

Frequently Asked Questions about the Elementary Center Program for the Highly Gifted

For more information visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/highly-gifted-centers.aspx

1) What are the traits of students who are successful in the Elementary Center Program for the Highly Gifted (CPHG)?

Students who have been successful in the centers come from diverse backgrounds and share the following traits—

- Academic performance well above grade level in one or more areas
- Unusual creativity
- Exceptional abstract reasoning skills
- Continual curiosity and drive to learn
- Unusual commitment, persistence, and independence

2) Where are the centers? What grade levels attend? Which one serves my area?

There are seven centers across the county serving students in Grades 4 and 5. Each center is located in an elementary school. The center to which you apply is determined by your home address/home school. To verify which center serves your home elementary school, please refer to the chart below.

Center Program for the Highly Gifted Elementary School (ES) Location	High School Clusters Served
Clearspring ES	Clarksburg (except Daly ES and Fox Chapel ES), Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Watkins Mill
Fox Chapel ES	Clarksburg (only Daly ES and Fox Chapel ES) Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley
Chevy Chase ES	Walt Whitman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Cold Spring ES	Winston Churchill, Thomas S. Wootton
Pine Crest ES and Oak View ES (considered one center)	Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Northwood
Lucy V. Barnsley ES	Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Wheaton
Dr. Charles R. Drew ES	James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook

3) Are there differences among gifted students?

Yes, there are differences among gifted students. Some students master above-level mathematics concepts in early elementary grades. Others are writing extensively and fluently in the primary years. Many gifted students pursue individual interests with intensity and success far beyond their age. The center programs are designed for students whose exceptional abilities are demonstrated repeatedly in the classroom and whose academic needs cannot be easily met at the local school.

4) What factors, besides academic ability, should I consider?

Consider your child's feeling about his/her home school and friends, and his/her readiness to adjust to a new school. Some students feel isolated before making new friends. Will he/she have the maturity to enjoy the intellectual challenge of the program and to make friends? It takes energy and stamina to stand up to the high expectations generated by the students and teachers of the centers. Consider your child's ability to accept that he/she may no longer be the top student in the class.

5) Is transportation provided?

It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation to a nearby pick-up site selected by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Department of Transportation. These sites are usually located at local elementary schools. Bus rides from the pick-up site to the center vary and may take up to an hour. Please consider your child's ability to manage a longer day in your decision to apply.

6) What is the application process?

Selection for the centers is highly competitive and further testing is required after the application is submitted. Testing takes place at your elementary school during the school day in January 2017. Decisions are mailed to parents by March 17, 2017.

7) Does entrance into the CPHG mean acceptance into middle school and high school programs for the highly gifted?

No. Students' abilities and interests change over time. There is a separate application process for middle school and high school programs for the highly gifted.

8) What is the connection between the Grade 2 Global Screening and the CPHG application process?

These are two separate processes. All Grade 3 students are invited to apply to the CPHG.

9) Where can I get a copy of the application?

Applications are mailed in September 2016 to all families of Grade 3 students. If you do not receive an application, you can obtain one from your current school or download one from the MCPS website at—

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

10) What is the application deadline?

Applications must be delivered or postmarked to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS), 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, by **November 4, 2016**.

11) Is there a fee?

There is no fee.

12) What if a student misses the deadline?

If the parents feel there is a unique hardship that occurred, they should contact DCCAPS.

13) When are the evening information meetings?

Identical information is presented at both meetings:

- October 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Northwest High School
- October 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Northwood High School

14) What happens if the student is sick on the day of the test?

If a student is sick the day of the test, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mrs. Betty R. Shevitz, instructional specialist, DCCAPS, at 301-592-2040 for information on the make-up date.

15) What happens if a new student registers at the school after the deadline?

If the student enrolls in school after the application deadline, but before testing, the family should contact Mrs. Shevitz. If the enrollment takes place after testing, there is a summer testing date. The student will be testing for a place in the wait pool at that time. The family should contact DCCAPS for the summer test date.

