

Immersion Programs Lottery Process: Middle School Immersion Programs
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

1. What are the options for Grade 5 immersion students in middle school?

Students may continue in the feeder middle school immersion program, return to the neighborhood school, and/or be considered for other criteria or interest based programs (Middle School Magnet Consortium, Humanities and Communications; Math, Science and Computer Science).

2. What middle school immersion programs does Montgomery County Public Schools offer?

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers two Spanish, two French, and one Chinese middle school foreign language immersion programs at four sites in the county.

- Westland Middle school offers Spanish for students articulating from the Rock Creek Forest elementary immersion program.
- Silver Spring International offers both French and Spanish serving students from the Sligo Creek elementary French immersion program and both the Burnt Mills and William Tyler Page elementary Spanish immersion programs. Rock Creek Forest elementary immersion students who reside within the Downcounty Consortium may choose to attend Silver Spring International to continue the immersion program.
- Gaithersburg Middle School offers French for students articulating from the French immersion program at Maryvale elementary.
- Hoover Middle School offers Chinese to students continuing in immersion from both the Chinese immersion programs at Potomac and Bayard Rustin elementary schools.

The target language and social studies are taught in the target language in Spanish and French. The target language is only taught in Chinese. For more information, visit the special programs website above for the information and visit the individual school website, or call the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2556.

3. Who can participate in the middle school immersion program?

Any Montgomery County resident currently enrolled in an elementary immersion program at one of the seven sites noted above is eligible to continue in the middle school immersion program. The process considers seat availability and the number of exiting Grade 5 students who request to continue in their feeder middle school program. Students who did not participate in the elementary program may test into an immersion program if there is space available. Please contact the local school to learn more about the application process and deadlines.

4. How can I participate in the middle school immersion program?

Current Grade 5 students enrolled in an elementary immersion program at one of the seven sites may complete a Notice of Intent form prepared by DCCAPS. DCCAPS will communicate with each family to inform them of their options for middle school programs. Parents will complete and return a Notice of Intent to secure a seat in their feeder middle immersion program. The Notice of Intent form will be mailed in mid-December 2022. The deadline for returning the form is **Friday, January 6, 2023**.

5. When are the information meetings for each of the programs?

Interested parents/students currently attending an elementary program at one of the seven sites can attend a registration information meeting hosted by the immersion middle school in January of each year. Please contact the school or visit the individual school website for date or to discuss program information.

6. Is transportation to these programs provided?

MCPS does not provide transportation to the middle school immersion program outside the local attendance boundary of the host school.

7. What are the options for immersion students in high school?

MCPS immersion programs are K-8 programs. Currently, there are no high school immersion programs. If students wish to continue into the feeder high school, the parents may submit a Change of School Assignment (COSA) during the child's grade eight school year (Feb. 1 – April 1), return to the neighborhood school, and/or apply to other special programs. For the most current and up-to-date information about the COSA process, visit the following website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers/>. Should the student choose not to participate in the immersion program at the middle school at any time, the student will return to the home/assigned middle school.

Special programs are placed at schools based on school system needs and may be relocated to another site deemed by the Superintendent at any time.