QUICK GUIDE TO METRO SCHOOLS
Every Student Known

There are few things as important as a child’s education. How we instill knowledge and values into our children helps them grow into productive, compassionate and successful adults. In our schools, we work closely with students, staff, families and partners to ensure every child is known and graduates ready for college, career and life.

At Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), every student has a clear and achievable path to success marked by measurable goals. Every student in the district is personally known through the use of detailed academic, behavior and social-emotional data, but also by making a concerted effort to tune into his or her interests, passions, learning style and needs. We focus on creating and supporting rigorous, engaging and personalized learning experiences for all students to identify and eliminate inequities.

The ability to read and write is at the heart of an excellent education and is critical to eliminating inequities. Through the Literacy Reimagined initiative, Metro Schools is putting strong reading materials into the hands of K-12 teachers because quality literacy skills lead to better understanding in all subject areas.

With a wide range of programs and opportunities, paired with strong, standards-based instruction, MNPS has options to fit every family’s needs. Whether you are looking for advanced academics, a focus on arts or English language supports, we offer the best choices to meet individual student needs from Pre-K through graduation.

Whatever excites your child about school or learning, MNPS has a school where every student is known and appreciated.

PERSONALIZED STUDENT DASHBOARD
Families have on-demand access to assessment data, class grades, attendance data, a record of behavioral incidents, and high school graduation academic plans. Learn more: www.mnps.org/campusportal.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OPPORTUNITIES (terms to know)
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- Career Technical Education (CTE)
- Cambridge International
- Dual Enrollment
- Encore
- Honor Courses
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Talent Development
- Young Scholars of Nashville
79,651 STUDENTS

39.84% BLACK
30.72% HISPANIC/LATINO
25.1% WHITE
3.96% ASIAN
0.21% AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
0.16% NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

MORE THAN 3.5 MILLION ITEMS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS THROUGH MNPS LIBRARIES AND LIMITLESS LIBRARIES

126 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

21% OF STUDENTS ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

MNPS has a wide range of programs and services that fully support students, in and out of the classroom. Some of these services include:

COMMUNITY ACHIEVES
The Community Achieves initiative offers programs focused on college and career readiness, family engagement, health and wellness, and social services.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE
An online guide to help youth and families access assistance from community providers: www.mnps.org/community-resource-guide.

ENGLISH LEARNER SERVICES
Our schools support English learners throughout their journey to English fluency. Our 750 EL teachers work with students to provide EL services every day.

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION
All MNPS schools provide services and intervention supports in physical, academic, behavioral, social-emotional and adaptive skill areas. Learn more about our exceptional education services: www.mnps.org/learn/academics/student-with-disabilities.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS
Each Family Resource Center connects families and students to community services, health resources, GED classes and other needs.

H.E.R.O. PROGRAM
The H.E.R.O. program provides critical services for students and families in transition, or experiencing homelessness.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ADDITIONAL FAMILY SUPPORTS AT WWW.MNPS.ORG/STUDENTS-FAMILIES.

FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER
For information, questions, comments or suggestions, please contact our Family Information Center at 615-259-INFO or familyinfo@mnps.org.
Across our elementary schools, teachers capture the natural curiosity and wonder their students have about the world. Through fun, hands-on lessons, students begin to learn about themselves, others and the community around them, creating a strong foundation for their future.

EARLY LEARNING
Metro Schools offers nationally recognized Pre-K programs. Using Creative Curriculum, students develop structure, social-emotional, problem solving, literacy and language skills. Studies show that Pre-K children develop literacy, language and math skills faster than their peers—and the benefits of Pre-K impact children into their teen and adult years. (Source: www.urbanchildinstitute.org/resources/policy-briefs/pre-k-matters)

STEAM MAGNET SCHOOLS
Big dreams start young—and MNPS elementary magnet schools tap into our learners’ imaginations with thematic learning programs like entrepreneurship and engineering. These programs, funded by the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)—a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education—cultivate students’ creativity in diverse and inclusive learning environments. Visit mnps.org/learn/academics/steam/steammagnet to learn more about STEAM magnet schools.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)
SEL is an important part of curriculum in all Metro Schools. New this year, elementary schools will implement Advocacy Centers, designed to provide Nashville’s youngest learners with a safe, calming space equipped with trained professionals.

TECHNOLOGY
Metro Schools has one-to-one devices and hotspots for all students, as well as programs created with industry partners, such as the Amazon Future Engineer program that brings computer science to all MNPS elementary schools.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OPPORTUNITIES
- Gifted and Talented programs: Encore, Young Scholars of Nashville, Talent Development
- AVID (5 schools)
- IB (2 schools)
Students experience tremendous growth during the middle school years—both academically and personally. As a bridge to young adulthood, the middle school years have the power to shape and influence a student’s whole life, which is why we focus on creating caring school environments reflective of students’ needs. Students cultivate their interests and strengthen their academic skills through experiential learning across all content areas, including English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, as well as a robust set of related arts courses, as they prepare for high school.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH (STEAM)

With STEAM curriculum, students are challenged to think critically, be creative, and communicate and collaborate with their peers. Metro Schools has specific STEAM-themed schools, but STEAM programming can be found in many classrooms across all grade levels.

STEAM Expeditions take students on field trips to locations that are connected to their curriculums in the classroom. Expeditions have included opportunities to meet a Vanderbilt astronomy expert, watch the Nashville Ballet and look closely at animal behaviors and habitats with zoologists at the Nashville Zoo.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

True to our Music City roots, the arts are an important focus in all grade levels. Metro Schools is home to thriving programs in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. These programs have support from the local arts community, music industry and valuable business partnerships.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OPPORTUNITIES

- Gifted and Talented programs: Encore, Young Scholars of Nashville, Talent Development
- AVID (11 schools)
- IB (5 schools)
- Cambridge (4 schools)
- Honors courses

There are many opportunities for divergent and flexible thinking, adaptability and personal expression. The arts help to build self-esteem and respect for others. We are one human family, different in many ways, but the arts bring us together as one.

Nita Smith
Choral and piano teacher at Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts and 2020 CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence
Academies of Nashville provide students with one of the best college and career prep experiences in the nation, with academic experiences ranging from business and finance to health sciences or engineering. Students have a choice of 35 different academies across 12 neighborhood high schools.

As an example of how the Academies benefit students, the John Overton High School health science pathway has partnerships with St. Thomas Health, HCA Healthcare and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. These partners offer at-school mentorships and clinical internships that create opportunities for students to do hands-on, real-world work. One student received four job interviews in the first four days of putting out her resume. Many have been accepted to universities to study health science—including one with a full ride to Yale University. One brave student used her practiced CPR skills on a fellow student in trouble—all as a result of this program.

This is only one of the many Academy pathways available at Metro Schools. To learn about others: [www.mnps.org/learn/academics/academies-of-nashville](http://www.mnps.org/learn/academics/academies-of-nashville).

**ATHLETICS**

Metro Schools athletics focus not only on physical health, but also on building character for grades 6-12. Athletic programs provide student athletes with opportunities to develop higher standards of mental, moral, social and physical fitness.

**COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

- AVID (9 schools)
- IB (4 schools)
- Cambridge (4 schools)
- Honors courses
- AP
- Dual enrollment

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

We are building resumes where students can stand out above others.

*Beth Wilson*
Health Science CTE teacher at Overton High School

High school offers students personalized, thematic learning tied to real-world experiences. Students are provided college or career opportunities with advanced placement courses (AP) to obtain college credit and other nationally recognized professional certifications, like EKG Technician, AutoDesk Inventor and Hootsuite Social Marketing. Students are also prepared for college through work-based internships and service-learning experiences.
Families in Nashville have **159 PUBLIC SCHOOLS** available to them—meaning there’s a school that’s right for your child. While families have many choices available through the Optional Schools Application Process, the perfect school for your student may be right around the corner in your very own neighborhood, with strong neighborhood pathways from elementary school to middle school to high school that allow students to continue their education with their neighborhood classmates.

**WHAT IS A ZONED SCHOOL?**
Every child in Nashville is zoned for a specific elementary, middle and high school and is guaranteed a seat at that zoned school. Some areas also have zoned options, which give families guaranteed access to more than one school. Proof of residency is required to attend a zoned school.

**WHAT IS AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL?**
Optional schools fall into two categories: schools without a zone designed to attract students from all over town, such as magnet and charter schools, and zoned neighborhood schools with available seats. Magnet schools often offer specialized programming and may have entrance requirements. Some charter schools also offer their own application process. If a zoned neighborhood school has available seats, any student in Nashville may apply to fill them.

**IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO OPTIONAL SCHOOLS?**
Families are responsible for transportation to optional schools unless otherwise indicated on the school choice application. All high school students can ride WeGo buses free through the StrIDE program. Middle school students attending school outside of their zone are also eligible to ride WeGo buses free after parents complete a permission form at the school’s main office.

**WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS?**
Many charter schools use the district’s Optional Schools Application to admit students, but some use their own applications. If the charter school your child would like to attend does not appear on the application, contact that school to learn more about its application process.

**REGISTER FOR SCHOOL**
Students can register for school online or visit any MNPS enrollment center. Enrollment centers are open Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m. To register online or to find an enrollment center near you, visit [www.mnps.org/learn/register-for-school](http://www.mnps.org/learn/register-for-school).

**27 CHARTER SCHOOLS**
**3 ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTERS**
**3 EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS**

FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER
For information, questions, comments or suggestions, please contact our Family Information Center at:

📞 615-259-INFO
✉️ FamilyInfo@mnps.org

FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER SERVICE HOURS:

BY PHONE:
Monday through Friday,
6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

IN PERSON:
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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