

THEME SCHOOLS BROCHURE



Grades: Kindergarten through Eight

SY 2024 - 2025 OPEN ENROLLMENT

January 5, 2024 - February 9, 2024

Apply online at:

www.dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com

School Choice Late Enrollment:

April 1, 2024 -August 23, 2024

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## School Choice Program Information:

<http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice>

*School Choice Contact:*

*678-676-0035 or 678-676-0050*

### Elementary Schools

- Edward L. Bouie, Sr.
- Marbut
- Narvie J. Harris
- Oakcliff
- Robert Shaw
- Wynbrooke

### Middle School

- The Champion School



**Lottery Results Released: March 29, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.**

# Theme Schools Information

| Theme School                                                      | Address                                                         | School Hours                | Tour Dates & Times                                | Theme Feeder Schools                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Edward L. Bouie Sr. Elementary School</b><br>Grades: Pre-K - 5 | 5100 Rock Springs Road<br>Lithonia, GA 30038<br>(678) 676-8202  | 7:45 a.m.<br>-<br>2:15 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Browns Mill ES<br>Fairington ES<br>Flat Rock ES<br>Murphey Candler ES |
| <b>Narvie J. Harris Elementary School</b><br>Grades: PreK - 5     | 3981 McGill Drive<br>Decatur, GA 30034<br>(678) 676-9202        | 7:50 a.m.<br>-<br>2:15 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Chapel Hill ES<br>Cedar Grove ES<br>Oak View ES                       |
| <b>Marbut Elementary School</b><br>Grades: PreK - 5               | 5776 Marbut Road<br>Lithonia, GA 30058<br>(678) 676-8802        | 7:30 a.m.<br>-<br>2:05 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Panola Way ES<br>Stoneview ES<br>Woodridge ES                         |
| <b>Oakcliff Elementary School</b><br>Grades: PreK - 5             | 3150 Willow Oak Way<br>Doraville, GA 30340<br>(678) 676-3102    | 7:45 a.m.<br>-<br>2:15 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Cary Reynolds ES<br>Doraville United ES<br>Hightower ES               |
| <b>Robert Shaw Elementary School</b><br>Grades: PreK - 5          | 385 Glendale Road<br>Scottsdale, GA 30079<br>(678) 676-6002     | 7:45 a.m.<br>-<br>2:15 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Dunaire ES<br>Indian Creek ES<br>Jolly ES<br>Rowland ES               |
| <b>Wynbrooke Elementary School</b><br>Grades: PreK - 5            | 440 Wicksbury Way<br>Stone Mountain, GA 30087<br>(678) 676-5002 | 7:45 a.m.<br>-<br>2:15 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | Pine Ridge ES<br>Princeton ES<br>Rock Chapel ES<br>Shadow Rock ES     |
| <b>Champion Middle School</b><br>Grades: 6 - 8                    | 5265 Mimosa Drive<br>Stone Mountain, GA 30087<br>(678) 875-1502 | 8:50 a.m.<br>-<br>3:50 p.m. | Check School Website for updates and School Tours | All DeKalb Middle Schools                                             |

## **History of the Traditional Theme School**

The traditional theme school program of the DeKalb County School District began in 1996 and serves as an educational choice for parents and students that is not restricted by previous academic performance. This program is based on high expectations, parental involvement, and the interest to pursue challenging learning experiences. The DeKalb County School District has seven traditional theme schools including Edward L. Bouie, Sr., Marbut, Narvie J. Harris, Oakcliff, Robert Shaw, Wynbrooke Traditional- al Theme Elementary Schools, and Champion Traditional Theme Middle School located in various areas of DeKalb County, Georgia.

## **Components of the Traditional Theme School**

A traditional theme school is a school within a community that attracts elementary students from neighboring schools or at the middle school level from throughout the school district because of the unique features designed to meet the needs of students and parents. The traditional theme school is designed to offer students a comprehensive, interdisciplinary educational program in a highly structured setting. Students are active participants in a challenging program which includes home study projects and exposure to a world language. A cross-curricular instructional approach leads to more research centered assignments and hands-on projects requiring problem solving and critical thinking. Parents are a vital part of the program as they work to rein- force the instructional program and to provide support to the school.

## **Feeder Schools for Traditional Elementary Theme School**

The traditional elementary theme schools mainly receive students from schools that have space constraints. Elementary schools in the immediate community with the greatest need for relief will serve as feeder schools to the elementary theme schools. If a feeder school's enrollment decreases, the feeder school may no longer serve as a theme feeder site. This determination is made annually. The theme middle school receives students from throughout the DeKalb County School District.

## **Special Features of a Traditional Theme School**

- Required parental involvement
- Emphasis on core subjects
- High academic standards and expectations
- Exposure to a world language
- Strict conduct code
- Required uniform/strict dress code
- Emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving
- Automated reading program (Elementary Schools)
- Required summer reading and mathematics activities
- Required challenging daily homework
- Tutorial programs
- Activity-based instruction
- Agenda planners
- Interdisciplinary instruction

## **Traditional Theme School Guidelines**

- Parents and students are expected to have an enrollment commitment for one year
- Once accepted, a student must be in attendance on the first day of school to maintain his/her placement
- Parents must complete parental involvement service hours for students enrolled at a theme school. If siblings are enrolled at a theme elementary school and a theme middle school simultaneously, the parent must complete 50% of the parental involvement service hours at each school to receive credit for parental involvement service hours
- Students must wear the designated uniform for the enrolled theme school
- Continued enrollment is contingent upon compliance with the theme school regulations and requirements that include the completion of parent involvement service hours and student attendance
- Complete all school work assignments to the best of his/her ability
- Attend school regularly and arrive on time. Avoid excessive check-outs
- Leave the campus promptly at the end of the school day or after participation in an authorized school activity
- Conduct himself/herself in a manner appropriate for school
- Students currently enrolled and in good standing may continue participation in that Theme School Program
- When a theme school placement is declined or not filled by the assigned registration date, the student must reapply for a theme school during the next open enrollment period.

**As long as these guidelines are maintained the enrolled student will enjoy a successful school experience. In the event that these conditions are not met, the student will be required to attend his/her home attendance area school.**

If parent(s) move and are no longer in the feeder school area for that Theme School, the child(ren) will be withdrawn. The children will not be transferred to another Theme School. The parent(s) will have to wait until open enrollment to apply for the next school year.

## Overview of Selection Process

Traditional theme school applicants will be selected through an automated selection process. If there are more applicants than available seats, those students who were not selected will be placed on the waiting list. If there are fewer applicants than available seats, the DeKalb County School District shall admit all eligible applicants to the theme school. In this situation, applications submitted after the deadline will be processed for consideration. Throughout the School Choice process, it is the parent's responsibility to regularly check the status of their application by logging into their account at [www.dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com](http://www.dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com).

## Eligibility to Apply for a Theme School

- All DeKalb, current, private, and home school students, who will enroll in kindergarten through fifth grades and reside in the identified theme feeder elementary school attendance areas, are eligible to participate in the lottery and apply for enrollment in the designated traditional theme elementary schools. They must complete and submit the School Choice online application on or before the application deadline.
- All DeKalb, current, private, and home school students who will enroll in grades 6, 7, and 8 and reside in the DeKalb County School District may apply for enrollment in the traditional theme middle school. They must complete and submit the School Choice online application on or before the application deadline.
- Siblings of students enrolled in a theme school will be eligible for the selection process if the parent completes a theme school application for the student during the open enrollment session, and if the student is eligible to enroll in the designated theme school.
- When a school is no longer a feeder school, new students from this feeder school will not be enrolled; however, siblings of returning students may apply to enroll in the designated theme school.

## School Hours and School Year

The operational times and school calendar for the traditional theme schools are generally the same as those of the school system. Optional extended day programs, activities, and tutorials may be available.

## Transportation

The most current DeKalb County transportation policy will be followed. Parents, please note that transportation for elementary theme school students will continue to be provided as currently structured. Elementary theme school students will continue to receive transportation from the neighborhood to the designated theme schools. Transportation to Champion Theme Middle School will continue as currently structured. During the current school year, middle school students will report to selected satellite pickup locations for transportation to Champion Theme Middle School.

## Siblings of Theme School Students

Siblings of currently enrolled students only in grades kindergarten through 4, 6 and 7 may be offered enrollment in the same school if the parent applies for enrollment and seats are available. If sibling placement is not available, each sibling will be placed on the waiting list in the order in which the student is selected during the lottery. **Please note that this provision DOES NOT apply to pre-kindergarten applicants or applicants of siblings currently enrolled in grades 5 and 8 or late applicants.**

Siblings applying for the same school and grade level, who share the same birth date will be considered as simultaneous placements at the option of the parent/guardian if one sibling is selected and seats are available. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to indicate "Sibling currently applying for a theme school" on the application and complete the information requested for each sibling.

**Failure to indicate any type of sibling status on the application will remove this provision from all types of siblings applying for enrollment. The sibling will be placed in the lottery as a single student applying for enrollment. To receive sibling priority, the same parent must complete separate applications for all siblings on the same parent account.**

For the purposes of this provision a "sibling" includes a family member who resides in the same household for which the parent(s) has been named the legal guardian. Legal documentation must be provided.

## Children of Full-Time Employees of a Theme School

Based on the Board Policy JBCC, children of full-time employees who work at a theme school may apply for an Employee Student Transfer for their child to enroll at the parents' work location. This provision does not apply to Pre-K programs. Only the biological child(ren) of the employees are eligible for Student Employee Transfer. Employee Student Transfer approval notifications are sent out between June 1-30 of each year. All placements are based on seat availability.

## Theme School Application Process

Complete an online application at <http://dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com> using a personal computer or a local library computer.

It is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to submit/upload copies of all documents **with the application** to complete the application (proof of residence, birth certificate, report card, etc.) by the deadline. Your application is **NOT** considered complete until all supporting documentation is submitted to the School Choice Office by the deadline. **All submitted documentation becomes the property of the DeKalb County School District.**

Applicants not enrolled in the DeKalb County School District must provide proof of residence (current gas, electric, water bills, mortgage statement or lease agreements in the name of the parent or legal guardian). **Telephone bills, bank statements, cable bills, etc. will not be accepted as proof of residency.**

All applicants not enrolled in the DeKalb County School District must provide a certified copy of the birth certificate to complete the application process.

Applicants not enrolled in the DeKalb County School District and are currently in grades 1 - 7 must provide a copy of the most current report card to complete the application process.

It is the parent's responsibility to review the application status regularly on the program's dashboard by logging into their account at [www.dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com](http://www.dekalbschoolsgac.scriborder.com).

## **Distribution of Seats**

### **Elementary Theme Schools**

Each school year the total number of seats per theme school and per grade level are determined prior to the lottery. The number of available seats for each elementary theme school is distributed among the feeder schools based on the schools with the greatest need for relief due to space constraints or greatest enrollment. There are three pools that students will be placed in during the random lottery selection process: Siblings, At-Large, and Staff. Any applicant not receiving placement will be waitlisted in the order in which they were selected during the random lottery selection process. Based on the Board Policy JBCC, children in grades K - 5 of full-time theme school-based employees will be placed when seats are available. If seats are not available for all children of staff, the applicants will be waitlisted. These selection guidelines do not apply to the Pre-Kindergarten program.

### **Middle Theme School**

Each school year the total number of seats per grade level are determined prior to the lottery. Each elementary theme school population will be allotted an equal percentage of available sixth grade seats to form 50% of the theme middle school sixth grade total population. At-large sixth grade applicants will fill the other half of the available seats from their home middle school attendance areas. A 50%-50% allotment is utilized to allow theme seventh and eighth grade applicants the option to fill half of the available seats from their middle school home attendance area. At-large seventh and eighth grade applicants will fill the other half of the available seats from their home middle school attendance areas. There are four pools that students will be placed in during the lottery selection process including: siblings of currently enrolled theme students, previous theme students, at-large and children of the theme middle school staff applicants. The available theme and at-large openings are distributed among the participating middle schools. Should an uneven number of seats become available; the remaining seats will be distributed to the sites based on the greatest need for relief due to space constraints or greatest enrollment. An automated random lottery/selection process will be conducted if the number of applications exceeds the feeder school's projected number of available seats for any or all grade levels in a theme school.

### **Waiting List**

Once all seats are filled, the remaining applicants not selected for placement during the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. If additional seats become available after the lottery has been conducted, the seats will be filled from applicants on the designated waiting list (per grade level, per feeder school). The waiting list will be applicable from the date of the theme schools automated random lottery/selection process until **August 30, 2024**. Students will not be placed after **August 30, 2024**.

### **Notification Process**

Notification will be sent to the applicants selected in the theme school lottery via email and the parent/family application dashboard. This notification will inform the parents of the procedures required to complete the selection. If for any reason the parents/guardians fail to complete the enrollment process, the child's name will be removed from the class list. The following guidelines will apply to all students selected to attend a School Choice Program.

- ⇒ If the student does not meet the promotion requirements to enroll in the grade level for which the applicant has been selected, the student's placement will be declined. The seat will be offered to the next eligible applicant on the waiting list.
- ⇒ Students must attend the designated theme school on the first day of school to retain placement. Vacated seats will be given to the next student on the waitlist through the August deadline.
- ⇒ No new students will be admitted after **August 30, 2024**. Students not selected may reapply for the 2025- 2026 school year. Waitlisted students will receive notification that includes their wait list number at the time of the **2024 - 2025** automated random lottery selection process.
- ⇒ Selected applicants must accept or decline placement offered in a program by the program/school registration deadline.

# DISCLAIMER

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) reserves the right to change any statement in this publication concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, procedures, program guidelines, dates, curricula, and courses without advance notice or obligation.

DCSD reserves the right to place students in any school choice program due to unforeseen circumstances.

Failure to read this brochure does not excuse parents and students from the regulations and requirements described herein.

It is the policy of the DeKalb County Board of Education not to discriminate based on age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or handicap in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

