

# Middle School Options

**Local Middle School  
Application Programs**

**Middle School Magnet Consortium *Choice*  
Programs (MSMC)**



# When considering options for middle school...

- Think about your child's strengths and needs.
- What does your home middle school offer to meet those strengths and needs?
- What other program models might meet your child's needs?

# Application Programs

- Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Programs at Takoma Park Middle School and Roberto Clemente Middle School
- Humanities and Communication Programs at Eastern Middle School and Roberto Clemente Middle School



# Magnet Programs at Takoma Park, Eastern, and Roberto Clemente

Students apply to a particular program based on high school cluster.

- Clemente serves the up-county area (Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill High School clusters).
- Takoma Park and Eastern serve all other high school clusters.

Students in the Humanities and Communication magnet program:

- Love to write
- Love to read
- Love to perform
- Love to debate
- Love history and politics
- Love projects
- Love to be creative
- Work well in groups

Students in the Math, Science, Computer Science magnet program:

- Love to problem solve
- Love to create and design
- Love to experiment
- Love to take things apart and build things
- Love to know how things work
- Love projects
- Love to be creative
- Work well in groups

# Applicant Characteristics

- Students who answer questions with **detail and elaboration**
- Students who construct **abstractions** and **draw inferences**
- Students who **initiate projects** and **create new designs**
- Students who **critique themselves**
- Students who look at **challenge** as an **opportunity for growth**---the answers will not always be obvious and easy

# What is the application process?

- Students complete and submit an application in November.
- Students take a series of magnet tests in December.
- A selection committee reviews all applicants' files (grades, application essays, teacher recommendations, and test scores) and selects students for the programs.
- Notification occurs in February.
- Takoma Park and Eastern each have 100 seats. Clemente has 50 seats in each program.
- Selection for the programs is very competitive. For example, Takoma Park typically has about 600 applicants for 100 seats.

These programs may be a good match for students who...



- Want the opportunity to work together in an environment conducive to mutual understanding, respect, and appreciation of racial and cultural differences
- Want a program that promotes a balance of intellectual growth, social and emotional development, and civic responsibility
- Want to be challenged academically and who are ready to be actively involved in their own learning with a group of their intellectual peers
- Have a passion for the focus of the program and evidence of intellectual curiosity, analytical thinking, and imagination

# *Choice Programs*



## Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC)

Programs at:

- Argyle Middle School
- Loiederman Middle School
- Parkland Middle School





# The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC)

- Magnet School for Digital Design and Development at Argyle Middle School
- Magnet School for the Creative and Performing Arts at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School
- Magnet School for Aerospace Technology at Parkland Middle School

These 3 whole-school magnet programs are in their second year. All MSMC schools will offer –

- An accelerated Core Curriculum
- Specialized courses and extended learning opportunities
- Highly effective instructional programs
- Collaborative partnerships among schools, parents, and the community

# *Choice* is for students who may...

- Have an interest in one of the magnet focus areas
- Want an opportunity to take courses not offered at other middle schools
- Want an opportunity to explore different possible career paths
- Be risk takers
- Demonstrate initiative and intellectual curiosity
- Show curiosity about ideas, events, and how things work or have a questioning attitude
- Be interested in making new friends and working collaboratively with peers from a variety of countries, backgrounds, and cultures

# What is the *Choice* Process?

- The *Choice* process involves completing a *Choice* form, after which a lottery determines your placement. There are up to 80 seats available at each program for students who do not reside in the MSMC enrollment area.
- You may be a grade 5 student in one of the MSMC elementary schools (Brookhaven, Georgian Forest, Harmony Hills, Sargent Shriver, Strathmore, Viers Mill, Weller Road, Wheaton Woods) or you may live in the MSMC enrollment area. If you live in the enrollment area of those 8 elementary schools, you must participate in the *Choice* process.
- You may be a grade 5 student elsewhere in the county. In this case, you may choose to participate in the *Choice* process, and you will be responsible for providing transportation to an MSMC school.

## These programs may be a good match for students who...



- Have an interest in a particular area of focus, but may or may not have much experience in that area
- Want the opportunity to work together in an environment conducive to mutual understanding, respect, and appreciation of racial and cultural differences
- Want to work collaboratively with peers to compete in local, state, and national problem-solving challenges or to produce live and multimedia performances
- Want a program that allows them to take advanced coursework at their own pace for credit up to 8 high school courses by the end of Grade 8



# What are the differences and similarities between the MSMC schools and the magnet programs at Clemente, Eastern and Takoma Park?

MSMC	Application Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Whole school magnet</li> <li>● Every child in the school participates in the magnet focus</li> <li>● Student assignment by lottery – <i>Choice</i> form (based on student interest)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Magnet program within a larger school</li> <li>● Only those selected participate</li> <li>● Student assignment by a highly competitive selection process – application (report card grades, teacher recommendations, testing . . .)</li> </ul>
<h3>Similarities</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rigorous course work               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Themed programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>● High school credit available               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited seats</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>One can participate in the Choice Lottery AND apply to the application Magnet programs.</i></p>	

# Application Materials

- For Takoma Park, Eastern, and Clemente, interested students need to complete an application and deliver or mail it to the program no later than **November 7, 2014**. This form has questions for the applicant as well as questions for a parent/guardian. Applications are available to be completed electronically online or in hard copy form at your elementary school.
- For the MSMC, you will need to complete a simple form indicating your first, second, and third choice. If you live within the MSMC, your child's counselor will provide you with the form. If you live outside the MSMC, you can download the form from the MSMC website or call the DCCAPS office to receive one through the mail. The deadline for those forms is also **November 7, 2014**.

## Some logistical FAQ' s...

How will my child get to the program?

Who is main contact at the school?

How will I be contacted if there are problems, academic or social?

Can my child still participate in things like band or after-school sports?

# Important Dates

- **Deadline for all forms: November 7, 2014**  
*All Information Nights begin at 7:00 p.m.*
- **MSMC Parent Evening Meetings**
  - Wednesday, September 17 at Albert Einstein High School
  - Tuesday, September 23 at Richard Montgomery High School
- **Eastern MS: Wednesday, October 1, 2014**
- **Roberto Clemente MS: Thursday, October 9, 2014**
- **Takoma Park MS: Thursday, October 9, 2014**
- **Argyle MS: Wednesday, October 8, 2014**
- **A. Mario Loiederman MS: Wednesday, October 15, 2014**
- **Parkland MS: Wednesday, October 22, 2014**



## Contact for more information:

The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services  
(DCCAPS)

- (301) 592-2040
- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/>