

McFadden School of Excellence

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is McFadden a county or city school?

A. McFadden School of Excellence is a Rutherford County Magnet School of choice for K – 5 students. Any student living in Rutherford County (including Murfreesboro, Smyrna, LaVergne) can apply. Proof of residence is required. Applications of persons living outside Rutherford County will not be processed.

Q. Where do I get an application?

A. Applications are available on our school website at www.mes.rcschools.net under the About Us Link under Admissions.

Q. How many slots are available for each grade?

A. We will adjust the number of slots as we are notified of student transfers throughout the year and summer. New students are accepted up to Labor Day of each year and again depending upon openings after Christmas break. Known openings each year are in kindergarten (60) and in 4th grade (15).

Q. How does the enrollment process work?

A. It is imperative that the completed application is received in our office between **January 8, 2019 and January 31, 2019**. Please call to check the status of your child's application, specifically the teacher recommendation (it is faxed). Students will be scheduled for screenings that will take place in late January or February. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Confirming completion is the responsibility of the parent.

Q. What type of screening is used for incoming students?

A. The screening instrument is a cognitive assessment that predicts a child's ability for academic success in our program. Each grade has an added component relative to their curriculum standards in the screening. The assessment instrument has been updated to secure the validity of the test. Parents will be contacted to schedule screenings. **Screening slots must be selected from available dates and times – we cannot work around pre-school, dance lessons, etc. All applicants will be screened.**

Q. What is Phase Two?

A. Applications received after January 31 are placed into the Phase Two application pool and are only screened in the event we do not have enough eligible students from Phase One.

Q. What are the steps to being accepted?

A. Upon completion of all screenings, all student applications are ranked from highest to lowest test score. Students that have the same score are pooled together and drawn randomly to be placed in order. The exception is the sibling rule.

Example for kindergarten: Three hundred students are screened for Kindergarten. The top sixty scores are offered a spot at McFadden. The remaining 240 are placed in order of their score on the waiting list. As students decline slots, families are contacted and offered their spot.

Q. What is the sibling rule?

A. Siblings of students already attending McFadden get priority entrance if they score a 118 or higher on the screening instrument. Siblings not scoring 118 are placed in the waiting list with all other applicants.

Q. What do student typically score on the screening?

A. Based on averages of past screenings, students typically score between 100 and 130.

Q. What other information is required for entrance?

A. We ask for a recommendation and parent questionnaire for incoming students. Grades 1 – 5 require a teacher recommendation, semester report card and attendance data.

Q. Are parents allowed to visit McFadden before making a decision?

A. Because of the large number of interested parents, we have tours scheduled every Wednesday at 1:00 in January and February. Please call the school office to be placed on the tour list. Please inform the office what grade level your child will be entering. Dr. Blair will lead the tours and answer questions. Tours will not take time away from classes.

Q. When will we be notified of our entrance status?

A. It generally takes us the entire month of February to review/screen applicants. Letters should be mailed by the second week in March. There are 2 letters: "Yes, you are accepted;" "Yes, you met criteria and are # _____ on the waiting list,"

If on the waiting list, you will be contacted as soon as an opening occurs that affects your status.

Q. Can I get a copy of my child's scores from the screening?

A. Due to the volume of screenings, we do not send out individual scoring information.

R. If my child did not gain entrance, must I reapply the following year?

A. Yes, students must reapply each year if still interested in our program.

Q. If I move from the city to county after the January 31 deadline, will it change the status of my application?

A. No.

Q. Does my child have to be retested or maintain a level of achievement to remain in the program once accepted?

A. No, a formal test is not given each year to remain in the program. However, academics and good behavior are important. Students can be removed if academic success or good behavior does not occur.

Additional Information:

- Transportation is the responsibility of the parent; there are no buses at McFadden.
- School hours are 7:45 to 2:45. Doors open at 7:00AM. All students must be picked up by 3:00PM
- The date the application is received in our office (in January), standardized scores, or gifted status does not increase your acceptance opportunity.
- To qualify for sibling status, the family must have a student already enrolled for 2019-2020.
- After school care is available through the YMCA Fun Company. We do not have any before school care.
- Students in Grades K – 2 participate in Communication Connections which are units based around our theme of Communication Arts with Technology. Connections occur three times throughout the year for a four-week period. Connections are approximately one hour each day, Monday through Thursday.
- Our theme of Communication Arts with Technology is incorporated into our core curriculum for students in Grades 3-5.
- When addresses are questionable, they will be checked for validity. Students outside of Rutherford County will not be considered.
- Kindergarten students must turn five by August 15, 2019 to apply for kindergarten.