

Montgomery County Public Schools
Middle School Selective Magnets Timeline and FAQs

	Clemente Middle School (traditional)	Eastern & Takoma Park Middle Schools (field test)
Grade 5 Student Eligibility by High School Cluster	Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill HS	Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Winston Churchill, Downcounty Consortium, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Northeast Consortium, Rockville, Sherwood, Walt Whitman, Thomas Wootton HS
Parent/Student Information Meeting	Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. Roberto Clemente MS English and Spanish	October 12, 2017 Montgomery Blair HS 5:30 pm (Last names A-M) 7:30 pm (Last names N-Z) English and Spanish
Admissions process season	A completed application is required. Grade 5 students complete an application for consideration. Due date is November 3, 2017. If they are applying to both of the programs at Roberto W. Clemente, only one application should be submitted. Applications available in October and at elementary schools at the following link: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/	An application is NOT required. Grade 5 students in the field test will be reviewed for each magnet themed program at the end of marking period 1 (late November). Parents will receive the results and at that time, may decline or request consideration for their child to be evaluated (includes testing) for one or both programs.
Teacher Recommendations	Teachers complete recommendations by accessing http://bit.ly/mcpsteacherrec using Google's Chrome browser and submitted by December 8, 2017.	Teacher recommendations are NOT required.
Testing	Grade 5 students will report to Clemente MS for testing on January 6, 2018 at 8:00 am. Students with an IEP, 504 or require makeup testing may be assessed at MS on January 12, 2018.	Grade 5 students who are being evaluated will assess on January 6, 2018. Information regarding sites and times will mailed to parents in December 2017.
Selection results mailed to parents	On or about February 9, 2018	On or about February 9, 2018
Main Contact	The school counselor and the Grade 5 team leader share the role. Materials will be sent addressed to the school counselor.	The school counselor and the Grade 5 team leader share the role. School testing coordinators support assessment administration.

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

Montgomery County Public Schools offers two themed selective magnet programs: Humanities and Communication offered at Clemente and Eastern, and Math, Science and Computer Science at Clemente and Takoma Park Middle Schools. The magnet curriculum 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. Students will have access to at least 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 occur 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.

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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 Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Transportation. It is the parents' 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 vary, 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 s/he 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 the school for testing. If your child is testing for a program at Clemente MS, contact Clemente MS Magnet Coordinator. If your child is testing for either Eastern or Takoma Park MS, communicate this information to your child's counselor.

Field Test FAQs (Eastern and Takoma Park MS)

6. For students in field test schools, what does it mean that they will ALL be reviewed for the middle school selective magnet process?

All Grade 5 students who home address feeds into Eastern or Takoma Park magnet programs 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 humanities and communication themed program
- Demonstrates the potential to thrive in a computer science, math and science themed program
- Demonstrates the potential to thrive in both magnet themed programs

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 field test elementary school during a January testing window.

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 consideration for 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 if I have more questions?

- Identification and the program, contact AEI at 301-279-3163 or send an email to Meredith_Casper@mcpsmd.org
- Outreach and selection process, contact DCCAPS at 240-740-2540 or send an email to Emily_Y_Tien@mcpsmd.org.