

Q: We are new to MPS, with an incoming Kindergartener. I am wondering what the likelihood is of being able to get into a magnet school? What I've understood is that existing Sullivan students will continue in the school if they choose. My hunch is the transition to becoming a STEAM magnet will also attract additional families. How many spots do you anticipate having for new students?

A: Yes, our current students have been automatically assigned to Sullivan STEAM Magnet for the 2021-22 school year. Whether or not they choose to stay, we will not officially know until after the registration deadline, February 7, 2021. Magnet guidelines seek to establish a student population balance of 60% students who receive free and reduced-price lunches, and 40% students who do not. There will be a limited number of seats available at Sullivan, so a lottery will be employed as needed if the schools receive more requests than the available seats.

Q: If my child is attending a High Five program, do I need to submit a request for kindergarten?

A: We automatically assign current High Five students to their attendance area community school for kindergarten. If you want your High Five student to attend your community school for kindergarten, you do not need to submit a school request for kindergarten. If you would like your child to attend a magnet school like Sullivan, you will need to put in a request, even if they attend Sullivan's High 5 program. If you wish to request a different school, you should submit a request by [February 7, the lottery cut-off date](#).

Q: What kind of staff changes are you expecting? Related, what STEAM training will take place?

A: We are currently coordinating training in project-based learning for all teachers, and developing our three year plan for professional development which will include training in Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and OGAP, the Ongoing Assessment Project focused on learning progressions in mathematics. Some of the Middle School staff has already started STEAM professional development through Project Lead the Way around CAD and 3D printing.

Q: I am a little confused because I thought the district was eliminating k-8 schools, which is why my children will not be attending Seward Middle school. But Sullivan will have a middle school?

A: Sullivan STEAM Magnet School is one of two schools that will remain a K-8 as part of the Comprehensive District Design (CDD), Jefferson Global Studies and Humanities Magnet School being the other.

Q: How are your teachers going to transition to STEAM instruction? Will there be experienced teachers teaching the STEAM curriculum?

A: At Sullivan we are fortunate to have several teachers with previous experience in STEAM curriculum. We have a strong community and commitment to our students. Minneapolis is not fresh-starting magnet schools, which means that current staff can stay on if they choose to do so. Current staff understand that our transition does mean commitment to professional

development and new methods and content. We are excited to be working together as a community to grow and serve our students and families.

Q: I am under the impression that MPS will largely transition to a more STEM-focused curriculum (STEM For All), and I would like to hear how STEAM at Sullivan would differentiate itself beyond the Arts component.

A: STEM is part of a well rounded education for every student in MPS. STEM for All ensures all students have access to state requirements done with fidelity and best teaching practices. In addition to MPS STEM for ALL, students at Sullivan STEAM Magnet will also benefit from:

- Thematic STEAM programming in all academic where subjects are truly integrated
- STEAM intercessions
- Makerspace and advanced Robotics
- Relevant authentic project based learning
- Specialized GEMS/GISE afterschool programming

Q: I am also wondering about how the classroom environments will look different because of the STEAM magnet - are there items/materials in the classroom that are different or unique?

A: As we transition into a STEAM school we know there will be materials and supplies needed to support and integrate STEAM curriculum in the classroom. The main structure of our classrooms will remain the same, however we are currently working to plan out a Robotics Arena, an Elementary MakersSpace as well as a MakerSpace for our middle school students. These spaces will be available to all of our students throughout the year during the school day and during our after school programming.

Q: Do you know what the proposed hours are for the school day?

A: Sullivan's bell times will be 7:30AM to 2:00PM

[Bell Times](#) (a link to district-wide bell times for the 2021-22 school year)

Q: What does language arts curriculum look like for middle school students, considering the STEAM focus?

A: Language arts is a central part of STEAM. Our focus on integrating science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math is not to the exclusion of other areas of learning. STEAM education and project-based learning mean that reading and writing can be connected to problems students are tackling. For example, students might participate in discussions about fiction or nonfiction texts that highlight scientific questions or social issues related to their current project or that writing may take the shape of a letter to the editor with their findings, or an email to a local politician requesting action based on their own research.

Q: Given the bell times, will Sullivan have any after school care/programming for students?

A: Right now, Sullivan has Beacons afterschool programming through the YMCA. Nearby Brackett Park and Matthews Park have Rec Plus programming.

Q: Will Sullivan have supports for advanced learners? Will teachers have the ability to utilize differentiated learning?

A: Differentiation happens in all of our Pre K-5th grade classrooms through Guided Math and Guided Literacy groups. After the teachers deliver a 10 minute introduction to the lesson, students break off into groups to receive differentiated support at their academic level. These groups are fluid and constantly changing to meet the needs of each student. Differentiated supports are also provided in other content areas and throughout our MS classes. We also use the telescope math program starting in 4th grade and extending through Middle School, so some of our current 8th graders are working on 9th and 10th grade standards already!

A: Charmagne Campbell-Patton (Current Sullivan Parent): Yes, I can say that they are really excellent at differentiated learning.

Q: Could you talk about your special education program, particularly for autistic students?

A: MPS has a Citywide Autism Program at Sullivan, which will include two Early Childhood Special Education ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) classrooms for 3-4 year olds as well as specialized ASD programming for K-8th grades for the 2021-22 school year. We promote inclusive programming for all our Special Ed students. We recognize the needs of each student and we make sure their IEPs reflect the support and accommodations they are receiving.

Q: How are you transitioning to STEAM, what staff changes will there be, teachers coming from other STEAM programs?

A: Our current teachers are excited about Sullivan's transition to a STEAM Magnet School! We don't anticipate any changes, but as always, teachers have the opportunity to pursue other teaching opportunities in MPS in the Spring and we would learn of any necessary staffing changes at that point.

Q: I want to make sure I understand this, as communication from the district on this has been quite confusing: Seward Montessori was a "Montessori magnet," but the middle school was not Montessori. Will the 6-8 program at Sullivan be STEAM oriented, or a conventional middle school program? If so, can you elaborate on what that will mean next year (as opposed to in the more distant future), in practice?

A: Yes, Sullivan will be STEAM PreK-8th grade.

Q: Can you describe a little about the physical layout of the school - are middle school classrooms separate from elementary classrooms, how does lunch/recess work?

A: We share our building with Anishinabe Academy, which is a Pre K-5th grade site. Most of their classrooms are located on the first floor. Our Kindergarten classrooms are downstairs near the Main Office and 1st-5th grade are arranged in two connecting hallways on the 2nd floor. To

provide some autonomy for our Middle School students, their classrooms are also on the 2nd floor but a bit removed from the younger students. We do encourage opportunities for the older kids to “help” with the younger students through “Reading Buddies” and “Bus Buddies”. We are also excited about the opportunities for student mentorship among our robotics teams. We have scheduled times for grade level bands (PK-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th) to eat lunch and use the playground areas with their similar aged peers.

A: Charmagne Campbell-Patton (Current Sullivan Parent): The kindergarten classrooms are close to the entrance and easy to get to for the young people. There is also a little tot lot in an internal atrium that the high five and K students use. They also release for dismissal by grade level, so the young kids are walked out to the door and busses by their teachers before the older kids are released.

Q: We've talked a lot about the science and technology components of the new curriculum, can you shed any light on the plans for arts components?

A: The arts encompasses the humanities, language arts, and fine arts. The history and impact of technology and science on society is interwoven through project based learning. Additionally, students will continue to use reading and writing skills to learn and think about the challenges they are studying and to share their learning and ideas. We have an amazing team of specialists (art, physical education, health) who will be working with teachers to connect and incorporate their specialties where possible and most appropriate. Over the next two years, we are also working on building out a makerspace to support teachers in incorporating arts and creative expression into their curriculum.

Q: Is bussing provided for students who will be in after school programs?

A: Yes, bussing is provided for students who attend after school programming and would otherwise receive bussing to and from Sullivan. If necessary, we can provide a “walking school bus” for students who attend the Brackett Park Rec Plus program, as it is within walking distance and doesn't qualify for a bus stop.

Q: Can you specify how many middle school students are slated to return to Sullivan because they were there last year, and what the capacity of the middle school will be? (Basically, how many open spots in the middle school?)

A: Our current students have been automatically assigned to Sullivan STEAM Magnet for the 2021-22 school year. Whether or not they choose to stay, we will not officially know until after the registration deadline, February 7, 2021. Magnet guidelines seek to establish a student population balance of 60% students who receive free and reduced-price lunches, and 40% students who do not. There will be a limited number of seats available at Sullivan, so a lottery will be employed as needed if the schools receive more requests than the available seats. The class size recommendation for 6th-8th grade is 32 students per classroom. Currently we have three cohorts of 6th grade students and two cohorts each for 7th & 8th grades. Our current enrollment in MS is 139 students and we have room for 224. We won't know about next year's grade level cohort configuration until registration is complete.

Q: What is your projected enrollment number for next year (overall number of students in the school building)?

A: We will receive our projected enrollment numbers in late February 2021.

Q: With the lottery, does the need for transportation (or not) make the student more likely to get in or is it simply random?

A: The lottery is random, however, both a student's community school and magnet options are based on a student's home address. (After this transition year, home address will not impact placement at magnets.) Placement in a student's magnet options is based on submitting their school request by the school request due date: February 7, 2021. Placement in a magnet school is then based on the available seats and economic integration goals set out by CDD. The best way for families to find out what their school options are is to look up their options based on their home address at our new enrollment website: www.explorempls.org. The staff at the Student Placement Services are also available to help families by contacting them at 612.668.1840 or sps.department@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Q: We will have incoming 4th and 2nd graders. Does the lottery place siblings together or consider that in their placement decisions?

A: Yes, siblings would be placed together as long as there is room at both grade levels to accept new students.

Q: Who is considered a sibling and what is sibling preference?

A: All children living in the same household are considered siblings. To qualify for sibling preference, the older or younger sibling must be continuously enrolled in a school before sibling preference is granted. Sibling preference does not apply to students enrolled in citywide special education or pre-kindergarten programs.

Q: Will you be doing Telescope Math for middle schoolers who started that path in Elementary?

A: Yes, we have Telescope Math for those who qualify in Middle School.

Q: Can you explain more on what is telescope math? We have an existing kindergartner at Hale.

A: Telescoped courses compact the Math curriculum. All topics in the Minnesota Math State Standards are included in telescoped courses. The pace of the coursework is faster in a telescoped course. Math 4/5, Math 5/6, Math 7/8, and Math 8/9 (also known as Algebra 8/Intermediate Algebra) are offered. Fourth grade students will learn the 4th grade curriculum and half of the 5th grade curriculum. Fifth grade students will complete the second half of the 5th grade curriculum as well as the 6th grade curriculum. Sixth and seventh grade students will learn the 7th grade curriculum and half of the 8th grade curriculum and 8th grade students will complete the 8th and 9th grade curriculum.

Q: Coming from montessori....I'm nervous about desks for my first-grader. Can you speak to that?

A: Most of our classrooms do not have desks. We encourage group work or cooperative learning and this is best facilitated with students at tables or other classroom space that accommodates group work. We do have a couple of teachers who prefer desks for student personal storage purposes and typically the desks are arranged in groups of four or six to help make cooperative learning possible. Some of our classrooms also offer flexible seating options such as standing desks, bean bags, yoga balls, or floor seating.

Q: I have noticed middle school programs in k-8 schools are much smaller than a typical middle school with around a thousand. What do you feel are pros and cons of a smaller program?

A: When we look at programming at a middle school K-8 versus a standalone middle school (6-8) there are going to be some differences. The K-8 middle schools will be smaller which provides opportunities for our middle school teachers to build strong relationships with students and families. The smaller caseload of students also allows teachers to foster a strong academic relationship with students as we know that middle school can be a tough transition for some. By having a smaller middle school it allows our teachers to closely monitor their students' progress and make sure they are making necessary gains. While K-8 offers the same core content as a 6-8, the elective offerings at a K-8 are fewer and less varied than a traditional 6-8. One reason we are excited for Sullivan to transition to STEAM is we are able to build up our elective offerings for our middle school students. A traditional 6-8 also has more cohorts of students, therefore more teachers at each grade level and content area, whereas as a K-8 you will only have one or two teachers teaching a certain content area.

Q: Is the high-five program going to be offered full time next year?

A: Yes, we will have two full-day High 5 classrooms next year.

To support integration goals at selected magnets (Hall, Sheridan, Sullivan and Jefferson), early childhood opportunities will be made available at these schools without cost regardless of home income. This is possible based on magnet guidelines seeking to establish a student population balance of 60% students who receive free and reduced-price lunches, and 40% students who do not. Students in these 60/40 economically integrated classrooms will have automatic enrollment into kindergarten at the magnet sites. There are a limited number of seats available at these schools, however, so a lottery will be employed as needed if the schools receive more requests than the available seats.

Q: Thinking about outside time, do you have any additional ways in which you incorporate outside time into the curriculum beyond conventional recess / PE ?

A: Our teachers understand the importance of movement and the brain. Our teachers incorporate movement breaks throughout the student day. Brain breaks are provided through stretching, breathing or yoga poses, Go Noodle or other online video movement platforms, meditation/calming breaks, or other quick ways to help everyone refocus.

Q: How many K classrooms will there be and is there time in their day for social play?

A: We will have three Kindergarten classrooms next year.

A: Charmagne Campbell-Patton (Current Sullivan Parent): Yes, the kindergarten classrooms have toys and do Choice Time each day. During this time students can choose from a variety of activities that provide them with time to socialize and learn through play.

Q: What can you share about the diversity of the staff at Sullivan?

A: We have a responsibility to put the best teachers in front of our students. At Sullivan about 20% of our staff is bilingual. We recognize the importance of students having teachers who look like them and we continue to leverage that as a staffing priority. We have staff who speak, Spanish, Somali, Ethiopian, Amharic, Chinese and French. We are always searching for new ways to connect with our families. [Here](#) you'll find more information about our dedicated staff.

Q: How do you incorporate cultural relevance for students of different backgrounds?

A: At Sullivan we prioritize classroom community and building caring, trusting relationships. These relationships with students and families provide context for our staff who work to provide opportunities for learning that centers on the student, families, and the communities they live in, building on the assets and strengths of their communities. Whenever feasible, units support project-based learning that incorporates real-world problem solving with a focus on action within the students' communities. Teachers prioritize complex learning during live, teacher-facilitated learning and explanatory direct instruction in recordings that can be viewed asynchronously.

Q: I saw a map showing only certain parts of Minneapolis had Sullivan as a designated magnet. Are all parts of the city able to try and attend or are we relegated to a specific magnet closer to us (emerson)

A: During the first year of CDD implementation, as magnets are repopulated based on CDD protocols, we want to ensure that students do not have overly-long bus rides. For magnets with multiple sites, it just makes sense to place students as near to their homes as possible. Families can submit a request for any MPS school; however, families who live within the attendance area of a community school or new citywide magnet schools (during this transition year) have the highest priority for being placed in those schools.

That said, schools may have seats available to accommodate requests from families who live out of the attendance area. Once an "out-of-area" student is accepted in a school they will have a placement at that school. But it's important to know that transportation is not provided for students who live outside the school's attendance area, nor will that student necessarily get a seat in the middle or high school in that attendance area.