

Language Selection Process at McDonald
2011 – 2012 School Year

Students Entering at KINDERGARTEN

- **If enrolled at McDonald prior to June 1st for the upcoming school year:**
 - Parents of children who have received confirmation from district of enrollment at McDonald for K will receive a McDonald welcome letter and a language preference form by the end of May.
 - Parents submit language preference form to McDonald office by the deadline indicated on the form indicating: language preference, if child has a sibling at McDonald, if fluent speaker of language.
 - Early June, those who marked fluent speaker will be contacted for a language fluency interview by a McDonald teacher to determine fluency as native or near native speakers.
 - Members of the McDonald Building Leadership Team (staff, parents) meet mid-June to assign students to language. We do this by:
 1. Balancing the total number of spots for boys/girls in each class based on students enrolled by June 1.
 2. Assigning students who passed the interview for fluent speakers.
 3. Assigning siblings to same language (if parents indicate they want the other language, the child is included in the lottery (#4).
 4. Lottery: We draw names at random and assign remaining students based on recorded preference (space permitting).*
- **If enrolled at McDonald during the summer (June 1 – August 31):**
 - School staff (when back from summer vacation) will contact families to identify language preference. Language assignment will then be made at the end of the summer by the principal depending first on space available in the language, and then based on the following criteria (in this order): 1) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist, 4) parent preference in order of enrollment during the summer.
 - Students who qualify for early entrance to kindergarten (determined sometime in July-June) will follow the same procedure as other students who enroll at McDonald during the summer (see previous bullet).*
- **If enrolled once the school year has started (September – June):**
 - Parents will have the opportunity to give a language preference for their child.
 - Language assignment will then be made by the principal who will consider the following factors: 1) space available, 2) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist (through September), 4) the particular needs within the different classes.*

Students Entering at FIRST GRADE

- **If enrolled at McDonald prior to June 1st for the upcoming school year:**
 - Parents of children who have received confirmation from district of enrollment at McDonald for 1st Grade will receive a McDonald welcome letter and a language preference form.
 - Parents submit language preference form to McDonald office by the deadline indicated on the form indicating: language preference, if child has a sibling at McDonald, if fluent speaker of language.
 - Early June, those who marked fluent speaker will be contacted for a language fluency interview by McDonald teacher to determine fluency as native or near native speakers.
 - Members of the McDonald Building Leadership Team (staff, parents) meet mid-June to assign student to language. We do this by:
 1. First determining space available in each language. Assignment to language at first grade depends on space available in the language.
 2. Assigning students who passed the interview for fluent speakers.
 3. Assigning siblings to same language (if parents indicate they want the other language, the child is included in the lottery (#4).

4. Lottery: We draw names and assign remaining students based on recorded preference (space permitting).*
- **If enrolled at McDonald during the summer (June 1 – August 31):**
 - School staff (when back from summer vacation) will contact families to identify language preference.
 - Language assignment will then be made at the end of the summer by the principal depending first on space available in the language, and then based on the following criteria (in this order): 1) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist, 4) parent preference in order of enrollment during the summer.*
 - **If enrolled once the school year has started (September – June):**
 - Parents will have the opportunity to give a language preference for their child.
 - Language assignment will then be made by the principal based on the following factors: 1) space available, 2) fluent speakers, 3) sibling, 4) waitlist (through September), 5) the particular needs within the different classes.*

* If a child does not get assigned to their language of preference, the child will be placed on a waitlist in the order of the name being assigned if requested by parent. (The waitlist will be maintained through the end of September. After September 30th, students will not be permitted to change languages.)

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q: If my child does not speak one of the languages, but has family members who do speak the language, does that give him/her preference?** A: No. Preference is only given to students who are native/near native speakers.
- **Q: If my child does not speak one of the languages, but was born in a country where the language is spoken, does that give him/her preference?** A: No. (See above)
- **Q: If my child has had exposure to one of the languages (ex. Immersion pre-school), does that give him/her preference?** A: Only if they pass the language fluency interview given in June.
- **Q: If my child speaks one of the languages and enters at first grade, will they be guaranteed a spot in that language?** A: No. At first grade, language placement is based first on space available.
- **Q: If my child speaks one of the languages but we do not live in the service area, do they get preference to get into the McDonald?** A: Speaking one of the languages only gives him/her preference for language once they're enrolled in the school.
- **Q: Is McDonald able to handle the increasing enrollment at the school?** A: We are in continuous dialogue with SPS around enrollment figures and building capacity.

For Questions & Up-to-Date Information

- Visit our website at www.mcdonaldpta.com
- Call the McDonald office @ Lincoln: (206) 252-2900