

Bear Exploration Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology

Goal: Bear Exploration Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology provides a hands-on, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) integrated curriculum to help students develop skills needed for a complex, scientific and technological world.

Curriculum: Grade levels use traditional STEM curriculum with enrichment in math, science and technology. Teachers use hands-on, manipulative-based instruction and field experiences to make learning meaningful. Technology is integrated throughout all areas of learning.

Grades served: Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Distinctive Program Features

- Outdoor Classroom/Environmental Center with ponds, butterfly garden & habitat, turtle habitat, bee hive, and vegetable gardens
- Extensive Field Experiences including Huntsville Space & Rocket Center, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Georgia Aquarium, DeSoto Caverns, Old Alabama Town, McWane Science Center, Sloss Furnaces
- Spanish classes for all students with certified Spanish teacher
- Hands-on learning modules involving interactive computer software including Compass Learning, Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math
- Technology lab with full-time instructor; students learn desktop publishing skills and how to use digital equipment, participate in technology competitions and develop computer skills
- Science lab with full-time instructor; students conduct experiments, observe and care for the school's pets and record data in scientific journals
- Participation in the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program
- Artist-in-residence integrates art into traditional instruction; students compete in annual art shows and contests
- Grade level musical productions throughout the year
- Comprehensive after school program which features Honor Chorus, Jump Rope Team, National Elementary Honor Society, Art classes, Chess Club, Technology Club, and Robotics Club
- State-of-the-art media production studio; students produce news segments for closed circuit television channel and broadcast morning announcements
- Parental involvement programs such as Family Math Night and Family Science Night
- iPads and Chromebooks used in every grade level for enrichment and differentiating instruction
- Spanish Teacher
- 2015 National Blue Ribbon School for Exemplary Performance

K-1st Grade Eligibility Criteria: Applicants for kindergarten must have had their fifth birthday prior to September 2, 2017. Applicants for first grade must have had their sixth birthday on or before December 31, 2017. All K-1 applicants will complete an assessment. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected. **Second-Fifth Grade Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must have a 2.75 GPA or better in the core academic subjects (math, science, reading, English language arts, and social studies) for the past three semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. Applicants must also have a 3.0 or better GPA in conduct in the core academic subjects (math, science, reading, English language arts, and social studies) for the past 3 semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected.

Forest Avenue Academic Magnet Elementary

Goal: Forest Avenue Academic Magnet is designed to accommodate the strengths, special interests and learning styles of the academically motivated student.

Curriculum: Forest Avenue offers a challenging curriculum that includes accelerated reading, math, language and spelling programs. For example, a student entering third grade will be expected to master fourth grade academic standards. Enrichment activities include science lab, computer lab, Spanish lab, music and Mandarin Chinese.

Grades served: Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Distinctive Program Features

- Emphasis on higher order thinking skills, problem solving, and writing
- Hands on project based learning
- Emphasis on field study trips to locations throughout Alabama and Georgia
- Science laboratory with full-time instructor; students conduct hands-on experiments while observing and caring for a vast array of animals
- Outdoor science lab with fish pond, turtle habitat and flower beds for science experiments
- Special instruction in computer technology with full-time instructor; students master desktop publishing skills, write in code, and use technology to enrich classroom instruction and activities
- Exploratory studies in Spanish (K-5) with full-time instructor
- Mandarin Chinese classes (3rd-5th) through Troy University Confucius Institute with two instructors
- Full-time music teacher and director of chorus; musical productions throughout the city of Montgomery; monthly grade level musical productions
- Student Council and Forest Avenue Ambassadors
- After school programs which include Tonya Speed Dance, Abrakadoodle Art, Chess, Good News Club, and Girls on the Run
- Parental and community involvement through volunteer services and Partners in Education

K-1st Grade Eligibility Criteria: Applicants for kindergarten must have had their fifth birthday prior to September 2, 2018. Applicants for first grade must have had their sixth birthday on or before December 31, 2018. All K-1 applicants will complete an assessment. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected. **Second-Fifth Grade Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA or better in the core academic subjects (math, science, reading, English language arts, and social studies) for the past three semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. Applicants must also have a 3.0 or better GPA in conduct in the core academic subjects (math, science, reading, English language arts, and social studies) for the past 3 semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected.

MacMillan International Academy

Goal: MacMillan International Academy became an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in the spring of 2013. MacMillan is the only IB Primary Years Program in the Montgomery Public School District. MacMillan aims to develop inquiring knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. MacMillan challenges students who have strong interests in international studies, humanities, communications and technology. MacMillan takes an interactive approach to learning, which is enhanced through a wide variety of multi-media technologies.

Curriculum: MacMillan International Academy focuses on global studies. The school offers a full technology integrated curriculum. Students are encouraged to become global thinkers as they develop an understanding of the world through the study of languages, different cultures and humanities. Along with the emphasis on the acquisition of the basic understanding of a foreign language, students will learn new ways of communicating about the world and how people live in various cultures. Our students leave us prepared to live more effectively in an ever increasingly interdependent world. They also learn to appreciate the differences in all of us that make all of our societies unique in nature.

Grades served: Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Distinctive Program Features

- Strong primary years, inquiry based teaching and project based learning program that promotes thinking, social skills, communication, self management, and research skills.
- International themes, cultural thematic presentations, student produced WMIB talk radio and monthly chorus/drama productions
- Daily Spanish instruction
- Music theory, choral music and instrumental keyboard instruction
- Technology lab coordinated by a full-time technology teacher
- Infusion of technology in academic studies, internet, wifi capabilities in all classrooms
- Numerous after school programs including chorus, dance, karate, Jr. Library Friends, and track
- Multi-media research projects and field experiences to support themes
- Diverse community of international students – over 15 countries represented
- Supportive partnerships with International Officers' School and Squadron Officers' School at Maxwell Air Force Base and Auburn University Montgomery

K-1st Grade Eligibility Criteria: Applicants for kindergarten must have had their fifth birthday prior to September 2, 2017. Applicants for first grade must have had their sixth birthday on or before December 31, 2017. All K-1 applicants will complete an assessment. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected. **Second-Fifth Grade Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA or better in the core academic subjects (math, science, reading, English language arts, and social studies) for the past three semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. Applicants must also have a 3.0 or better GPA in conduct for the past 3 semesters for 3rd-5th grade applicants and the past semester for 2nd grade applicants. **Selection Process:** Eligible applicants will be randomly selected.