



September 14, 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 5 Students:

During spring 2016, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) began planning and designing a more family-friendly outreach and selection process for the elementary, middle, and high school countywide programs to better promote equitable access for students from all backgrounds. In fall 2016, MCPS initiated a field test, with selected elementary schools, for the Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) (formerly known as the Center Programs for the Highly Gifted). As a result of this initial work, during the 2017–2018 school year, the system streamlined a family-friendly admissions process for Grade 3 students systemwide and conducted a field test on the selective magnets for Grade 5 students. As a result of these previous field tests, MCPS is ready to fully implement a newer more family-friendly process for all selective middle school magnets. These include the Humanities and Communication Magnets at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (upcounty) and Eastern middle school (downcounty); and the Math, Science and Computer Science Magnets at Roberto W. Clemente (upcounty) and Takoma Park middle school (downcounty). Eligibility to the program is based on a student's address.

The process will centrally review all Grade 5 students by utilizing school system performance information about how your child(ren) learns. Students whose data indicate that their overall academic profile may demonstrate an instructional need for enriched and accelerated instruction will be considered for a seat in one or both magnet programs without having to submit an application. Parents/guardians also may request their student be considered for the program, if their student is not identified. Multiple criteria will continue to be used to select students for the program such as report cards, Grade 5 system assessments, an external assessment, and student voice. All parents/guardians of Grade 5 students will be notified of the results of this central review in late November 2018, with selection results occurring in February 2018.

For more information, parents/guardians are invited to attend a parent/guardian information meeting regarding the program and admission process. This meeting will be available in English and Spanish and held on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road., Silver Spring, Maryland 20902 or on Monday, October 15, 2018, at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877. Both sessions will present the same information. The presentation will be live streamed on the MCPS homepage and if connectivity issues occur, the video recording of the presentation will be made available on the MCPS website.

For additional support:

- Visit the following website for the timeline and frequently asked questions: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/>
- Contact a team member at the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540, or
- Send an e-mail message to Ms. Carla Malozowski, instructional specialist, DCCAPS, at Carla_D_Malozowski@mcpsmd.org

Sincerely,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer