school and high school programs.

10. **What if I have more questions?**

    Parents can learn more about the programs and admission by visiting the website: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications.aspx, speaking to your school's gifted and talented liaison or contacting staff at the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services: Betty Shevitz at 240-740--2540, or Accelerated and Enriched Instruction for Meredith Casper, 301-279-3163.