

Centers for Enriched Studies

for Grades 4 and 5



**Critical and
Creative
Thinking
Skills**

**Authentic
Products**

**MCPS
Curriculum**



Rockville, Maryland

Formerly known as the Centers for the Highly Gifted

Centers for Enriched Studies

MCPS offers Centers for Enriched Studies, formerly known as the Centers for the Highly Gifted, for students in Grades 4 and 5. The centers are designed for students who learn at a faster pace and can handle advanced concepts of greater complexity. The goal of the program is to provide highly able and motivated elementary students with an accelerated and enriched instructional program. Students enrolled in this program have a unique academic profile and educational needs that are more easily addressed in the centers than in a typical classroom. The centers provide an instructional atmosphere that promotes thinking skills, risk taking, and creative expression to help highly able students realize their potential.

For Whom are the Centers Designed?

The centers are designed for students whose needs cannot easily be met in their home school and are outliers amongst their peers. The center focuses on enrichment and acceleration in the areas of reading, language arts, science and social studies, utilizing above grade level materials. Programs are currently housed at eight regional sites and four local sites.

Organization

Students attend the center school and participate in all of its activities for Grades 4 and 5. At the end of Grade 5, students may return to their home middle school, be considered for middle school magnet programs or the Middle School Magnet Consortium.

“I think this program opens up our minds and challenges us. In this class, our creative juices get flowing every day; we get to use our real strengths.”



Admissions Process

Families of all Grade 3 students are informed about the centers by mail in the fall. Information for home schooled or private school students is available on our website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms. Families are no longer required to submit an application. In January, all Grade 3 students are reviewed for and notified of eligibility to test for admission. Eligible students participate in an above-grade-level assessment administered in February at the child's school. Students who demonstrate an academic need beyond that of their local peer group will be considered for one of the seats in the centers. A committee meets to examine data which includes academic performance, standardized tests, local peer group, and potential for success with accelerated and enriched instruction. Families are notified of selection results in the spring.

Transportation

Transportation is provided for the Centers for Enriched Studies to and from central stops (usually MCPS schools) determined by the Department of Transportation. Stops may be several miles from the student's home. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from central stops. Bus trips are usually significantly longer than local school transportation and vary by program or location. Please carefully consider transportation options and responsibilities. Details will be available at selection time from the MCPS Department of Transportation.

Academic Environment

The centers provide a learning environment that enriches, accelerates, and extends the MCPS curriculum. To meet the unique needs of the students, the centers provide an opportunity to do the following:

- Participate in a learning environment that provides a rigorous academic program.
- Engage in problem solving and critical, creative, and evaluative thinking.
- Engage in academic dialogue and develop an openness to new ideas.
- Discover new problems and new solutions; create authentic products.
- Pursue in-depth independent study and acquire advanced research skills.

For Additional Information

Contact Division Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540 for questions about the admission process.

Contact Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) at 240-740-3110 for questions about curriculum.

Website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms

Each regional center draws from a defined set of high school clusters; Centers are located at the following elementary schools:

Lucy Barnsley Elementary School

Clusters: Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wheaton

Chevy Chase Elementary School

Clusters: Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, Whitman

Clearspring Elementary School

Clusters: Clarksburg, Damascus

Cold Spring Elementary School

Clusters: Churchill, Wootton

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Clusters: Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook

Fox Chapel Elementary School

Clusters: Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley

Mill Creek Town Elementary School

Clusters: Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Watkins Mill

Oak View Elementary School

East Silver Spring ES, Flora Singer ES, Forest Knolls ES, Highland View ES, Oak View ES, Rolling Terrace ES, Sligo Creek ES, Woodlin ES

Pine Crest Elementary School

Arcola ES, Glen Haven ES, Glenallan ES, Highland ES, Kemp Mill ES, Oakland Terrace ES, Pine Crest ES, Rock View ES

Local Sites*:

Rachel Carson, Spark Matsunaga, Piney Branch, and Stonegate Elementary Schools

**Students whose home school hosts a local site are ineligible to be considered for a regional site.*



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