

Frequently Asked Questions about Blythe Academy



1. How do we sign up for our choice of language preference?

All parents (home-based or magnet) will receive a form to fill out to inform us of your language preference. Magnet parents will have the choice of Spanish Partial Immersion or French Partial Immersion. Home-based students will have the choice of Spanish Partial Immersion, French Partial Immersion, or Spanish FLES.

2. How are students chosen for the partial immersion slots?

We will take the language preference sheets for the home-based and assign those children to the language program of your choice provided space is available. Magnet students who are accepted through the computerized lottery process will be placed in the language program you selected when you applied.

3. How are new students in 2nd - 5th grade chosen?

2nd - 5th grade applicants are scored and placed on a wait list after each round. The parents can appeal the decision and the child will be screened by a Spanish or French speaker for their fluency, understanding, reading, and writing level. This is to insure that they are a match for our school and can be successful in our Spanish or French program.

4. Does it help to call and check on my child's wait list status?

No, we will contact you when a slot becomes available for your child.

5. Are siblings given priority for magnet acceptance?

Yes, siblings of returning magnet students for the next school year are given priority for acceptance in **ROUND 1** only. They must complete the application as all other students do and must make a qualifying score of 16 out of 22 points. Siblings will be accepted in the order of their scores (22 points, then 21.5 points, etc.). After all siblings with a score of 16 points or higher have been accepted, then non-siblings are accepted beginning with the highest scores. This policy applies to all

magnet schools.

6. Are any students given priority for a particular language preference?

Yes, if they are a sibling of a student already in that language program.

7. What is the lottery system and how does it work?

It is common for two or more qualifying students to have the same numerical score. The lottery is used to determine the order in which students with the same score are accepted. The lottery system is used in all programs and at all grade levels whenever there are more qualified applicants than there are available spaces. The computer system will conduct the lottery.

8. How does the wait list system work?

When needed, a wait list is maintained from the first round of admissions through the first semester of the following school year. Students who are on the wait list must reapply for the next year. When a magnet vacancy occurs at a given grade level, the next student requesting the same language program on the wait list in that grade level is offered the slot. Students on the wait list should complete the registration process at their assigned schools and attend their home based schools' orientation meetings. There is no guarantee that a student on the wait list will be offered a space in a magnet program.

9. If a student applies and is not accepted, when can they apply again?

Students who apply and meet the qualifications for admission are placed on a wait list until new applications are available for the following school year. These students do not need to reapply during the time they are on the wait list. They are eligible to reapply during the magnet schools' open enrollment period for the next year. Students who fail to qualify for admission (less than 16 points) during the first through fifth rounds may not reapply until after the second semester (end of the school year). Numerical scores are calculated using student records from the previous school year.

10. How is attendance evaluated and weighted in the admissions process?

Attendance is one of four factors and accounts for 4 of the total 22 points. The standard for acceptable attendance is five or fewer absences per semester. (Absences due to certifiable illness, religious holidays, or death in the family will be exempt). Students with five or fewer absences receive 4 points. Students whose numbers of absences exceed five will receive 0 points.

11. How are immersion students evaluated in math and science?

Students are assessed by the foreign language instructor throughout the year in their second language. Students in grades 3-5 are also required to take the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) in the Spring of each year. The IOWA (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) is given to second grade students in the Fall of each year. The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is given electronically twice a year to measure growth in Reading, Language Usage, Science, and Math. Students in grade 2-5 take these

tests. These achievement tests are all given in English. There is an automatic transference of knowledge between English and the target language.

12. What if my child has difficulty in the immersion program?

Just as in any other subject area, a child may experience difficulty in immersion classes. It is not necessarily a language problem. Whether it is a parent or teacher expressing the concern, we have a team that will meet and review individual student's data that has been collected. This team will suggest intervention strategies and the parent will be notified. All resources will be utilized before a child is removed from the immersion program. If a homebase child is removed, they will be placed in a regular classroom with 30-45 minutes of foreign language daily which is called FLES (foreign language in the elementary school). If a magnet child is removed, they will need to return to their homebase school. FLES is not available for magnet students.

13. Is there a fee involved for magnet students?

Magnet schools do not charge a tuition fee for students who live in Greenville County. If accepted, students who reside outside of Greenville County are required to pay out-of-county tuition. For specific information about out-of-county tuition, please contact the Greenville County Schools Central Office (864)355-3100.