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IMMERSION SCHOOL

## **Guidance on Minnesota Wildflower Montessori School's Enrollment Policy**

Acorn Montessori is an affiliate of Minnesota Wildflower Montessori School, a tuition free public charter school serving grades K-8. Three and four year olds at Acorn Montessori may apply for admission to the fee-based preschool program. Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the school year, may apply for admission to the tuition free Kindergarten program.

### **Open Enrollment Period**

Acorn Montessori admits students to its tuition free Kindergarten annually. **The Open Enrollment period for the 2018-19 school year is June 6 - July 13, 2018, at 5:00pm.** Open Enrollment for subsequent school years will be determined by the school site advisory council.

### **Preference**

As outlined in MN Statute 124E.11 enrollment preference for the Acorn Montessori kindergarten program must be given to siblings of students currently enrolled in the Acorn Montessori kindergarten program, foster children of parents of enrolled kindergarten children, and children of school employees.

Students who are enrolled in the Acorn Montessori fee based preschool program do not receive enrollment preference for kindergarten and must submit an enrollment application as any other student would.

### **Lottery (Kindergarten only)**

If more kindergarten enrollment applications are received during the Open Enrollment period than available openings, students will be admitted by lottery, with preference given to siblings of enrolled kindergarten students, foster children of parents of enrolled in kindergarten, and children of school employees. To be included in the lottery, guardians must apply before the deadline set by the school's site advisory council. Any students who are not enrolled will be placed on a waitlist. If openings become available, they will be offered to families on the

waitlist in the order they appeared on the list. **The 2018/2019 lottery will be held at 6:00pm on July 16, 2018 at Sabathani Community Center - 310 East 38th Street Minneapolis, MN 55409. The public is invited to attend but need not be present.**

### **First Come First Served (Kindergarten only)**

If the Open Enrollment period ends and there are still openings for enrollment, those seats will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis for children whose guardians submit completed application in the order those applications are received. Once all openings are filled, any child whose guardian submits a complete application will be placed on a wait list in the order in which their application was received.

### **Kindergarten Transition**

Families who opt not to continue to enroll their child in Acorn Montessori for Kindergarten, or who are unable to obtain a seat in Kindergarten due to a competitive lottery process, will receive educational materials and coaching from Acorn Montessori teachers regarding how to support their child in the transition to a new school environment. Parents will be invited to a one-on-one conference with Acorn Montessori teachers to discuss their Kindergarten plans and their child's unique needs and development.

Parents' deep involvement in their child's education at Acorn Montessori will ensure that they are well prepared to support their child's transition to Kindergarten, whether it be within Acorn Montessori or to another school environment outside of the charter school.

A kindergartener is a child age five by September 1 of the school year. If a family submits a kindergarten application for a four-year-old, the family must request an evaluation by the school staff when the child's application is drawn in the lottery. We will use a comprehensive evaluation that will be used to help determine the child's cognitive, social and emotional development and the child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations, and will be aligned with state kindergarten expectations. We will also utilize a parent report and teacher observation of the child's knowledge, skills and abilities. This will all be documented in official board policy and posted on our website.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Per MWMS articles of incorporation, this corporation shall not discriminate, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, religion, sex or gender, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or status with regard to public assistance. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this corporation shall admit to the school, students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Further, this corporation shall not discriminate, on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other programs administered by this corporation.

### **Legal References**

Minnesota Statute Sections [124E.11](#) and [363A.13](#)