

591 Star of the North Academy (SNA) Enrollment Policy

STUDENT ENROLLMENT POLICY

1. Annually, Star of the North Academy will establish the number of sections to be offered at each grade level the following school year, and the maximum number of students to be allowed in each section.
2. The SNA application period will be set each year by the school's board.
3. During the application period, the application deadline and potential lottery date are advertised on the SNA website and during monthly school tours.
4. In the month leading up to the application deadline, SNA will remind parents of current students that sibling preference is available to younger siblings only if the applications are received prior to the application deadline. After that date, if no spaces remain open, sibling applicants are placed at the bottom of the sibling waiting list.
5. SNA gives enrollment preference to a sibling of an enrolled pupil and to a foster child of that pupil's parents.
6. A staff member eligible for an enrollment preference for their child, including a foster child, must be an individual employed at the school whose employment is stipulated in advance to total at least 480 hours in a school calendar year.
7. Prior to the lottery date, the school registrar and one or more Board Members create a list with the number of open seats. Names of siblings are entered, and the remaining open seats are counted.
8. In the event of a school lottery, the names of all students for whom SNA has received timely applications that are on a waiting list are put in a container. All sibling envelopes are marked so that if one application is pulled, the puller knows to enroll the sibling(s), too.
9. The lottery is held at SNA in front of an audience of any parents or prospective parents who choose to attend, names are pulled from the container, one at a time, and entered on the list of available seats.
10. When all seats are filled, the remaining names are pulled from the container, one at a time, to create a waiting list.
11. After the enrollment lottery is complete, all seated students and waiting list students are asked to complete an enrollment form.
12. SNA checks all applicants to ensure kindergarteners will have turned 5 prior to September 1st of the following year.
13. As applications continue to come in after the lottery date, names are added to the bottom of the waiting list. Siblings are added to a sibling waiting list, and other potential applicants are added to the general waiting list.
14. As any spot becomes available, the prospective student at the top of the sibling waiting list is contacted first and enrolled. If there are no potential applicants on the sibling waiting list, the prospective student at the top of the general waiting is contacted and enrolled.

ADMISSION POLICY

SNA ADMISSION POLICY

Star of the North Academy is a public charter school open to any student in the state of Minnesota. All students have a right to an education; however, registration is required. A student application can be found on the school website or when parents do a walk-in. Parents may also call the school to enroll by phone or a representative can be sent to a student's house to describe the benefits of enrolling at Star of the North Academy.

As a public charter school, federal and state laws govern SNA's admission policy. Under Minnesota statute §124E.11 (b), if the number of applications exceeds the capacity of SNA's program, grade level, or building, students must be accepted by lottery. For any grade level where we have more applicants than spaces available, we will conduct such a lottery to determine admission for that grade. Applicants who do not receive classroom placements in the lottery will be put on a waiting list in the order they were selected in the lottery. They will be notified promptly if a space becomes available. Per state statute, each school year is a separate enrollment period. Those students on a waiting list for one school year will have to submit a separate application the following year. At SNA, enrollment preference will be given to a sibling of an enrolled SNA student. We define siblings as children that share a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver. Children of SNA employees are given preference in this same manner.

Students currently enrolled in the school are automatically enrolled for the following school year.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

It is Star of the North Academy School's policy that children applying to Kindergarten must turn 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1st of the year they will be starting school unless a student was enrolled in another school for at least a month or more, shows readiness and passes the assessment.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Star of the North Academy

Star of the North Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, color, national and ethnic origin in its admission or educational policies, athletics, and other school administered programs (Minnesota Statutes, Section 124 E.10, subdivision9).

Star of the North Academy will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations, including, without limitation, the constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, age, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion or ancestry.

NON-SECTARIAN POLICY

Star of the North Academy agrees that it will operate, in all respects, as a non-sectarian, non-religious, non-home-based public school. The school will not be affiliated with any non-public or sectarian school or religious organization.

CLASS SIZE GUIDANCE

The Star of the North Academy Board recognizes that there is a relationship between class size and student achievement and this relationship varies across grade levels, among subjects, and by methods of instruction. Therefore, the recommended class size shall be determined by several variables including grade level, classroom space, and budgetary constraints, in each calendar year. The Executive Director/Principal has the right to increase class size based on need by bringing the proposed increase to the school board for approval.

Higher class sizes will be allowed for the scheduling of special classes such as physical education based on grade level and classroom space.