

SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

ADMISSIONS AND LOTTERY PROCESS

Incoming Third Graders for 2024-2025

The School of Innovation engages students and teachers in innovative approaches to problem-solving with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students receive instruction in all content areas, as well as music, art and physical education, and much of the content is presented through a trans-disciplinary approach. Band begins at fifth grade. The students participate in flexible grouping depending upon their skills, interests and the units of instruction. Once students reach the middle school grades, they will return to their home school for sports. The School of Innovation, also referred to as SOI, serves as a model learning environment for other schools in our district, the county, the state and the nation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Current grade 2 students (students who are in grade 2 for the 2023-2024 school year) may apply for the 2024-2025 third grade class. Students in any other grade level are not eligible. We only accept new applications from students who are entering the third grade. There are 75 students per grade level.

Only Willoughby-Eastlake City School District residents may apply. We do not accept open enrollment from other districts. Residency will be verified.

Siblings are not automatically accepted. Each student must apply separately.

If a district employee does not reside in the district, their children are not eligible.

Current grade 2 students with Gifted ID (Superior Cognitive ID with Reading and/or Math ID) will receive an invitation to attend based upon their gifted identification eligibility.

Any current grade 2 student who does not receive an invitation based on gifted identification status is eligible to submit an application via the Lottery Process.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED EACH YEAR?

75 students are admitted each year in the new third grade class. The number of lottery spots available depends upon how many gifted students are admitted. For example, if 45 gifted students are admitted, then there will be 30 spots available for lottery recipients.

If more students apply than there are available spots, then a waiting list will be developed. For example, if 100 students apply and there are 30 spots available, the other 70 students will be placed on a waiting list. If a student withdraws, we will contact the first person on the waiting list. If that person doesn't accept, we continue contacting parents in order until the spot is filled. See section below for more information regarding the lottery process.

GIFTED IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT INFORMATION

All currently enrolled second graders in the district are assessed using a standardized cognitive abilities test and an achievement test in the fall (October/November).

To be eligible for gifted identification and receive an invitation to attend the School of Innovation based on their Gifted ID status, students must meet the following criteria:

- Superior Cognitive Ability (128 based on the CogAT or a qualifying score on another assessment that is on the Ohio Department of Education’s approved assessment list).
- Achievement (95%tile in Reading or Math on an assessment that is on the Ohio Department of Education’s approved assessment list).

Parents of private school students who are current second graders and will be third graders in 2024-2025 need to provide test scores as documentation of gifted identification. Testing documentation from private school parents must be provided no later than December 1, 2023 to be considered for the School of Innovation based on gifted identification status. Private school parents should contact Lisa George, Gifted Coordinator, with questions regarding the testing process and gifted identification. **If you are requesting testing for your private school child, that request must be made to Lisa George by November 3, 2023.**

Private school students who are current second graders and will be third graders in 2024-2025 who are not identified as gifted may apply through the lottery process. Private school parents are responsible for keeping informed of the process and adhering to all dates because the district does not maintain contact information for students not enrolled in the district.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

A timeline has been established for the application process. Dates are subject to change if necessary and will be communicated.

October 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. via Google Meet	Parent Information Night – Join us to learn more about the School of Innovation and the application and admissions process.
End of January/Beginning of February	Invitation letters mailed to second graders who met gifted identification criteria
Middle of February	Accept/Decline responses from parents of identified gifted second graders due to the Board of Education via Google Form
March 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.	Online Application Opens for the Lottery (A link will be posted on the website and emailed to parents of enrolled second graders)
March 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.	Online Application Closes for the Lottery
April 3, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.	Lottery Drawing Streamed Live Online
Week of April 8, 2023	Lottery Recipients Notified - Accept/Decline via Google Form
April 19, 2024	Lottery Recipients - Responses Due
May 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Open House for Incoming Third Graders at the School of Innovation

WHAT DO I NEED FOR THE LOTTERY APPLICATION?

The Lottery Application is online. It will be available via a link to the Google application form on the School of Innovation website on March 1, 2024. You will need the following information in order to enter your current second grader in the lottery. If you do not have access to a computer for the online application, you can submit a paper application (request a paper application from the Board of Education christy.miller@weschools.org).

- Last name of student
- First name of student
- Student ID (The student ID can be located on your child’s report card or in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This is the same number your child uses as their Lunch ID. If you cannot locate their number, please contact the secretary at your child’s current school). If your child is a private school student, please email lisa.george@weschools.org and request a temporary ID number for the lottery process.
- Gender
- Current Elementary School
- Grade of Student for the 2024-2025 school year (must be a third grader for 2024-2025)
- Parent/Guardian Last Name
- Parent/Guardian First Name
- Parent/Guardian Street Address, City and Zip Code
- Parent/Guardian Email Address
- Parent/Guardian Primary and Secondary Phone Numbers

HOW DOES THE LOTTERY PROCESS WORK?

Students are entered into the lottery using their district student ID number. The student ID numbers are entered into a computer program. The computer program randomly chooses the numbers. For example, if there are 100 applicants, the computer program will randomly pull student ID numbers one at a time until all 100 numbers have been pulled. The order in which they are generated determines the child’s spot in the lottery. If there are 30 spots available in the third grade class, the first 30 student ID numbers pulled in order will be assigned a number, A1, A2, A3, etc. until we have numbers pulled for A1 – A30. “A” stands for “Accepted.” Those students will be issued a letter of invitation to attend SOI. After the first 30 numbers are generated, the computer will randomly pull the remaining numbers which will be designated W1, W2, W3, etc. until all numbers have been pulled and the waitlist includes W1 – W70. “W” stands for “Waitlist.” The waitlist is always posted on the SOI website so parents can keep track of where their student is on the waitlist by their student ID number.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about:

School of Innovation Academics and Operations
Application Process
Gifted Identification

Michael Bonick	440-283-4234	michael.bonick@weschools.org
Zachary Weagley	440-975-3755	zachary.weagley@weschools.org
Lisa George	440-283-2227	lisa.george@weschools.org