

Bell's Crossing Middle School Memo

Dear Parents,

I know it may seem soon, as your child has just started their 5th grade school year, but it is time to begin thinking about your child's middle school options, especially if you are considering having your child apply for a charter school and/or magnet school. These schools have application deadlines that usually occur in early fall. The best place to locate the information on all the middle school options for next year is on the Greenville County website links listed below. Greenville County has done a great job of providing parents with detailed information on all their children's middle school options.

General Middle School Profiles:

Click on each middle school to learn more about them.

School Choice/Change in Assignment Lottery Process:

This link provides information in regards to your child attending a school they are not zoned for and are not a magnet school. (This includes Fisher Middle any other school that is not in your attendance zone in Greenville County.) Click the link above for step by step directions of lottery process.

*Note: Request for Change in Assignment window open Nov. 21 – Dec. 6. Results are mailed out sometime in February – March. When you are applying you will go to our TOP choice school and fill out the application there. At that location you may list your other 2 backup choices without having to go to those schools to apply as well.

Magnet School Info/Application Process:

A magnet school is public school offering special instruction and programs not available elsewhere, designed to attract a more diverse student body from throughout a school district. Greenville County School District has 11 magnet academies that offer an academic theme or focus that allows students to explore a special interest, gift, talent and/or skill at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Applications for the following school year are accepted each year beginning in November. Magnet slots are limited at each magnet academy. Applications will become available through parent backpack at the opening of each magnet application window.

- The first Magnet application window opens Nov. 21st. See [here](#) for the following application windows.

***Beck Academy (International Relations & Public Service Program)** – Open House is Thursday, Oct. 17th at 5:30pm. More info is available via their [magnet website](#). Tours by appointment only. Sign up also available on magnet website.

***Hughes Academy (Science & Technology Program)** – Prospective Parent/Magnet Night Open House is Monday, Oct. 21st at 5:30pm. More info is also available on the [Hughes Magnet Website](#). Tours are offered during the school day by appointment. To schedule call the Magnet Coordinator, Marsha Patry, at 355-6224.

***Greenville Middle Academy (Traditional & Global Studies and French Immersion Programs)** – The Magnet Open House is Thursday, October 24th at 5:30pm and more info is available virtually on their [website](#). Tours can also be arranged by calling 355-5660 or emailing ssimpson@greenville.k12.sc.us.

***League Academy (Communication Arts Program)** – Magnet Open House held Tuesday, Oct. 22nd at 6pm. For more info, see their [website](#).

Charter Schools:

Charter schools are independent public schools that are nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home-based, and nonprofit. Charter schools operate under the authority of their own school board and are free of many state regulations. You will need to visit their websites for information about how to apply.

Private Schools:

For those who are considering private school for your child, you will need to contact the private school directly to inquire about their application/registration process.

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I apply to more than one magnet school? Yes.

What if I apply to a Magnet School and/or Charter School and I decide not to attend? First and foremost, your child can always attend their home-based school. You will need to notify your child's current school, as well as, Planning and Demographics of this change as soon as possible. This is important! In the early spring when students/teachers are making course selections your child needs to be assigned the correct school with the correct course options. The numbers enrolled at a school in the spring will determine if there are additional spots that are now open to students who may have been on a waiting list at a charter school, magnet school, or in the lottery.

*Note: This also applies for the lottery process – for example: Your child gets selected from the lottery to attend a school not in their attendance zone, but you decide he/she is going to stick with their home-based middle school or maybe a magnet school or charter school they may have gotten accepted into early in the school year.

What if I want to tour a school that I may be interested in my child attending? Check the middle school websites. The websites should have information about how to schedule a tour. Magnet schools and charter schools will offer an informational meeting in the fall. Your child's home-based school will have a rising 6th grade parent night sometime after Jan. (Note: Even if you have applied for magnet/charter schools and were accepted you can still attend your child's home-based parent info night to help you make a firm decision about your child's middle school placement.)

What if I would like for my child to tour the middle school they will be attending? Bell's will typically provide a field trip for students who will be attending our zoned feeder middle schools (Hillcrest Middle and Riverside Middle ONLY). If your child is attending any other school you will need to contact the school about requesting that tour. Many middle schools such as magnet schools and charter schools may offer specific tour dates/times for rising 6th graders. Please view their websites for additional information.

We hope you find this information helpful as you begin making decisions on your child's middle school for next year!