

ADMISSION PROCEDURE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2016 –2017

➤ **CSAS and CSLA admit students on a first-come, first-served basis.**

- Applications for grades 1 – 11 are accepted throughout the school year and are processed upon receipt. These applications are available in the main offices of both CSAS and CSLA.
- Date, time and year of receipt of application determines place in the applicant pool for all grades.
- Following placement of children of full-time faculty/staff members, those in the applicant pool are admitted for enrollment on a space available basis at the beginning of each school year. This includes applicants who qualify for sibling preference. Applications from students residing in Hamilton County have priority over out-of-county or out-of-state applicants.
- Families who have not fulfilled their volunteer commitment in any of the Hamilton County magnet schools will not be eligible for enrollment at CSAS or CSLA.
- Sibling admission is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the parent involvement commitment. Sibling preference is honored if an older sibling is enrolled and in good standing for the upcoming school year. Siblings of graduating seniors do not qualify for sibling preference.

PAIDEIA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences and Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts is to establish truly democratic schools, based on The Paideia Proposal that aims to provide equal opportunity for all children to receive the same high quality of schooling. All have the same three elements in their futures: the demands of work, the duties of citizenship, and the obligation of each individual to make the most of himself or herself that his or her capabilities allow – to lead rich and fulfilling lives. Their treatment in school should be such that it serves these three fundamental principles for all. Since education is a lifelong process, of which schooling is only a small but necessary part, our mission is to impart to all our students the skills they need to learn and give them the stimulation that will motivate continued learning. We will create a climate of respect that will give students and parents confidence in their ability to reason, to question, and to learn.

- from The Paideia Proposal by Mortimer J. Adler

PAIDEIA PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The educational philosophy of our schools is the sum total of the thinking of our faculties, schools and administrators. As the schools grow, we hope they will also reflect the contributions of students, parents, friends, and the community.

We are committed to maintaining schools with enlightened ideals of education and methods of teaching where young people develop to their fullest potential as individuals and as students and where the community shares a commitment to learning as a life-long process.

We wish to contribute to Hamilton County and its schools an educational laboratory, encouraging the utilization of the knowledge and wisdom of leading educators and thinkers. Consistent with these goals, a continuing effort shall be made to have our students represent a cross-section of our community, possessing a variety of cultural, economic, religious, and academic backgrounds. The primary focus of our faculty is to help children develop intellectually, socially, and physically and in the process become self-reliant individuals through self-discipline and the satisfaction derived from accomplishment. The parallel threads, which when knitted together form our curriculum, include basic skills, inquiry, personal growth, experiential learning, and consideration and respect for others. These are a wellspring from which values flow. We seek to engender in children a sense of values that stress honesty, respect for the opinion of others, and acceptance of others who come from different backgrounds and cultures.

We are committed to maintaining in our faculty an enlightened attitude toward ideas and knowledge so that the continuing focus of CSAS and CSLA is a search for truth and wisdom.

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ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

Any resident of Hamilton County whose son/daughter will be entering kindergarten (must be five years old on or before August 15th) is eligible to submit an application. CSAS serves grades K – 12 and CSLA serves grades K–8. There is no transfer policy between CSAS and CSLA except for the 8th grade graduates of CSLA, who are automatically eligible to enroll at CSAS. Students applying for grades 10 – 11 must supply an official transcript showing that the student has sufficient credits to permit admission to the grade for which an application has been submitted. Applications for grades 1 –11 will be accepted on a **first-come, first served** basis and are available year-round in the main office of each school. Applicants will be added to the existing applicant pool for the grade to which they apply, sequenced by the date and time of application.

TUITION & TRANSPORTATION

CSAS and CSLA are public schools. While there is no tuition for students living in Hamilton County, there is an activity fee which covers materials unique to the program, such as science laboratory logs, supplemental educational materials, mailing costs for parent newsletters, conferences, appointment letters, etc. Each year fees are set and approved by the Hamilton County Board of Education. Students who live outside Hamilton County pay a tuition fee. Tuition is charged in accordance with school board policy. Tuition charge can be obtained by calling 209-8680. Bus transportation is available for students from a number of central locations. It will be necessary for parents to make arrangements to drop off or pick up students at those locations.

CRITERIA

We consider the following criteria in the student admission process:

- ◆ The willingness of parents/guardians to actively participate in the educational experience of their children by completing at least eighteen hours of volunteer time per year. Parent involvement is key in helping insure the child(ren)'s academic and behavioral success. Parents of all students must also attend two parent/teacher conferences per year. Parents with scheduling conflicts must make arrangements to make up the conference within two weeks of the original conference date.
- ◆ The commitment of the student to undertake the demands of the curriculum to the best of his/her potential.

ADMISSION PROCESS

- ◆ Applications for grades 1 – 11 are available throughout the year in the main offices of both CSAS and CSLA.
- ◆ After an application has been processed, the admissions office will contact the applicant's family to set up a required admissions conference. Admissions conferences in grades with particularly long applicant pools may not be held in the same year in which the application is received.
- ◆ Siblings applying to grades other than Kindergarten or applicants who have become siblings will receive sibling preference by being placed at the top of the list by date and time of application for the year that they apply (or applied). We do not and have never put siblings ahead of applicants who applied in the year(s) ahead of them.
- ◆ Transfers will not be allowed between magnet schools. Once a parent has confirmed acceptance at a magnet school, the decision is final. After accepting placement and reporting to the school, students will be expected to continue in their chosen magnet school through the end of the current school year. Students may apply to another magnet school for the following year if they so choose.
- ◆ If a student is unable to progress to the grade level for which he/she was accepted, he/she will have to attend his/her zone school and an eligible student will be selected to fill the seat. The application will be adjusted to the correct grade level waiting list according to the date received.
- ◆ Applicants will be sent an update letter by mail in January of each year. In order for an applicant to remain in the applicant pool, this update must be returned to the Paideia Admissions Office by the date indicated. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check with the Admissions Office if an update letter is not received. Applications will be removed from the applicant pool if an annual update from parents is not received.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Paideia program is academically challenging and students who complete the program will be more than adequately prepared to continue higher education. However, all students, whatever their educational goals, should have an opportunity to experience a "liberal arts education" from kindergarten through high school. We believe such an education encourages personal fulfillment, individual responsibility, life-long learning, and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing world.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

While the major focus of the schools is academic, students are also offered a broad range of curricular and extracurricular activities including visual and performing arts as well as physical education and athletics. Athletic programs include basketball, baseball, cross-country, soccer, softball, tennis, track, and volleyball.

TOUR THE SCHOOLS