

Frequently Asked Questions about MACC

1. Do I need to apply for a cross-boundary transfer when my child gets accepted into MACC?

Answer: No, MACC are district classes and no cross-boundary form is needed. Once acceptance has been confirmed, you child will be automatically transferred to the MACC school where they have been placed.

2. Can Out of District/Private school students apply for this district program?

Answer: No. Only students enrolled in an SD43 school are eligible to apply. Typically, we have almost double the number of students apply than there are spaces for just from those already attending grade 5 in SD43.

3. How many students get accepted into MACC each year?

Answer: Only 28 grade 6 students for each of the three locations, Citadel, Hillcrest and Kwayhquitlum get accepted, for a total of 84. Grade 7 and 8 student placements would vary with space availability.

4. How do I get my child to and from Citadel, Hillcrest or Kwayhquitlum Middle School?

Answer: You are responsible for getting your child to and from their MACC Middle School. Schools are usually opened to students before classes start and finish. There are places in the school for your child to study and stay while waiting to be picked up. Please check for exact times from your MACC School.

5. When considering whether to apply to MACC, can a family tour a MACC school and visit a MACC Class before the catchment school invites incoming grade 5 students for a tour?

Answer: No. Given the large numbers of applicants, it is not possible to arrange for grade 5 students to visit a MACC Class; we have found it causes disruption to the learning of the class. Arranging a tour of a MACC school may not always be possible either, so please contact the principal to check.

6. If a student decides not to apply for MACC, will Gifted programming still be available?

Answer: Yes, students who choose to attend their catchment school will have access to the Gifted programming that is available at their catchment middle school and at the district level (District Challenge Centre). Please discuss what programming and resources are available to Gifted learners with catchment school personnel.

7. My child has not attended any Gifted programming in elementary school. Is that a concern?

Answer: Yes. Students must be a Ministry identified Category P student (Gifted) to be eligible to apply for this district Gifted programming option. Furthermore, your child does need to have an up-to-date IEP for their current grade. Most identified students would be included in the in-school Challenge Program and/or attended the District Challenge Centre.

8. My child is currently an Early French Immersion student. Will they be able to continue in the French Immersion program in secondary school once they have completed middle school in MACC?

Answer: No. MACC students will only receive instruction in French as often as any other middle school student in French as a Second Language (FSL) program (usually one to two blocks per week).

10. If a sibling of a child who is currently in MACC wants to apply to MACC too, is there anything to consider?

Answer: Yes. If you have a second child wanting to apply to MACC, please arrange to meet with your current MACC teacher/staff to discuss the social and emotional ramifications of this placement. Even though the two siblings might be in different classes, the MACC classes in each of the schools may collaborate and work together for large blocks of time each day so siblings should be able to work together and thrive in the same learning environment. If the sibling is offered placement initially, they would be placed in the same school as the current MACC student. Note: Being a sibling of a current MACC student does not influence a successful placement for the younger sibling.

11. If I have a sibling of a child who is currently in MACC and this sibling child wants to attend the same middle school from outside its catchment area but is not in MACC, do I need to complete a cross-catchment transfer?

Answer: Yes. Students who have a sibling in the cross-catchment school are given priority for placement, but you still must apply.

12. If we did not receive an 'Invitation to Apply', what do we do?

Answer: Check with your current school to make sure your child is identified as category P. If so, please check with the school's Gifted Learning Support Teacher about when the applications will be available or contact Jeanette Murphy, jemurphy@sd43.bc.ca, District Coordinator of Gifted Education, for more information.

13. If my child, who came from outside our MACC middle school's catchment area, decides to attend the neighbourhood secondary school for grade 9 after completing grade 8 in MACC, do we need to apply for a cross-boundary transfer?

Answer: No, students will automatically be registered in their catchment secondary school. If your child wishes to attend a different secondary school, they will need to apply for a cross-catchment to go there.

14. Will my grade 8 MACC child automatically be placed in our District Secondary Gifted Cluster Class called TALONS?

Answer: No. All grade 8 students will need to apply for any program of choice they wish to be considered for - TALONS, Honours, iHub, Pre-IB, Pre-AP. MACC 8 students will be considered alongside all other applicants for these programs.

15. Do any other districts in this area offer similar programs? Have they been successful?

Answer: Yes; Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby have Gifted cluster classrooms. Vancouver's program has been operating for over 20 years. The UBC Transition Program is also a very successful cluster program.

16. What if my child's catchment middle school is Citadel, Hillcrest or Kwayhquitlum or already attends one of these schools?

Answer: All interested students, regardless of home school, must apply to be placed in MACC. There will be no advantage given to the MACC schools' catchment applicant students as each of the MACC schools is open to all students in its feeder area (See question 22).

17. If a student applies for the program but is not accepted is there a chance the student will have lost their space at their catchment school?

Answer: A MACC applicant would not lose their space at the catchment school, as every grade 5 student is automatically enrolled in their catchment middle school.

18. May a student join the program for grade 7 or 8? If so, how is this done?

Answer: A student may be considered for the program for grade 7 or 8 providing there is space made available by a student moving out of the MACC program, and their learning profile is a good match with the MACC criteria. Grade 6 and 7 students will be advised in May about how to apply for this waitlist.

19. Once accepted into MACC will students have to reapply to remain in the program for future years?

Answer: No, once a student is accepted, they will be in the class for the full three years.

20. If my child applies to MACC, will they automatically get in?

Answer: No, there is a limited number of spaces in MACC. Not all students who apply will be offered placement in one of the classes. Typically, we have almost double the number of students apply than there are spaces for. Families are encouraged to plan for other middle school options as they apply for MACC (catchment school, Late or Early French Immersion, Late Mandarin Immersion, Montessori, etc.). Students who are not placed in MACC will only be waitlisted until the end of the first week in September the following year.

21. Why is the deadline for applications so early in the year?

Answer: Decisions about acceptance must be made early so the district is aware of the number of students in each middle school, and therefore what staffing requirements will be necessary.

22. May I request that my child be placed in the same school as his or her friend or a specific location?

Answer: No. Each MACC location has its own zone catchment area. Students will be considered for the MACC location as listed below. Note that the elementary school to use for your child is not necessarily where they currently attend, but the elementary school catchment you live in. For this reason, please make sure you have current addresses on file at your child's school.

For example: A student lives in the Walton catchment area but attends school at Porter Elementary. They would be considered for placement at Kwayhquitlum, not Hillcrest.

Please note that some highlighted schools are on multiple lists. You may be offered placement at either MACC location based on number of applicants.

Citadel	Kwayhquitlum	Hillcrest
Birchland	Anmore	Alderson
Blakeburn	Aspenwood	Baker Drive
Castle Park	Bramblewood	Cape Horn
Cedar Drive	Coquitlam River	Glenayre
Central	Hampton Park	Harbour View
Hazel Trembath	Heritage Mountain	Lord Baden-Powell
James Park	Nestor	Miller Park
Kilmer	Panorama Heights	Moody
Mary Hill	Pinetree Way	Mountain View
Westwood	Pleasantside	Mundy Road
Meadowbrook	Walton	Parkland
Glen	Eagle Ridge	Porter Street
Coast Salish	Mountain Meadows	Ranch Park
Irvine	Glen	RC MacDonald
Leigh	Coast Salish	Riverview Park
Smiling Creek	Irvine	Rochester
	Leigh	Roy Stibbs
	Smiling Creek	Seaview
		Meadowbrook
		Glen
		Eagle Ridge
		Mountain Meadows

23. How will it be decided which applicants will be accepted into the program?

Answer: Students must be a Ministry identified Category P student (Gifted) to be eligible to apply for the program. The most important consideration will be the applicant's fit with the program's required criteria (as stated in the application form). In addition, the factors that influence the composition of all district classrooms will also be considered when forming the MACC Classes.

24. What will learning be like for students in MACC?

Answer: The BC curriculum outlines the expectations for what students should know, understand and be able to do for each grade. The MACC approach to learning includes integrating curricula in the four core subjects (English, Social Studies, Math and Science), allowing students to form connections in an interdisciplinary inquiry-based program. Students will also be challenged to develop the depth and breadth of their critical and creative thinking abilities. MACC students will also work towards building independence and responsibility for their learning with the appropriate amount of support by the teacher (developing self-directed learners). Choice, decision making, less repetition and collaborative work are all integral parts of the MACC learning environment. Opportunities will also be provided to explore and expand on issues and actions that may benefit the greater community.

25. Can my child accelerate through other core academic subjects in MACC?

Answer: Acceleration is not the goal of the program. However, students are encouraged to go deeper into topics so may be working at a level above their age grade. Our philosophy is to compact curriculum so we can go into more depth or explore other areas of student interest.

26. How much of the students' time will be spent with their MACC peers?

Answer: Sixty to seventy-five percent of their time in school, or approximately five out of seven blocks, will be spent with program peers. Students in the program will have Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts as a peer group and depending on program location. MACC students may be integrated with other students on their team for Explorations and possibly subjects such as PE, French, and HACE.

27. How much homework is expected of a MACC student? Is the workload greater in this program than in the regular program?

Answer: The amount of homework is typical of middle school and depends on the nature of the school projects a student selects as well as how well a student uses time in class to complete school work. The volume of work shouldn't be greater, but it will be of a different nature. There will be less repetition, more inquiry based learning, and deeper and broader exploration of topics.

28. What if a student excels in a subject but is weak in other subject areas?

Answer: The MACC teachers can accommodate a variety of learning styles and needs. Students will be challenged in their areas of strength and may be at grade level in other subject areas. Students typically choose from a variety of assignment options and may select projects that highlight their strengths and compliment their learning styles.

29. What if a student accepts a position in a MACC class then later in the school year changes his/her mind about wanting to be in the program?

Answer: If a student decides the program is not a good fit and would like to exit from the program, please inform your MACC teacher and school principal. They will ask you to complete the School District MACC Gifted Program Withdrawal Request Form and arrange to meet with school personnel about this request. If a student would like to return to their catchment school, they may do so only if space is available for the returning student. Usually, they finish the school year and then enroll at their catchment school for the following September. If space was available, the student could also opt to remain at the MACC School and be placed in the regular middle school program.