



WHAT IS A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL?

A charter school is a public school operated by a group of parents, teachers, and community members that is responsible to—and runs autonomously from—the school district. Our "charter" is a contract between Lewis & Clark Montessori and Gresham-Barlow School District. The charter spells out the school's goals, standards, accountability plan, governance, operations, education design and curriculum. Lewis & Clark Montessori is a nonprofit organization with a volunteer board of directors.

WHAT EXPENSES ARE INVOLVED IN ATTENDING LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL?

Lewis & Clark Montessori has an annual school fee of \$300 (\$400 for MAC) due at the beginning of each year. This fee helps to offset costs of camping, field trips, going outs, electives and to purchase PE/Recess equipment and consumable supplies used by all students throughout the year. These supplies include: pencils, colored pencils, copy, construction and lined paper, glue sticks, erasers, cardstock, dry erase markers, scissors, tape, composition books, note cards, protractors, compasses and Kleenex. This fee is also used for morning snack to help replace and repair our essential Montessori Materials. Teachers may also post a classroom wish-list for additional items such as library books, specialty art and science supplies throughout the school year; parents may choose to contribute to this list. Thank you for your continued support of our teachers, the students and our classrooms!

A 10% discount is given to those families with (2) students, 15% for (3) students and 20% for (4) students. No additional supplies are required to be provided by students/families.

The current price for lunch is \$4 per day. The school participates in the NSLP Free and Reduced Lunch Program for those who qualify. Students may also bring a lunch from home.

There are also fees for services such as the Trails before and after school program (Trails can be paid as an unlimited month for \$225 or \$7.50 per hr. After school classes offered through the Community Learning Center are charged either by the semester (avg. \$85) or by the hour (\$7.50).

HOW EXACTLY IS A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDED?

As a public school, we are eligible for funding from the State of Oregon based on the daily attendance rate of our students. However, because we are a public charter school and sponsored by the Gresham Barlow School District (GBSD), those state education funds are paid directly to GBSD and based on the charter agreement, we receive 80% of the total.



WHAT DOES THIS EDUCATION DOLLAR REDUCTION MEAN FOR YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY?

It means that we endeavor to do more with less every year. Additionally, it also means that fundraising through the Meriwether Annual Fund, Runraisers (Runtober and Spring In Our Step) and larger events like auctions or special dinners are not only necessary but essential to our sustainability.

WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION AND OTHER STUDENT SERVICES?

As a public charter school, we have limited resources for special education and student services. The Gresham-Barlow School District provides a Resource Materials Teacher and a Speech and Language Pathologist for students with IEP's, however these (2) specialists are only available on a part-time basis. Lewis & Clark Montessori employs (1) additional part-time staff as part of the Student Assistance Team to help identify and serve students under a 504 Plan and other IDEA-identified needs. Note: Potential enrollees with an IEP or 504, would be best served by scheduling a placement meeting with Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School and the SpEd team at their current school.

WHO CAN APPLY TO LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL?

Children entering kindergarten (must be five years old on or before September 1st) through eighth grade can apply. By State Charter law, we must first serve all students from the district in which we reside (Gresham-Barlow School District). Students who reside out of the district but in the state of Oregon will be placed on the waitlist after all in-district applicants have been placed from the lottery.

IS LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL ONE OF THE CHOICES IN THE GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT (GBSD) LOTTERY?

No. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School's lottery is separate from the GBSD lottery, so we are NOT one of the choices in the GBSD lottery. Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School is not a GBSD school therefore you must first complete the Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School lottery application if you wish your student to attend.

HOW MANY SPACES DO YOU HAVE EACH YEAR?

Generally speaking, the greatest number of spaces are available at the kindergarten grade level since that is the entry point for Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. {Our tuition-based, Children's House can accept children as early as 2 1/2 years old if they are fully potty trained.} The specific number of spaces varies year to year depending on how many siblings of current students are entering the incoming kindergarten class. We encourage you complete an application for the grade level your child is at, as we have potential openings at all levels.



WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF GETTING A SPOT?

We will not know the number of applicants until the application deadline. If there are more applicants than spaces available, state law requires Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School to conduct a lottery. There are three (3) lottery drawings each year: March 15th, May 1st and August 1st. Once all grade level openings (K-8) are filled, we will continue to draw names and put them in the order drawn on the waitlist by grade level. Keep in mind, not everyone that receives a space through the lottery chooses to enroll. Should parents decline placement or move out of the area, the waitlist will be activated. We encourage you to complete a lottery application if you are interested in Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. **[PLEASE NOTE:]** Your best chances of getting a spot is to apply before the first lottery drawing on March 15th.

IF I FILLED OUT A LOTTERY FORM LAST YEAR AND WAS WAITLISTED, DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER FORM FOR THIS YEAR'S LOTTERY?

Yes. The waitlist does **NOT** carry over to the next school year.

IF MULTIPLE SIBLINGS (INCLUDING TWINS) APPLY TO LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, DOES THAT MEAN IF ONE GETS SELECTED IN THE LOTTERY, ALL SIBLINGS GET A SPOT?

Unfortunately, no. Every grade has their own lottery and siblings are regarded individually and drawn separately in the lottery. One of your children may be offered enrollment, while another one is waitlisted in the order selected in the lottery drawing.

IF MY CHILD IS ENROLLED AT LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL, WILL SIBLINGS GET PREFERENCE IN THE FUTURE?

Yes. As long as they have a sibling currently enrolled in the charter school, any siblings wishing to attend will be given preference. You, however, must still submit an application for them using the lottery application (just make sure to circle the “Y” next to the sibling question on the application). Please note that siblings are only admitted when there is a space available in the grade they seek. Siblings will be put on the waitlist if there is not a current opening.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE LOTTERY DRAWING?

Once the lottery process has occurred, families with children whose numbers have been selected for placement and families with children at the top of the waitlist (numbers 1 - 20) are invited to attend an orientation meeting (date to be announced later) at Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. If any family chooses not to enroll their child after accepting a spot, that space is opened and enrollment is offered to the next applicant on the lottery waitlist. This process continues until all spaces are filled for the upcoming school year. Since enrollment frequently changes over the summer, waitlist applicants may be offered enrollment throughout the summer, including one or two days before the first day of school or even after the first day of school. In these situations, families are asked to make a decision about enrollment in a short period of time (usually 24 hours).



Lottery and Enrollment Timeline:

There are three (3) lottery drawing dates: March 15th, May 1st and August 1st.

Lottery applications are available online & at the front office. Please fill out a lottery application to apply for the next applicable school year.

All applicants will receive electronic notification of lottery results.

FAQ's:

My application is turned in after the March 14th deadline but prior to the April 30th deadline?

You will automatically be placed in the May 1st lottery and likewise, applications received after May 1st but before July 31st, you will be placed into the Aug 1st lottery.

Are applications processed in order of receipt or are all applications processed together?

Applications received by the lottery due date are processed together and are drawn at random for that lottery drawing (i.e. before March 14th you will be part of the March 15th lottery and drawn at random). This repeats for the May 1st and Aug 1st lottery drawings as well.

Is it necessary to apply for the lottery if my child attend's the Children's House program?

Yes, enrollment in the Children's House does not guarantee admission to the Public Charter program.

Is an application required for each child?

Yes, a separate application is required for each student.

Is there an application fee for the Public Charter program?

There is no application fee for the Public Charter program. There is a fee for the Children's House.

The School does not limit student admission based on ethnicity, national origin, race, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, residence, health, income level, proficiency in English language, athletic ability, academic records, whether a student has an individualized education program (IEP) or the terms of that IEP but may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level.