ADA MERRITT K-8 CENTER
ADMISSION POLICY

Philosophy

In keeping with our school mission to *"provide and support a rigorous dual language international education program that values and promotes the acquisition of a second language and embraces international perspectives and attitudes, through a unique and high-quality education for our unique and diverse community of learners,"* we value the importance of differences and diversity and welcome all students.

Program Information

Ada Merritt K-8 Center is one of Miami Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS**)** District's many magnet programs. The school's magnet is unique and combines two magnet strands that are highly recognized in the district: the International Baccalaureate(IB), and International Education (IE) or International Studies (IS) programs. All students at Ada Merritt K-8 Center participate in a dual language IB programme in Spanish or Portuguese as detailed in the school's language policy.

Admission Information

As a magnet school, Ada Merritt K-8 Center follows **the district's** magnet application process. Most students enter the program in kindergarten by random selection.Therefore, our student population mirrors the population of the school district.

Given the dual language focus of the program, the school must ensure that incoming students have skills in their chosen language that are commensurate to those of the class they apply for. Thus, starting in grade 2, they must take a test in either Spanish or Portuguese.

Admission Requirement

Grades K-8

- To be eligible for the district's random selection process, all students in grades K-8 must complete and submit an application online through the School of Choice and Parental Options website before the January 15 deadline. Additional requirements must be met for grades 1-8

Grades 1-8

- satisfactory grades (private school and non M-DCPS students must submit a copy of previous year's grades)
- 2.0 average in all core academics classes
- conduct grades of "C" or higher
- effort grades in core academics classes 2 or higher
- have no more than 10 unexcused absences for the previous year

Grades 2-8

- passing grade on the Language Proficiency Test in Spanish or Portuguese. Parents must select the testing date and location. Spanish students applying to another M-DCPS IS Program, may choose their testing location. Students currently attending a Spanish IS program do not need to take the language test.

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http://adamerrittk-8center.org

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Selection and Registration Process

- Applicants who meet **all requirements** are eligible to participate in the random selection process concluding March 15
- Applicants who have siblings in the school have a priority status
- Applicants who do not qualify are informed by letter or by email
- Students who are placed on the wait list are called in the order of the random selection when seats open
- Invited applicants must respond online to the acceptance notification by the applicable date and complete the registration process
- Information related to the application process, including specific deadlines, testing schedule, and registration requirements are available on the school website at https://adamerrittk-8center.org.

Once students are registered, they receive an invitation to participate in a new student orientation before the start of the school year and are introduced to the IB programme and school practices. In alignment with the school's mission to provide "*a unique and high-quality education for our unique and diverse community of learners"*, all students participate fully in the IB programme. We believe in the potential of all students, and we work to develop a collaborative support system, as described in the school's inclusion policy, to ensure that all students attain success.

Admission Policy Review

To ensure that the inclusion policy is a working document and a resource for all members of the school community, it is revised regularly by the PYP and MYP coordinators, and the leadership team. Revisions aim to reflect changes in the needs of the local community, and changes in district requirements. All school policies are shared with the community on the school website at http://adamerrittk-8center.org and in the Parent and Student Handbook.

Last review date: 8/30/22.

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