

The Museum School of Avondale Estates Fact Sheet

What grades are included?

The Museum School serves students in grades Kindergarten – 8th grade.

How is the curriculum structured?

- The Museum School's curriculum is data-driven and research-based. The curriculum programs and museum model have led to documented increased student achievement. Our differentiated curriculum focuses on individual learning styles and readiness levels. Classroom activities and lessons are often project-based and hands-on.
- Daily curriculum programs include Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop and Eureka Math and are based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence.
- We offer Related Arts/Exploratory classes in music, art, physical education, Spanish, & STEM.
- We offer a full range of services for students in Special Education, Gifted, EIP (Early Intervention Program), REP (Remedial Education Program) and ELL (English Language Learners).
- We assess students using local, state and national measures to determine student strengths and areas to be developed. This data will influence overall school goals, school improvement plans and professional development.
- The Museum School model features an Exhibit Night every 9 weeks, when the school becomes a museum and showcases student projects and activities directly related to thematic units. Partnerships with museums and other community organizations allow students to learn through direct interaction with museum exhibits and staff.
- Learning expeditions take place, on average, every other week. These interactive experiences are focused on specific exhibits and standards and lead to reflections in travel journals and Exhibit Night projects.

What are the school's hours, and does it provide before-school and after-school care?

At 7:30 a.m., students may begin arriving. Classes start at 8:00 am. Dismissal is at 3:00 pm for elementary students and 3:20 pm for middle grades students. We follow DeKalb County Schools' testing calendar and emergency alerts in case of inclement weather.

Before care, after-school programs and clubs are available to all students for a fee. The after-school program ends at 6:30 p.m. For more information regarding fees, dates, times and specific programs, visit our website at www.themuseumschool.org.

Does the school provide on-site lunches?

The Museum School participates in the Federal Lunch Program; lunch is available to all students on the school premises. Reduced and free lunches are available to eligible students.

Are uniforms required?

School uniforms are mandatory. Uniform style is pants, shorts, or skirt and collared, polo-style shirts. The colors are pale blue and navy blue. For more details on our uniform policy, visit our website at www.themuseumschool.org.

What is the enrollment process?

Open enrollment is held Jan. 4 – Feb. 12. Applications are completed electronically and can be accessed at www.themuseumschool.org. Or, applications can be completed at the school.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the attendance zone for The Museum School of Avondale Estates will be divided into two areas. First priority will be given to children of families living in focus area 1, which follows the attendance lines established by the DeKalb County School System for Avondale and Peachcrest Elementary Schools (the former Knollwood Elementary School and the former Midway Elementary School). If space allows, priority will be given to children of families living in focus area 2, which is defined as the remainder of DeKalb County.

What if more students apply than the school can accommodate?

If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building, all students who applied during the open enrollment period will have an equal chance at admission through a random selection process.

Is there a sibling enrollment preference, and are existing students guaranteed placement each year?

Yes. Siblings of an enrolled student are given priority placement during the lottery. If a child is offered a place in the school, admission will be offered to all of his or her siblings, based on available space. Once students enroll and attend, they retain placement in the school, unless they withdraw.

How will the school's new weighted lottery work?

In accordance with OCGA 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A), the school will utilize a weighted lottery to provide an increased chance of admission to economically disadvantaged students. To facilitate the weighted lottery, applicants can indicate their "economically disadvantaged" status on the admissions application and such status will be verified as part of the registration process. The weight for economically disadvantaged students will be calculated annually by The Museum School Board of Directors using a formula established in the charter contract.

Does the school provide transportation?

It is the goal of The Museum School to ensure that transportation will not be a barrier to any interested student or family. The school will survey all incoming families each spring to assess transportation needs for the following school year. The school will offer transportation as needed based on survey results. Additionally, the Museum School charters buses to and from learning expeditions.

Is the school financially and fiscally responsible?

Yes, the school's Business Manager and Principal work closely with the board-level Finance Committee to ensure the school is implementing sound financial policies. The Finance Committee is chaired by the board's CFO and reviews statements and reports monthly. The Museum School consistently operates within its budget.

Contact Principal Mike Stewart at mike.stewart@themuseumschool.org with questions.

Fast Facts: Demographics and Services

Total Enrollment: 588

Race/Ethnicity: 53% White, 32% Black, 7% Hispanic/Latino, 5% Multi-racial, 3% Asian

ELL: 2% of total population

Free and Reduced Lunch: 31% of total population

Gifted: 24% of total population

Exceptional Student Education: 9% of total population

1st Grade Sample Daily Schedule

8:00	School begins - Morning Announcements, Morning Meeting
8:20–9:45	Reader's Workshop (Lucy Calkins' Units of Study, private and partner reading, ability-based guided reading groups, word study)
9:50–10:35	Writer's Workshop (Lucy Calkins Units' of Study)
10:40–11:00	Morning Recess
11:05–11:35	Lunch
11:40–12:50	Eureka Math
12:55–1:40	Social Studies/Science Unit (based on curriculum map, learning expeditions to museums and centers)
1:45–2:30	Exploratory Classes (rotation of art, music, physical education, STEM, and Spanish)
2:35–2:55	Afternoon Recess
3:00	Dismissal