



Old Donation School Selection Process

To be considered for placement at Old Donation School, students must meet the criteria for gifted identification.

Identified gifted students interested in attending Old Donation School are referred to the selection committee for review. A team of approximately 25 people representing a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and ethnicities serve on the Student Selection Committee. The team will review eligible applicants to determine placement at Old Donation School. The following components will be used in the decision making process:

Parent Information

Teacher Information (only 1 form will be accepted)

Standardized Test Scores

Student Achievement (as indicated on the current report card)

The selection process begins with training to attend to inter-rater reliability. The committee will use a numerical rating scale to complete a blind and holistic evaluation of the applicants. Multiple readers will rate each application independently. The committee will stop periodically to check the reliability of the ratings; if readers are more than one number apart in their rankings, the application will receive further review and group discussion as needed. This process is modeled after those used to select students for the Governor's School Summer Programs and many college admissions offices.

A rating scale of 5 - 1, with 5 being the highest recommendation, will be used. Listed below are the criteria for each numerical rating:

5 = consistently strong in all of the application components; a definite yes

4 = strong in most of the application components; a likely yes

3 = shows strength in some application components, but not consistently excellent; possible, but not a likely yes

2 = few consistent areas of strength; a likely no

1 = not recommended

After the applications have been rated, those receiving the highest ratings will be recommended for placement at Old Donation School contingent on the number of seats available at each grade level. An applicant pool will be identified in the event that a student who is offered a position chooses not to accept. The applicant pool will be dissolved prior to the first day of school.

Parents/guardians are notified within fourteen instructional days of the Selection Committee's decision through email. Parents/guardians may appeal the decision of the Selection Committee. The appeal is administered by the director in the Office of Gifted Programs.