

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) At-A-Glance

Topic	Timeline
Central Review of Grade 3 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late January to early February All Grade 3 students will be reviewed for the CES process and notified in early February 2019. At that time, parents will have the option to decline or request consideration. For questions, contact your school’s gifted and talented (GT) liaison. Private/home schooled students interested in being considered for the program should visit: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms to obtain information and application. For questions contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540.
CES Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2019 (mid to late) in current elementary schools (ES) on the schools’ assigned test date *Private school students will test in February. Test date for private school students will be posted on the website. Parents will be contacted by DCCAPS.
Selection results mailed to parents	On or about March 29, 2019

Centers for Enriched Studies Locations and Eligibility

Regional Centers	High School Clusters Served:
Lucy V. Barnsley ES	Richard Montgomery, Rockville, and Wheaton
Chevy Chase ES	Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, and Walt Whitman
Clearspring ES	Clarksburg and Damascus
Cold Spring ES	Winston Churchill and Thomas S. Wootton
Dr. Charles R. Drew ES	James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, and Springbrook
Fox Chapel ES	Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley
Mill Creek Towne ES	Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, and Watkins Mill
Oak View ES	Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, and Northwood (Arcola ES, Glen Haven ES, Glenallan ES, Highland ES, Kemp Mill ES, Oakland Terrace ES, Pine Crest ES, and Rock View ES)
Pine Crest ES	Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, and Northwood (East Silver Spring ES, Flora M. Singer ES, Forest Knolls, ES, Highland View ES, Oak View ES, Rolling Terrace ES, Sligo Creek ES and Woodlin ES)
Local Centers	
Piney Branch, Rachel Carson, Spark Matsunaga, Stonegate elementary schools*	<p>Only current students attending one of these elementary schools are eligible for consideration to the local center.</p> <p>*Students are ineligible to be considered for the regional centers.</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

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, Mill Creek Towne, Oak View, and Pine Crest.
- 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 their home school and friends, and their readiness to adjust to a new school. Some students feel isolated before making new friends or starting a new program. Will your child have the maturity to enjoy the intellectual challenge of the program and to make friends? It takes energy and stamina to transition to an enriched and accelerated curriculum. Consider your child's ability to accept that they may no longer be the top performing 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 of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) data over their third grade year. Students demonstrating an overall performance of 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 if 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 using multiple measures.

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

8. What instructional opportunities are available to students who choose to stay at the home school or are not invited to the center program?

A select group of students will have access to the Enriched Literacy Curriculum. The Enriched Literacy Curriculum is designed for students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) local school instructional program of studies that need advanced, rigorous instruction parallel to the learning experiences of students in the Centers for Enriched Studies. The program content is enriched, quick-paced, based on the Maryland Common Core State Standards and designed to meet the unique needs of diverse learners. The program provides instructional opportunities with complex literary and informational texts, writing instruction based on developing the writer through writing process and writing workshop, and establishes an instructional atmosphere that promotes critical and creative thinking. The instructional strategies encourage a collaborative community of learners to encourage risk-taking and opportunity for students to reach their full potential.

9. How are students selected for the Enriched Literacy Curriculum?

Multiple data points are used to invite students to participate in the Enriched Literacy Curriculum. Students are selected through a central review and a list of eligible students is provided to schools.

10. What happens if we move during the year?

Eligibility for a center 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.

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

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

12. 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 they may contact Mrs. Betty R. Shevitz, instructional specialist, DCCAPS, at 240-740-2540, or Mrs. Kurshanna J. Dean, supervisor, Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Unit, at 240-740-3110.