



**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.

January 14, 2020

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 lottery program, families can enroll in schools with unique educational approaches. Columbus will once again offer Selective Admissions to specific schools, including Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School. Students identified as gifted in one or more area of visual and/or performing arts and residents within the Columbus City Schools District are eligible to apply for Selective Admissions to Fort Hayes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Fort Hayes is a home for artists and thinkers, and the district is pleased to extend this invitation. With up to 20% of open seats reserved for Selective Admissions, Fort Hayes is looking for candidates who have a passion for the 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, or vocal music. Identified students are not obligated to apply, and students currently enrolled in high school and pleased with the programs offered to them there should continue on their chosen path. This Selective Admissions process is just one more option for students and families.

In order 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.

After receiving the application, the Fort Hayes selections team will contact you to schedule an informational meeting to further explain the Selective enrollment process, including audition and portfolio requirements. Acceptance to Fort Hayes through the arts Selective Enrollment process is based on several criteria:

- a. Competitive audition and/or an extensive 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 (must be presented at time of 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 and Selective Admissions seats filled in late February. Students not selected through the Selective Admissions process will have the opportunity to participate in the regular lottery for any high school if a School Choice Application has been submitted by the *February 28, 2020*, deadline.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Milton Ruffin, Principal at Fort Hayes, at 365-6681. Additional information can be found online at <https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/1181>.

FAQs CONCERNING FORT HAYES SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS

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

The Fort Hayes 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. May students apply for Fort Hayes and CAHS and/or Eastmoor Academy?**

Eligible students may apply for both Fort Hayes and either CAHS or Eastmoor Academy if they meet the eligibility criteria for both programs.
- 3. 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 will email 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 High 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.
- 4. Can applications be submitted after the deadline if seats are still available?**

No. Selective Admissions applications cannot be submitted after the January 31, 2020, deadline.
- 5. 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.
- 6. What if I cannot access my Parent Portal account?**

You can email a photo ID to parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us requesting your access code (if you have never set up an account) or your username/password. Parents/guardians of students newly enrolling in the district will receive the login information at the enrollment appointment.
- 7. How will students and parents/guardians know if they are selected?**

The Division of School Choice will notify families of a pending offer via an auto-dialer and email (if an email address is available in the Parent Portal). Parents/guardians must accept the offer within the Infinite Campus Parent Portal within 2 days.
- 8. What if we submit a regular lottery application for other schools by February 28?**

It is recommended that families submit a regular lottery application along with the Selective Admissions application. If the student is selected through the Selective lottery program for Fort Hayes and accepts the offer, 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.
- 9. Will there be any seats left for the regular lottery?**

Absolutely. Up to 20% of open seats at Fort Hayes have been set aside for Selective lottery applicants. All other seats will be made available to students through the regular lottery process once the Selective lottery applicants and AIMS middle school students have been placed.
- 10. May upperclassmen apply through Selective Admissions?**

Yes. Selective lottery is open to any student identified as gifted in the visual and/or performing arts.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Do Arts Impact Middle School students need to complete the Selective Admissions process if interested in attending Fort Hayes?**

No. Placement at Fort Hayes Academy is automatically available to AIMS students through the completion of a Reservation in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by the January 31st deadline.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.