



**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHOICE GUIDE 2020-21**

**My SCHOOL My CHOICE**

**A GUIDE TO FINDING, CHOOSING, AND APPLYING FOR YOUR FUTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Dear Elementary School Students and Families,

It may seem hard to imagine, since you're still in elementary school, but high school graduation is just around the corner. At City Schools, we want to make sure that you and your family have all the information you need to be ready for each step along the way to graduation. Choosing your middle school is one very important step that you're about to take!

From the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students learn about topics in more depth and start developing interests, skills, and talents that can influence decisions about high school, college, and careers. We are here to help you choose the right middle school for you and your family.

There are many options to consider — schools and programs that focus on specific subjects, big or small schools, all-boys or all-girls schools, and more. It's not too early for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade to start learning about different possibilities and learning about special requirements to get into some programs. For 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students and families, it's time to narrow down the possibilities and get ready to apply to your top school choices.

Over the years, I've heard families and students tell me they had a lot of questions about the process and that they didn't always know how to find the answers. That's why we've improved this guide, created an online school comparison tool, and are now helping families prepare for choosing a school starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We're here to help you get on the path to the right school for you — so if you can't find the answers you're looking for, please ask your school's choice liaison or call the district office.

As a former middle school teacher and the mother of one daughter in middle school and two more about to take that step, I know first-hand what an exciting time this is for students and families. I look forward to seeing where your steps will take you on the road to success.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises  
Chief Executive Officer  
Baltimore City Public Schools

# We're Here to Help

Congratulations! Preparing for the **Middle School Choice Process** marks another milestone in your journey toward college, career, and beyond. We heard families tell us that while it's an exciting time, it's also stressful and sometimes confusing. We also heard that families of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students didn't know how they could be preparing for choosing a middle school.

We want you to know that we're here to help – from the time you're in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade all the way through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We have staff in schools and at the district office who can help you with questions or concerns. Plus, with tools like this guide and the online school search tool, we hope you have what you need to make this important decision.

*Remember –*  
**IT'S YOUR SCHOOL,  
YOUR CHOICE!**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Parent Portal:** The online program that gives parents of students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade access to the online choice application.

**Choice lottery:** When a school has more applications than the school can accept, we use a lottery system to randomly select who will be given a seat.

**Entrance criteria:** Some schools have additional academic requirements for admission. These requirements are known as "entrance criteria" and the schools are known as "entrance criteria schools."

**Choice liaison:** The staff member at your school who helps families understand the choice process, learn about school options, and more.

**Open house:** A specific date and time that a school invites future students to visit and learn about the school.

**Shadow day:** A specific day that a school invites future students to join current students for a typical school day.

**Composite score:** This score is used to determine eligibility for applying to entrance criteria schools. The score is calculated using various factors, including academic performance.

**Feeder school:** A few neighborhood elementary schools are "feeder" schools for nearby schools with middle grades. This means that 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students at the neighborhood elementary school are automatically enrolled in a nearby school for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Middle School Choice

## AN OVERVIEW

Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade complete the district's choice application online using the Parent Portal. On the application, you'll see all the schools you can choose from. The list will include schools with entrance criteria if you meet the requirements.

From the schools that are listed, you'll select your top five choices.

If you are not currently enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools but want to apply, please visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/enroll](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/enroll) to find out how, or call the district office at 410.396.8600. We look forward to welcoming you to the City Schools family!

## THIS GUIDE

PAGES **6-7**

**Tips for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders**

PAGES **8-11**

**Middle Schools at a glance, with maps and school descriptions**

PAGES **12-13**

**More about schools and programs**

PAGES **14-15**

**The choice process, including entrance criteria and application information**

## ONLINE TOOLS: SEARCH FOR SCHOOLS AND FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION

### Search for schools ([www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools)):

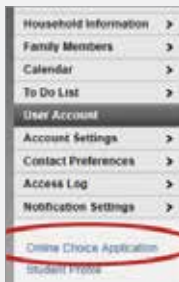
Every school in the district has an online profile that includes contact information, programs, achievement data, pictures, and more. Search for schools that have certain programs or by location.

### Parent Portal ([www.baltimorecityschools.org/portal](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/portal)):

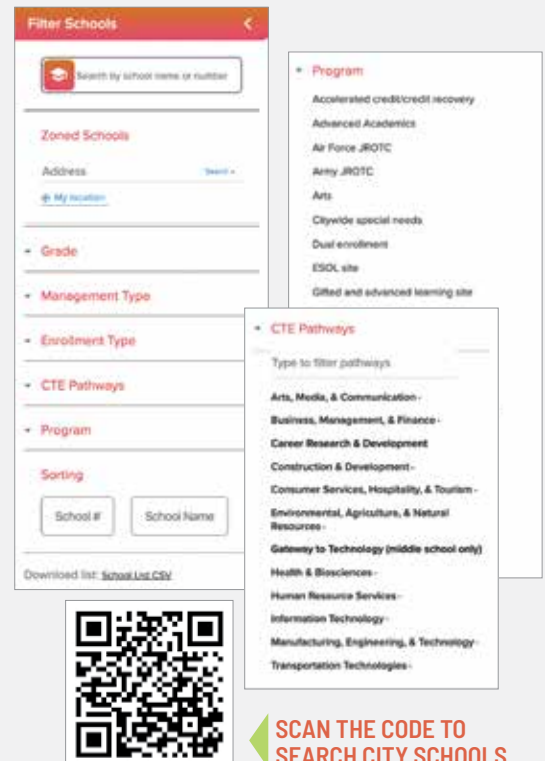
Parents and guardians can access the online choice application, composite scores, and more. If you don't have access to Parent Portal already, ask your current school for your activation key and visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/portal](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/portal) to set up your account.

### Filling out the choice application

Parents and guardians can fill out the choice application online through Parent Portal.



- 1 Log on.
- 2 Click on the "Online Choice Application" link on the left side of the screen.
- 3 Select the student who is filling out the application.
- 4 Select your top five schools.
- 5 Click save.



SCAN THE CODE TO SEARCH CITY SCHOOLS



**Don't have internet access at home? Here are some ways to get the information you need:**

#### Local Library

Visit your local Enoch Pratt library to access the internet and free-Wi-Fi.

#### School Community

All schools have computers that can be accessed by students and families. Contact your choice liaison or Community School Coordinator to learn more about how you can use your school's computers and internet services.

## YOUR SCHOOL CHOICE LIAISON

There's a staff member at your current elementary school – the choice liaison – who can help you find the perfect school for you.

Ask your school's front office staff or visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice) to find the contact information for your school's choice liaison. You can talk to this person about middle school programs, which schools you're eligible to attend, visiting schools you're interested in, how to apply, and more.


## SCHOOL VISITS AND OPEN HOUSES

**Visiting schools is the best way to see which school will be the best fit for you.** We encourage you to visit as many schools as possible to see which ones you'd want to attend. Most open houses are scheduled between October and December. If you missed the scheduled open house, call and ask if you can visit at a different time.

## THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Staff from Enrollment, Choice, and Transfers and the Multilingual Enrollment and Support Center can help families learn about schools, the choice process, and district programs and services. They also act as choice liaisons for students not currently enrolled in City Schools.

You can stop by 200 E. North Ave. to talk to a staff member or call 443.396.8600 to make an appointment.



*Many schools have shadow days where you can partner with a current student and attend classes to get a true feel for the school.*

# Looking at Your Options

1



### What middle school would be the best fit for you?

What makes you want to go to school every day?

What school has programs or classes that fit your interests, talents, passions, and challenges?

How can middle school help you achieve your goals?

2



### Should you stay or move?

If you're currently going to your zoned school and it has middle school grades, you can stay at the same school or choose a different school. Think about whether moving to a different school is the best option for you.

3



### Find out what your school options are.

You need good grades to get into some schools – check Parent Portal to see which schools you can apply to. Other schools have special applications and requirements.

Read pages 14–15 for more information about these schools.

4



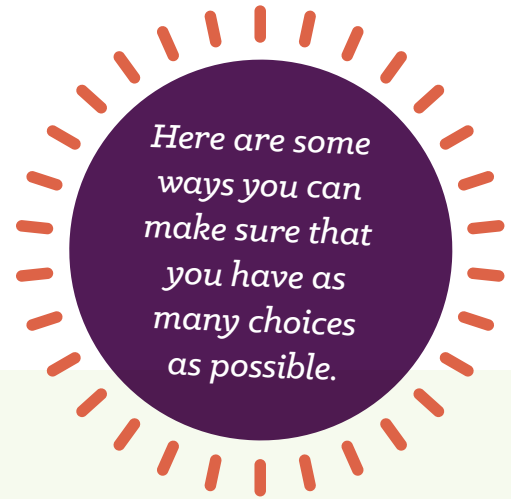
### Make a list of schools you're interested in and eligible to attend.

Learn as much as you can about them – research those schools online, talk with your school choice liaison, visit the schools, or talk with current students and staff members.

# Making Your Plan

## TIPS FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> AND 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

It's never too early to start planning for your future. Did you know that what you do in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade can help give you more middle school options?



### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERYTHING SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER!

Attend every day, participate in class, ask questions, join after-school clubs. This helps you do your best at school and learn more about yourself and the things you are interested in, enjoy, and are good at.

### FIND OUT ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

There are programs across the city where you can explore your interests and talents. For example: The Enoch Pratt Free Library has clubs, activities, and homework help for students. TWIGS at the Baltimore School for the Arts offers free classes in dance, music, stage production and design, visual arts, and storytelling (and is a great way to learn about auditioning to attend that high school). Ask your school counselor for more information.

### WORK HARD AND COME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Learning builds from grade to grade, so getting ready for success in middle school means working hard now. Plus: For several middle school programs, you need to have good grades and a strong history of attendance. Keep your options open by keeping your grades up and not missing any days of school! (Read more about academic entrance criteria on page 15.)

### START LEARNING ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

Visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools) to find out a little about every school. Learn which ones have special programs that might interest you, or special requirements or applications to get in. Use the map to see which ones are close to your home or easy to get to on MTA. Talk to neighbors, friends, or family members about their middle school experiences. For more advice, talk to your school choice liaison or call the district at 410.396.8600.

# Getting Ready to Choose

## TIPS FOR 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE



### THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IN A MIDDLE SCHOOL.

What interests you most about school: Specific subjects? Sports, clubs, or other activities? What type of school will help you be most successful: A school that also has elementary grades or high school grades, or one with only 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade? Big or small? All boys/girls or co-ed?

### LEARN ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS.

Talk with your school choice liaison, visit websites (start at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools)), go to open houses, and talk to friends, neighbors, and family members.

### NARROW DOWN YOUR CHOICES.

Which schools offer what you're looking for? Where are they located? How would you get to schools that aren't walking distance from your home? If you're thinking about Advanced Academics or the Ingenuity Project, are your grades and test scores high enough to be eligible? (See page 12 for more about these programs.)

### MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO APPLY.

For most schools, you'll fill out the district's middle school choice application. The Ingenuity Project and a few schools have different processes and deadlines. Keep your options open by making sure you understand the different application processes and don't miss any deadlines. (See page 14 and talk to your school choice liaison for more information.)

### KEEP WORKING HARD AND COMING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Doing well in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will get you off to a great start in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, grades from the first quarter of 5<sup>th</sup> grade will count toward your eligibility for Advanced Academics and the Ingenuity Project.



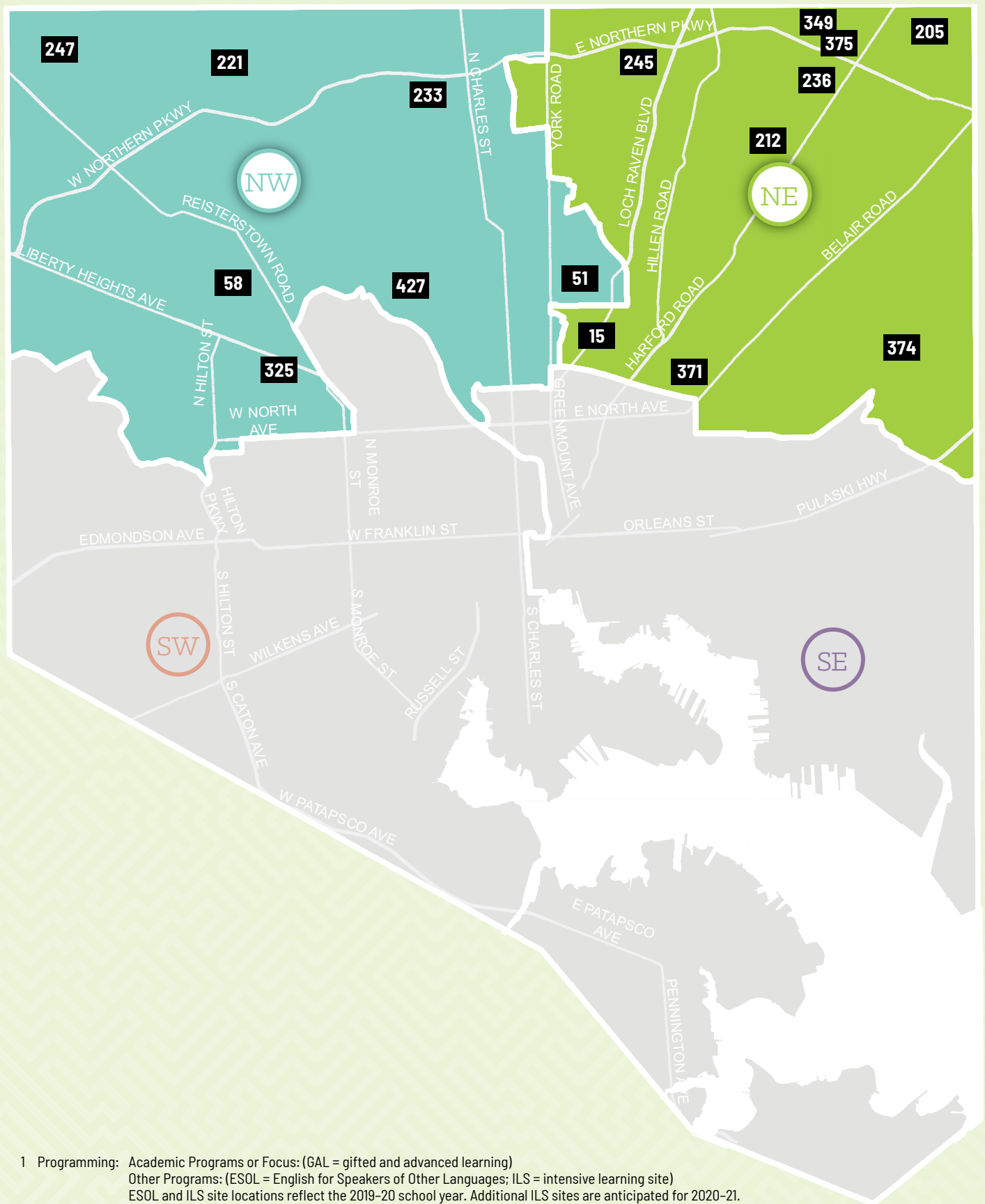
### APPLY.

Include your top five school choices on the district's middle school choice application. Apply separately to any schools that use their own application process. See page 14 and talk to your school choice liaison for more information.

# Schools at a Glance

School Name	School Details		Programming <sup>1</sup>	
	ADMISSION TYPE = AT	ENROLLMENT = E	ACADEMIC = A	OTHER = O
<b>Out-of-Zone Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
Students from outside the neighborhood enrollment zone can apply to attend these schools, which accept out-of-zone students until capacity is reached. (If you live in the enrollment zone for any of these schools, you will be enrolled automatically for middle school.)				
NW #58	<b>Ashburton Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Honors classes; GAL site O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
NE #212	<b>Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A GAL site O Montessori	
NE #245	<b>Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A GAL site O ESOL site	
NW #221	<b>The Mount Washington School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E 401 to 800 students	A Honors courses; GAL site; International Baccalaureate O ESOL site; ILS (restorative practices)	
NE #205	<b>Woodhome Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
<b>Special Programs in Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
You must apply to attend these programs, even if you live in the enrollment zone for the school. Students' home address and zoned school are not considered in accepting students in these programs.				
NW #247	<b>Cross Country Elementary/Middle School: Advanced Academics</b>	AT Academic entrance criteria E Fewer than 400 students	A Project Lead the Way; honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site; ILS (social-emotional learning)	
NE #236	<b>Hamilton Elementary/Middle School: Ingenuity Project</b>	AT Directly through Ingenuity E More than 800	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site	
NW #233	<b>Roland Park Elementary/Middle School: Advanced Academics</b>	AT Academic entrance criteria E More than 800	A Project Lead the Way; honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site	
NW #233	<b>Roland Park Elementary/Middle School: Ingenuity Project</b>	AT Directly through Ingenuity E More than 800	A Project Lead the Way; honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site	
NW #51	<b>Waverly Elementary/Middle School: Advanced Academics</b>	AT Academic entrance criteria E Fewer than 400 students	A Honors classes; GAL site O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
<b>Middle Schools</b>				
NE #15	<b>Stadium School</b>	AT Choice lottery E 401 to 800 students	A GAL site O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
NE #374	<b>Vanguard Collegiate Middle School</b>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Honors classes; GAL site O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
<b>Middle/High Schools</b>				
NW #427	<b>Academy for College and Career Exploration</b>	AT Choice lottery E 401 to 800 students	O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
NW #325	<b>ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School</b>	AT Choice lottery E 401 to 800 students	A Arts; honors classes	
NE #349	<b>NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II<sup>2</sup></b>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Honors classes O ILS (social-emotional learning)	
<b>Charter Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
Some elementary/middle charter schools may have space for new students entering in the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade. These schools are expected to admit students for middle grades for 2020–21. You must contact the school for information about how to apply.				
NE #375	<b>Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys<sup>3</sup></b>	AT Directly through the school E 401 to 800 students; All boys		
NE #371	<b>Lillie May Carroll Jackson School<sup>4</sup></b>	AT Directly through the school E Fewer than 400 students; All girls	O Expeditionary learning	

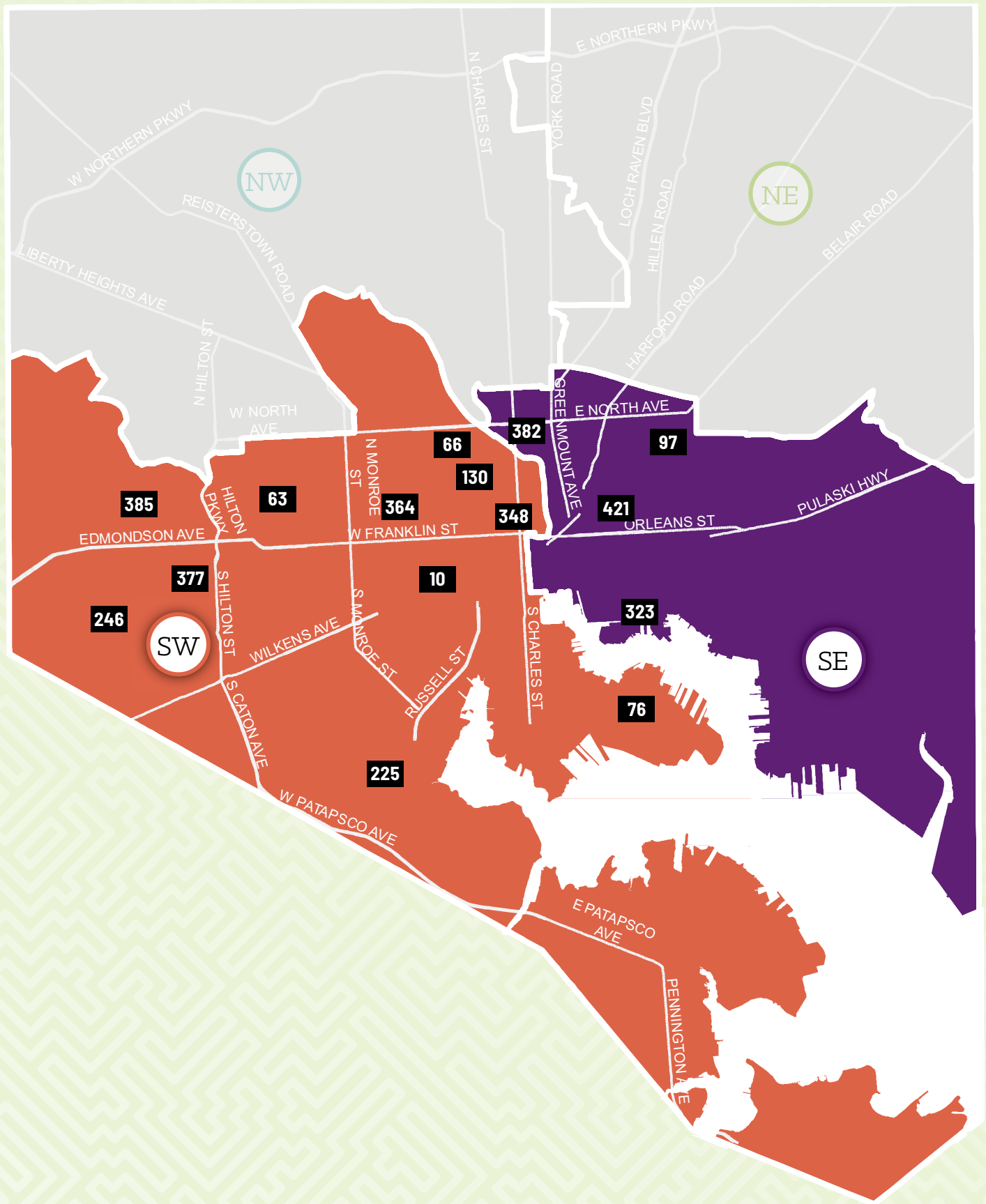




- 1 Programming: Academic Programs or Focus: (GAL = gifted and advanced learning)  
Other Programs: (ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages; ILS = intensive learning site)  
ESOL and ILS site locations reflect the 2019-20 school year. Additional ILS sites are anticipated for 2020-21.  
EGATE is a state award given to schools for excellence in gifted education.
- 2 As part of the district's annual review of schools, the Board of School Commissioners is now considering a recommendation to close this school program as of June 2020. The Board will vote on this recommendation on January 14, 2020. Visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org) or read the renewal report ([bit.ly/NACARenewal](http://bit.ly/NACARenewal)) for more information.
- 3 As part of the district's annual review of schools, the Board of School Commissioners is now considering a recommendation to renew the charter for this school program for 3 years, with conditions. Learn more by reading the school's renewal report ([bit.ly/BaltColl](http://bit.ly/BaltColl)).
- 4 As part of the district's annual review of schools, the Board of School Commissioners is now considering a recommendation to renew the charter for this school program for 3 years. Learn more by reading the school's renewal report ([bit.ly/LMCJSRenewal](http://bit.ly/LMCJSRenewal)).

# Schools at a Glance

School Name	School Details		Programming <sup>1</sup>	
	ADMISSION TYPE = AT	ENROLLMENT = E	ACADEMIC = A	OTHER = O
<b>Out-of-Zone Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
Students from outside the neighborhood enrollment zone can apply to attend these schools, which accept out-of-zone students until capacity is reached. (If you live in the enrollment zone for any of these schools, you will be enrolled automatically for middle school.)				
SW #225	<b>Westport Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Robotics O ILS (restorative practices)	
SW #246	<b>Beechfield Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	O ESOL site; ILS (wholeness)	
SE #97	<b>Collington Square Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	O ILS (social-emotional learning)	
SW #63	<b>Rosemont Elementary/Middle School</b> <i>Available for Choice</i>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students		
<b>Special Programs in Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
You must apply to attend these programs, even if you live in the enrollment zone for the school. Students' home address and zoned school are not considered in accepting students in these programs.				
SW #76	<b>Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School: Advanced Academics</b>	AT Academic entrance criteria E 401 to 800 students	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ESOL site; ILS (restorative practices)	
SW #10	<b>James McHenry Elementary/Middle School: Ingenuity Project</b>	AT Directly through Ingenuity E Fewer than 400 students	A GAL site O ESOL site; ILS (literacy)	
SW #66	<b>Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School: Advanced Academics</b>	AT Academic entrance criteria E 401 to 800 students	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ILS (social-emotional learning)	
SW #66	<b>Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School: Ingenuity Project</b>	AT Directly through Ingenuity E 401 to 800 students	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE O ILS (social-emotional learning)	
<b>Middle and Middle/High Schools</b>				
SE #382	<b>Baltimore Design School</b>	AT Directly through the school (school-based lottery with interest survey) E 401 to 800 students	A Architecture, graphic, and fashion design; honors classes; GAL site	
SW #348	<b>Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women</b>	AT Directly through the school (school-based lottery) E 401 to 800 students; All girls	A Honors classes; GAL site; EGATE	
SW #364	<b>Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West</b>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students; All boys	A Science, technology, engineering, and math O ILS (restorative practices)	
SW #130	<b>Booker T. Washington Middle School</b>	AT Choice lottery E Fewer than 400 students	A Arts O ILS (literacy)	
SW #377	<b>Green Street Academy</b>	AT Directly through the school (school-based lottery) E More than 800	A Environmental studies and greening; honors classes	
SE #421	<b>National Academy Foundation</b>	AT Choice lottery E More than 800	A Honors classes O ESOL site; ILS (social-emotional learning)	
<b>Charter Elementary/Middle Schools</b>				
Some elementary/middle charter schools may have space for new students entering in the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade. These schools are expected to admit students for middle grades for 2020–21. You must contact the school for information about how to apply.				
SW #385	<b>Baltimore International Academy West</b>	AT Directly through the school E Fewer than 400 students	A Language immersion	
SE #323	<b>The Crossroads School</b>	AT Directly through the school (school-based lottery) E Fewer than 400 students	A Project-based learning; honors classes; GAL site O ESOL site	



1 Programming: Academic Programs or Focus: (GAL = gifted and advanced learning)  
 Other Programs: (ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages; ILS = intensive learning site)  
 ESOL and ILS site locations reflect the 2019-20 school year. Additional ILS sites are anticipated for 2020-21.  
 EGATE is a state award given to schools for excellence in gifted education.

# More about Schools and Programs

These special programs are offered at some schools to challenge students, allow them to explore interesting subjects, or get additional help and enrichment.

## HONORS COURSES

Honors classes are serious business! You must be ready to perform above grade level in honors classes, available in math, English, science, and social studies. Because the classes are extra challenging, grades get an added weight which will boost your composite score — so taking and doing well can make it easier for you to get into schools with special requirements, including Baltimore City College and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

## ALGEBRA I

If you've successfully completed honors math in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, you can take Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at some schools. A few schools offer Algebra I by combining online learning and face-to-face teaching.

## ADVANCED ACADEMICS

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades who are accepted into advanced academics will be grouped together for honors courses at these schools. What you learn is the same as honors courses at other schools.

To be eligible to apply for the schools below, you must have a composite score of 355. The schools don't consider any other factors. Students with siblings at these schools or who live in the school zone don't receive preference when applying.

Schools:

- Cross Country Elementary/Middle School
- Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School
- Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School
- Roland Park Elementary/Middle School
- Waverly Elementary/Middle School



## INGENUITY PROJECT

The Ingenuity Project is an accelerated program that emphasizes inquiry, investigation, strong work habits, and a deep understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts. Teachers prepare students to become the next generation of leaders in STEM.

The Ingenuity Project is offered by a City Schools' partner at the below schools and requires a separate application and process. Students with siblings at these schools or who live in the school zone don't receive preference when applying.

See [www.ingenuityproject.org](http://www.ingenuityproject.org) for more information.

Schools:

- Hamilton Elementary/Middle School
- James McHenry Elementary/Middle School
- Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School
- Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY

In this Career and Technical Education program offered at the below schools, students explore engineering by doing challenging and engaging projects in design, modeling, and robotics.

Schools:

- The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School
- Cross Country Elementary/Middle School
- Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All students have equal access and opportunity to participate in all educational programs, including high school choice. IEP teams will work with school-based staff to make sure students with disabilities receive all necessary support, both while they are choosing a high school and after they begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student requires specialized supports beyond the general education setting, based upon a documented need within their IEP, please call our Special Education department at 410.396.8900 for assistance.

## ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs help English learners develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while also supporting their academic skills. ESOL teachers provide English language instruction and also work with teachers in all subject areas to make sure English learners have the support they need to succeed in all their classes.

All English learners have access to ESOL services. Schools noted as "ESOL sites" in the Schools at a Glance list (see pages 8 and 10) have an ESOL teacher for the 2019-20 school year. ESOL sites are adjusted every year based on changes in school population.

Staff in the Multilingual Enrollment and Support Center are available to help families who speak another language with the choice process and enrollment. Please note that you do not need proof of U.S. legal status, immigration documents, citizenship papers, or social security cards to register for school.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE SCHOOLS YOU CHOOSE

Each year, we review how the district as a whole and individual schools are doing in providing all students and families with high-quality school options. This annual school review process helps us create better options for students and families by strengthening low-performing schools, expanding the reach of high-performing schools, tapping into the resources of outside organizations to operate or partner with schools, ensuring as many students as possible have access to modern buildings, and closing schools with poor prospects of improvement for growth. The district's review process takes into account academic performance, enrollment trends, facilities needs, the range of school options available in different areas of the city, and opportunities to create new schools or programs. Depending on the findings of the review, the district recommends that the Board of School Commissioners consider changes at certain schools and programs. Visit the district website at [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org) to find out more. This year's recommendations include the following:

- Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys (renew charter for 3 years; [bit.ly/BaltColl](http://bit.ly/BaltColl))
- Lillie May Carroll Jackson School (renew charter for 3 years; [bit.ly/LMCJSRenewal](http://bit.ly/LMCJSRenewal))
- NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II (closure as of June 2020; [bit.ly/NACARenewal](http://bit.ly/NACARenewal))

The Board of School Commissioners will vote on these recommendations on January 14, 2020. To find out more about this year's recommendations, visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/school-portfolio-review](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/school-portfolio-review).

### Baltimore City Public Schools' Notice of Nondiscrimination

Baltimore City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

For inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, please contact:

Equal Opportunity Manager, Title IX Coordinator, 200 E. North Avenue, Room 208, Baltimore, MD 21202, Phone 410.396.8542, Fax 410.396.2955 **OR**  
Coordinator - Section 504, Special Education and Student Supports, 200 E. North Avenue, Room 210, Baltimore, MD 21202, Phone 443.462.4247.

If you believe you have been treated differently because of your race or color, national origin or ethnicity, religion of creed, sex or gender, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identify or expression, you have the right to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity department. You must file a complaint within 90 days of the most recent act(s) of discrimination or harassment.

# Applying for Middle School

There are three main ways to apply:



## Middle School Choice Application

For schools that have **academic entrance criteria** or use the **school choice lottery** (some schools use the choice application with additional requirements)



## School-Based Application

For schools, including charters, that have their own application processes, including **school-based lottery, audition, or portfolio** submission



## District Office Placement

For **specialized, unique circumstances** that need to be discussed and considered prior to placement (see page 15 for more information)

The Schools at a Glance section on pages 8 and 10 lists the admission type for each school.



**Keep in mind:** If you live in the enrollment zone for an elementary school that does not have middle school grades or feed into a school with those grades, you must choose your middle school for next year — and you get top priority for placement in schools that use the choice lottery.

If you live in the enrollment zone for an elementary/middle school or for an elementary school that is a feeder for a school with middle grades, you can choose a middle school but you don't have to. You will be automatically enrolled in your zoned or feeder school if you don't apply to another school.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE LOTTERY

These schools do not have specific entrance criteria or admissions processes. If these schools do not have space for all the students who apply, a lottery will be used to select the students. You apply for these schools by filling out the choice application. Placement preference is given to students who:

- Live in a neighborhood that does *not* have a zoned option for middle school
- Live in the same quadrant of the city as the school (check with your choice liaison for more information about your quadrant)
- Have a brother or sister already attending the school (documentation is required to show that the brother or sister lives in the same household or is the legal responsibility of the parent or legal guardian)

Space for out-of-zone students in neighborhood elementary/middle schools is limited. Choice lotteries will place out-of-zone students in these schools if there is space only after enrolling students who live in the school's enrollment zone.

## ACADEMIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA

*Important note: City Schools is currently reviewing entrance criteria and composite score calculations. This won't affect current 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students applying this year to Advanced Academics programs in middle school. However, changes may affect future 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students. We'll keep current 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-grade families updated.*

Students can apply for the Advanced Academics program at Cross Country, Francis Scott Key, Mount Royal, Roland Park, or Waverly Elementary/Middle School if they have a **composite score** of 355 or higher. Simply meeting the requirement does not guarantee acceptance, it only gives you the option of applying.

**The composite score is based on results in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the first quarter of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Minimum  
score of  
**355**

*calculated as* general average  
+ attendance rate + math test score  
+ reading test score

Students who apply for Advanced Academics are ranked by composite score and admitted in order until the program is full. Remaining students are put on a waiting list and may be admitted if space opens up.

If you're interested in Advanced Academics at Roland Park or Mt. Royal, you will probably need to score higher than 355 to be admitted because these schools do not have enough space to serve everyone who is eligible to apply. **Last year, the student with the lowest composite score who was admitted to Advanced Academics at Roland Park had a 385; for Advanced Academics at Mt. Royal, it was 375.**

To learn your composite score, speak with your school choice liaison. Parents and guardians can also check students' composite scores through Parent Portal.

## SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS WITH DIRECT APPLICATION PROCESSES (Including Charters)

In addition to the five schools you list on the choice application, you can apply directly to the schools below. Contact the school or check the school or program websites for information about how to apply. Deadlines for these schools and programs are different from the district's choice application deadline.

### **Ingenuity Project at Hamilton, James McHenry, Mount Royal, or Roland Park elementary/middle schools**

Acceptance to this program is based on results from statewide math and English language arts tests, report card

results in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the first quarter of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and results on a test administered by the Ingenuity organization. Interested students must apply directly to Ingenuity by December 20, 2019, and take the test on January 11, 2020. See [www.ingenuityproject.org](http://www.ingenuityproject.org) for information and application forms.

### **School-based lottery**

These charter schools conduct their own lotteries to admit students. Contact the schools for application forms and more information.

- Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys (all boys)
- Baltimore International Academy West
- Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (all girls)
- The Crossroads School
- Green Street Academy
- Lillie May Carroll Jackson School (all girls)

The deadline to apply to charter schools is February 5, 2020.

### **Other school-based processes**

Baltimore Design School: Interested students must complete an interest survey. Contact the school for more information.

## PLACEMENT

The following serve students with special circumstances or needs that can't be met in a traditional school. For more information about whether these schools might be right for you, contact the district office at 410.396.8600.

For students who have fallen behind on credits and need support to get back on track

- Angela Y. Davis Leadership Academy (729)
- Elementary / Middle Alternative Program (734)

For students with disabilities whose needs can't be met in a general education setting

- Claremont School (307)
- Joseph C. Briscoe Academy (345)
- Lois T. Murray Elementary/Middle School (313)
- William S. Baer School (301)

Other special circumstances

- Eager Street Academy (for incarcerated youth)
- Home and Hospital Program (for students with significant health problems)



# KEY DATES

## 2019

October through December: School open house events

December 2: Choice applications become available

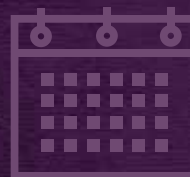
## 2020

January 17: Choice application deadline

February 5: Charter school application deadline

Early March: Choice placement results provided to families

July 20 – August 14: Summer transfer window



## BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Contact Us

Find contact information for individual schools at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/schools)

Departments at the district office › 200 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202

**Enrollment, Choice,  
and Transfers**  
Room 106  
410.396.8600

**Multilingual Enrollment  
and Support Center**  
Room 320  
443.642.4481

**College and  
Career Readiness**  
Room 316  
443.642.3928

**Special  
Education**  
Room 205  
410.396.8900

**General  
Information**  
443.984.2000

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