



**COLUMBUS
CITY SCHOOLS**

GIFTED AND TALENTED

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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Columbus City Schools is pleased to offer families different schooling options to help meet a range of student needs. Through the School Choice Lottery program, families can enroll in schools with unique educational approaches. Columbus City Schools will once again offer Selective Admissions into specific schools, including Arts IMPACT Middle School (AIMS). Fifth grade students identified as gifted in one or more areas of visual and/or performing arts and who are residents within the Columbus City Schools District are eligible to apply for Selective Admissions to AIMS for the 2020-2021 school year.

Arts IMPACT Middle School is a home for artists and thinkers, and the District is pleased to extend this invitation. With up to 20% of seats in the 6th grade class reserved for Selective Admissions, AIMS is looking for candidates who have a passion for an arts-integrated curriculum that drives teaching and learning at the school. Students may apply based on talent in one of the following areas: dance, drama, visual art, instrumental music, and/or vocal music. Students identified as gifted in the Arts are not obligated to apply. Gifted students who are interested in attending their neighborhood middle school or other lottery school and the programs offered to them there, should feel free to continue on their chosen path. This Selective Admissions process is just one more option for students and families.

To participate in the Selective Admissions process, please submit your completed application using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal no later than **January 31, 2020**. If you need your login information for the Parent Portal, please contact your child's school office. If you need access to a computer to submit the application, please visit a district building or your local library.

Acceptance to Arts IMPACT Middle School through the Arts Selective Admissions process is based on several criteria:

- a. Review of the student's portfolio
- b. Transcript (Grade point average will not be a determining factor for acceptance; however, student must have a pattern of achievement appropriate for the intensive integration aspects of the program)
- c. Attendance
- d. Writing sample demonstrating competence in grammar, original thought, creative analysis and a stated philosophy of art integration and academic rigor (to be submitted at the interview)
- e. Families interview with the acceptance panel to ensure that the programmatic needs, student needs, family's desired outcomes and expectations are in alignment with the school mission

Application does not guarantee admission. Offers will be made for Selective Admissions seats in late February. Students not selected through the Selective Admissions process will have the opportunity to participate in the regular lottery for any middle school. School Choice Applications for regular lottery need to be submitted in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by the **February 28, 2020, deadline**.

FAQs CONCERNING AIMS SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS

1. Why should a student wish to apply under Selective Admissions?

The AIMS motto is “To create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning by blending the arts, academic and career programs.” As the motto implies, the mission of the school is to serve students who have a passion for the arts and appreciate and benefit from the integration of the arts into their academic program.

2. What are the timelines for Selective Admissions for 2020?

Jan. 14: Counselors give letters to eligible students to take home; the Division of School Choice emails letters to eligible students with emails on file

Jan. 31: Deadline to submit application online via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Feb. 28: Deadline to submit regular Middle School lottery application if not selected via Selective Admissions

Late February: School Choice staff will begin to notify parent/guardians of selected students of offers to attend all Selective Admissions schools.

3. Can applications be submitted after the deadline if seats are still available?

No. Selective Admissions applications cannot be submitted after January 31, 2020.

4. Can paper applications be submitted?

No. All applications for Selective Admissions, School Choice Lottery, and/or Return to Home School must be made using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If a family does not have access to a computer, they may use a computer at any of the district buildings or their local library.

5. What if I cannot access my Parent Portal account?

You can email a picture ID to parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us requesting your access code (if you have never set up an account) or your user name/password.

6. How will students and parents/guardians know if they are selected?

The Division of School Choice will notify families of a pending offer through an auto-dialer and via email (if an email address is on file in the Parent Portal). Parents/guardians must accept the offer through the School Choice link in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal within 2 days.

7. What if we submit a regular lottery application for other schools by February 28?

It is recommended that a regular lottery application is also submitted when submitting a Selective Admissions application. If the student is selected through the Selective Admissions lottery program for AIMS, all other lottery applications will be canceled. If not selected or if an offer for Selective Admissions is declined, all applications on file will be included in the electronic lotteries if the lottery application was submitted by the established lottery deadline.

8. Will there be any seats left for the regular lottery?

Absolutely. Up to 20% of openings in the 6th grade class at AIMS have been set aside for Selective lottery applicants. Remaining seats will be made available to students through the regular lottery process once students from the Selective Admissions process and students from Duxberry Park have been placed.

9. May students in any grade apply through the Selective Admissions?

No. Selective lottery for AIMS is open to any rising 6th grade student identified as gifted in the visual and/or performing arts.

10. May students who live outside of the Columbus City School District apply for Selective Admissions? No. Students must currently reside within the geographic boundaries of Columbus City Schools.

11. Do Duxberry Park students need to complete the Selective Admissions process if interested in attending Arts Impact Middle School?

No. Placement at AIMS is automatically available to Duxberry Park students who complete a reservation form in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by the January 31st deadline.

12. May students who are not currently identified as gifted in the visual or performing arts apply for and audition for Selective Admissions?

No. Students must currently be identified as gifted in the visual or performing arts prior to Selective Admissions. Because of the time required for the gifted evaluation process in the arts, students may not be screened or assessed for gifted identification between now and the Selective Admissions deadline.

13. May we submit a “Return to Home School” form after accepting Selective Admissions if we change our mind?

Yes. The “Return to Home School” form must be submitted in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by March 24, 2020.