

## SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

### ADMISSIONS AND LOTTERY PROCESS

#### Incoming Third Graders for 2021-2022

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 2020-2021 school year) may apply for the 2021-2022 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 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 MAP or another 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 2021-2022 need to provide test scores as documentation of gifted identification. Testing documentation from private school parents must be provided no later than December 4, 2020 to be considered for the School of Innovation based on gifted identification status. Private school parents should contact Alison Ciferno, 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 Alison Ciferno by November 20, 2020.**

Private school students who are current second graders and will be third graders in 2021-2022 who are not identified as gifted may apply through the lottery process.

### APPLICATION TIMELINE

A timeline has been established for the application process.

<b>November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Virtual</b>	Parent Information Night – Join us to learn more about the School of Innovation and the application and admissions process. This has been changed to a virtual meeting.
<b>Week of February 8, 2021</b>	Invitation letters mailed to second graders who met gifted identification criteria
<b>February 19, 2021</b>	Accept/Decline responses from parents of identified gifted second graders due to the Board of Education via Google Form
<b>February 26, 2021 at 4 p.m.</b>	Online Application Opens for the Lottery (A link will be posted on the website and emailed to parents of enrolled second graders)
<b>March 10, 2021 at 4 p.m.</b>	Online Application Closes for the Lottery
<b>March 19, 2021 at 12 p.m.</b>	Lottery Drawing Streamed Live Online
<b>Week of March 29, 2021</b>	Lottery Recipients Notified - Accept/Decline via Google Form
<b>April 9, 2021</b>	Lottery Recipients - Responses Due
<b>May 6, 2021 at 6 p.m.</b>	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 February 26, 2021. 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 [gina.kevern@weschools.org](mailto:gina.kevern@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 [gina.kevern@weschools.org](mailto:gina.kevern@weschools.org) and request a temporary ID number for the lottery process.
- Gender
- Current Elementary School
- Grade of Student for the 2021-2022 school year
- 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

Brian Patrick	440-283-4234	<a href="mailto:brian.patrick@weschools.org">brian.patrick@weschools.org</a>
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Alison Ciferno	440-283-2227	<a href="mailto:alison.ciferno@weschools.org">alison.ciferno@weschools.org</a>