

**Family Questions from the 3-1-23 SciTech Info Webinar**

**Q: I see on the home page that it is for 3 schools that do not include Maple Hills. Is Maple Hills included here? I have same question as we are at Grand Ridge.**

A: SciTech is a special program located at three school sites: Briarwood, Cascade Ridge and Clark. Entrance into the program is by lottery. A separate lottery is held for each school. Families select **ONE** lottery

**Q: Is this deck going to be sent out after the meeting? Will the slides be shared**

A: Yes, the slide deck is posted on the SciTech webpage

**Q: Sounds like the program may not be for students already in MERLIN, unless the student decides to quit MERLIN?**

A: Students in MERLIN may apply. If they are drawn in the lottery and decide to attend, they would withdraw from MERLIN and receive SAGE services in the qualifying areas at the SciTech site.

**Q: Do people get chosen from a hat or do 52 random kids just go to STMP?**

A: Please see the description of how the lottery works on the SciTech webpage. <https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/elementary-programs/science-technology-magnet-program>.

It is also included below:

**What is a lottery?** A lottery is a process by which applicants are randomly drawn. If there is enough room for every interested student, a lottery would not have to be held. Since the number of applications for often far exceeds the space available, a lottery is held for each school site to fill the class and to make the wait list for that site.

**How the lottery is conducted:** The goal of the lottery is to determine a new class of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students for the Science Technology Magnet Program with representation from as many elementary schools as possible at the three program sites: Briarwood, Cascade Ridge and Clark. A separate lottery is conducted for each program site. During the enrollment lottery application process, each student selected the program site lottery to be included. Students are entered into one lottery only, the lottery for the school site they selected on their application.

**Lottery Process:**

1. Each site lottery is conducted separately.
2. For each site’s lottery there are up to 16 bowls, one representing each school that has students who have submitted an application for the lottery, are set out.
3. Each bowl represents a school. Students who have applied for the lottery for that school are represented by a ticket in that bowl. The number of students who apply from each school varies from year to year.
4. There is no identifying information on the tickets – just the assigned lottery number.
5. The school bowls are arranged in a random order on the table. To determine the order the names of schools are drawn randomly.
6. Once the order of schools represented in the lottery has been determined, a snake draft lottery is conducted.
7. For each lottery, the picker begins by drawing a ticket from the first school and continues to the end of the line. Then the picker reverses direction, chooses from the last school, and continues back to the first school.
8. Once the class has been selected, the picker continues to select tickets for the wait list until all tickets are gone.
9. Then the picker starts from the end and returns to the start, back and forth, drawing one ticket from each bowl.
- 10.The Director notifies the audience when the class has been filled and then the picker will continue on drawing tickets using the same process to determine the wait list.
- 11.When all tickets have been selected and the wait list has been determined, that concludes the lottery for that school.

**Q: What happens if a child decides not to continue for the 2nd year? Is that allowed?**

A: SciTech is a 2-year cohort program. Students and families should carefully weigh the decision and accept with the commitment to remain for the two-years.

**Q: What happens if a student enrolls and then struggles during the 2-year time? Do they have to stay with the program?**

A: There is a process in place for families who wish to withdraw their student from the program. Multiple interventions should be attempted prior to withdrawal. The family should be in communication and collaboration with the school to address any issues as they come up. The decision to withdraw should be a team decision made after interventions have been put in place.

**Q: Will this program works good for student getting ELL/ LAP support? Enrolling to this program, is still recommended?**

A: Yes, this program is open to all students. Students with ELL and LAP supports have been successful. Their services remain the same at the SciTech site.

**Q: Is there someone I can speak with prior to applying? I have some questions specifically pertaining to my child and her classroom needs and whether the program would be a good fit for her. I saw one link for more information on how children with IEP’s have done historically in this program.**

A: Call 425-837-7120 or email [sciencetech@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:sciencetech@issaquah.wednet.edu) The program is open to all students. Students with IEP services have found success in the program.

**Q: Will all the instructions for next steps shared via email post this session?**

A: All directions for next steps are on the SciTech webpage.

**Q: Will younger siblings get advantage to join this program when they reach 4th grade for this lottery?**

A: No, younger siblings are treated the same as all other students in the year they participate in the lottery.

**Q: How do the classes work with mixed grades? Are the science/social studies classes mixed with larger sizes?**

A: : The students are grouped differently for different parts of the day; sometimes they are separated by grade – especially for math since it is taught at grade level. Other times they are mixed up.

**Q: Can the students still get to use to school bus if selected into the program?**

A: If the students already attends the school where the SciTech site is located and are drawn in the lottery, transportation remains the same for those students. Transportation is not specifically provided when selected into the program. Families are welcome to contact transportation after the first two weeks of school so see what is possible but transportation is not guaranteed. The Elementary Special Programs Department also puts together a carpool site.

**Q: Students who are enrolled in BASC in their regular schools will have the option to transfer to the STEM school’s BASC program?**

A: Links to BASC information for the SciTech sites is provided on the SciTech webpage. It is the family’s responsibility to contact BASC at the SciTech site about transferring to the program at the SciTech site.

**Q: Will there be field trips this next year for the Sci. Tech program? Considering last year due to covid restrictions, this didn’t happen.**

A: There are usually several learning excursions.

**Q: Will the recording be available?**

A: Yes it is posted on the SciTech webpage.

**Q: If the student wants to transfer back to regular assigned school, is that doable?**

A: SciTech is a 2-year cohort program. Students and families should carefully weigh the decision and accept with the commitment to remain for the two-years. There is a process in place for families who wish to withdraw. Multiple interventions should be attempted prior to withdrawal. The family should be in communication and collaborating with the school team to address issues as they come up. The decision to withdraw should be made after all interventions have been put in place.

**Q: Are 4th graders separated from each other or are they together.**

A: The students are grouped differently for different parts of the day; sometimes they are separated by grade – especially for math since it is taught at grade level. Other times they are mixed up.

**Q: What is the purpose of Statement of Interest if it does not affect lottery? What it affects?**

A: The purpose of the statement of interest is to ensure students are aware of being entered in the lottery, understand the program design and expectations, are excited about the program, **and are willing to**

**Q: How many additional hours of different work is the student expected to student vs 4th and 5th grade curriculum?**

A: The primary different in this program is that the student may be engaged in more long-term group projects. The amount of time this work takes varies from student to student.

**Q: What is the acceptance rate of the program?**

A: Admittance into the program is done by lottery so the concept of acceptance rate does not apply. A lottery is a process by which applicants are randomly drawn. If there is enough room for every interested student, a lottery is not held. Since the number of applications for the Science Technology Magnet Program often far exceeds the space available, a lottery is held for each school site to fill the class and to make the wait list for that site. The lottery is held at Clark and 26 at Briarwood. The reason Briarwood has one more spot is because the is additional paraeducator support at was out of place years ago that has been in order to make this possible. This support is no longer option at other sites. See: [How does the lottery work?](#)

**Q: If your child is in the after school program at their current school can they join the after school program during this program**

A: It is the family’s responsibility to contact BASC at the SciTech site about transferring to the program at the SciTech site. Links to BASC information for the SciTech sites is provided on the SciTech webpage.

**Q: If picked in the lottery, how much time do we have to decide whether to accept enrollment (or stay at our current school)?**

A: Two weeks or ten school days.

**Q: If a Challenger elementary kid were to be selected for this program, will he/she go to Cascade Ridge?**

Students may enter into one lottery at one of the three sites. When completing the application the family selects which lottery to enter into.

**Q: Where do most graduates end up for middle?**

A: Fifth grade students attend their neighborhood school feeder schools.

**Q: Generally, what amount of “screen time” is spent in this program compared to a normal, General Education class?**

A: Screen time is reality in classrooms in general. There is not necessarily more screen time in Sci-Tech. STEM encompasses many activities that do not use screens including art like cartooning and podcasting

**Q: What is the past statistics of students who started for a short time and decided to drop out?**

A: This happens so rarely, we do not actively track this data.

**Q: Are there videos / recourses available that I can use to tell my child more about the program?**

Yes, there is a program video on the [SciTech web page](#) and further down on the page are pictures and slide shows of the three different sites. Select the tabs that say “View Briarwood”, “View Clark” and “View C

**Q: My son attends Briarwood, but he may not be selected for the Briarwood STEM program? Could be any school?**

A: Students register to participate in one lottery at one school. There are separate lotteries for all three sites. Students participate in only **one** lottery.

**Q: Are 4th graders mixed with 5th graders in classes?**

The students are grouped differently for different parts of the day; sometimes they are separated by grade – especially for math since it is taught at grade level. Other times they are mixed up.

**Q: How many for cedar trails?**

The number of students from Cedar Trails who enter into the lottery varies from year to year.

**Q: Program will still follow regular school bell times/schedule?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Typically how many students throughout the district apply for the lottery. I am doing the math on 75 spot versus how many applicants**

Year	Total 3 <sup>rd</sup> gr. Participants	CA 25 spots	CL 25 spots	BW – 26 spots
2018-19	251	101	80	70
2019-20	272	122	83	67
2020-21	343	138	114	91
2021-22	368	175	103	90
2022-23	294	148	69	77

**Q: How many students applied / waitlisted last year?**

See above. Once the class is complete the rest of the students are drawn to comprise the waitlist.

**Q: Can you explain the differences between the sites? You mentioned some sites have different technologies etc.**

Please see program video on the [SciTech web page](#) and further down on the page are pictures and slide shows of the three different sites. Select the tabs that say “View Briarwood”, “View Clark” and “View C

**Q: What time does SciTech start and end?**

A: The program follows the bell times of the school where it is located. All elementary school bell times are the same.

**Q: Can kids pick the same school they are in? How many students usually register for each of the 3 schools?.**

A: Students may only enter into **one lottery** for one of the three sites. If the student is currently a student at a SciTech site they **can** select that school.

**Q: How many kids have historically applied to the lottery each year?**

See table above.

**Q: I don’t want to get my students hopes up for this program if she is not going to be chosen for the lottery. Why do we need to have the student write a paragraph of interest?**

The purpose of the statement of interest is to ensure students are aware of being entered in the lottery, understand the program design and expectations, are excited about the program, **and are willing to tra**

**Q: Are there more field trips compared to regular 4th & 5th grade year?**

Not necessarily. It depends from year to year. The excursions will be STEM focused.

**Q: How do students adapt to the middle school if they are in Sci-Tech?? Any difficulty compare to regular school?**

Since the SciTech program is in a general education classrooms the environment not significantly different. Their adjustment to middle school going from staying in one classroom (2 adjoined classrooms) to sw same as all other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Q: How is the transition to middle school? Do kids find it difficult to adjust back?**

Since the SciTech program is in a general education classrooms the environment not significantly different. Their adjust to model school going from staying in one classroom (2 adjoined classrooms) to switching as all other 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students
<b>Q: Are there common reasons for students leaving?</b>
Each situation is unique – most often it is because they are leaving the district, the state or the country.
<b>Q: If won the lottery, would requests for siblings in lower grade to transfer be guaranteed?</b>
Transfer requests are evaluated based on school enrollment – the districts strives to make transfers possible but they cannot be guaranteed.
<b>Q: Any benefits or differences students will experience in middle school after attending this program?</b>
The Science Technology Magnet Program is an elementary program only.
<b>Q: Will there be lots of project competitions and field trips?</b>
Competitions are not typical. Learning excursions will happen several times a year.
<b>Q: Would bus routes be available?</b>
No, transportation is not provided.
<b>Q: Did you say 100 for the whole district or 100 in the whole lottery</b>
Please see the table above.
<b>Q: What are the factors should parents consider before deciding on which school to apply?</b>
That is a personal choice.
<b>Q: There was a question on the buses, but didn't hear a verbal answer, not sure if it got answered over the chat, I can't fit it now :-/</b>
Transportation is not provided.
<b>Q: Bus/transportation situation is important, how is that handled?</b>
Transportation is not provided.
<b>Q: What happens to their SAGE math?</b>
They will continue with SAGE math at the SciTech site.
<b>Q: I meant 100 per school or 100 for the entire lottery</b>
Please see the table above.
<b>Q: Transportation is not provided?</b>
No.
<b>Q: How many learning excursions happen in a school year? What do they look like?</b>
Several. Please see the SciTech slide deck for examples and the video on the SciTech webpage.
<b>Q: What additional education, training or specialty do the teachers have?</b>
Teachers have had and continue to have a variety of training opportunities from conferences, and TOSA led courses and book studies, to release day to collaborate. Historically ISD have been very generous support to meet regularly and collaborate They have support from district TOSA’s to develop special lessons and units and on integration of content and STEM.
<b>Q: Does the paragraph/ statement kids submit determines the entry to the lottery?</b>
The purpose of the statement of interest is to ensure students are aware of being entered in the lottery, understand the program design and expectations, are excited about the program, <b>and are willing to transfer</b>
<b>Q: Is there anywhere to read reviews of the program or hear from parents who have students currently or formerly in the program?</b>
Currently we do not have this in place officially but it is a great suggestion to build into our presentation for next year.
<b>Q: Is BASC spot from the old school also transferred?</b>
No. It is the families’ responsibility to contact BASC, which is a separate program, to initiate this.
<b>Q: If fourth graders are in Briarwood and they are not in the program, can they still sign up for it?</b>
No, they must enter into the lottery in 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade. The class is filled through the lottery.
<b>Q: Can student apply to same school they attending?</b>

Yes.
<b>Q: If lottery won, would the younger transferred sibling be requested to leave the school after the selected student leaves for middle school?</b>
Yes, and the family can also apply for a district transfer at that time.
<b>Q: Do we provide the tech like laptop/ipad etc or is it school provided?</b>
Materials are provided by the district. Families are not expected to provide laptop and i-\Pads. We already have these in the classroom.
<b>Q: Why is one school is 26 while the other 2 school is 25 spots?</b>
There are 25 spots at Cascade Ridge and Clark and 26 at Briarwood. The reason Briarwood has one more spot is because there is additional paraeducator support that was put into place years ago in order to maintain and grandfathered in. It is no longer option at other sites.
<b>Q: What time does Science Tech start and end?</b>
The bell times are the same as all other elementary schools.
<b>Q: Is this program similar to the way of teaching in IB program which encourage project based learning?</b>
Please see the slide desk which describes the instructional approaches.
<b>Q: Are there any tours we can request for the new schools? To see the facility, etc...?</b>
No but there is a program video on the <a href="#">SciTech web page</a> and further down on the page are pictures and slide shows of the three different sites. Select the tabs that say “View Briarwood”, “View Clark” and “View Cascade Ridge”.
<b>Q: When will the lottery results be available?</b>
Around the first week of May.
<b>Q: How do the activities look in the classroom compared to a regular class?</b>
Please see the slide deck, the info session video, and the program video on the <a href="#">SciTech web page</a> . And further down on the page are pictures and slide shows of the three different sites. Select the tabs that say “View Briarwood”, “View Clark” and “View Cascade Ridge.”
<b>Q: Do we do the same schedule as regular school or are there different?</b>
The start and end time and schedules are the same.
<b>Q: Where are the actual locations for sci tech magnet schools? i.e. if we choose clark, where is the magnet school located?</b>
The Science Tech Magent Program classrooms are located with the following schools: Clark, Cascade Ridge and Briarwood. The SciTech Magnet Program is a program with two classrooms, it is not a whole school.
<b>Q: Is there 50 4th graders and 50 5th graders at each school? Is the class size 50 students to one teacher? When the classes are mixed, 100 students together at one time?</b>
At each school there is a 4 <sup>th</sup> grade class of 25 and a 5 <sup>th</sup> grade class of 25. There are 50 students at each school and 150 students total. (The exception is that there are 2 extra students at Briarwood – 1 in 5 <sup>th</sup> and 1 in 4 <sup>th</sup> grade).
<b>Q: If your child has already written their hand written statement on scratch paper, with they need to re-write it on the document provided?</b>
Yes.
<b>Q: Where is the location to Science Tech?</b>
Briarwood, Cascade Ridge and Clark.
<b>Q: When is the lottery date?</b>
April 19
<b>Q: How often will students go on field trips?</b>
Several times a year.
<b>Q: Can student be in the school bus if they get selected to their current school they attending?</b>
Yes.
<b>Q: Is the start time each day different from current school bells? How about end of day?</b>
Bell times are the same.
<b>Q: Is there any data on better grades in Maths and Science classes for this cohort in subsequent classes?</b>
A: No, the program is not intended to be an acceleration program. It is a program that creates a STEM infused environment for students who are interested in a STEM approach to learning.
<b>Q: Can you share the demographics of students in each site?</b>



A: For the 2022-23 school year:

Race	Science Tech
Asian	97
Black/African American	6
Hispanic/Latino of any race(s)	7
Two or more races	12
White	31
Grand Total	153

**Q: Do we need to be available during the lottery drawing or can we get the info afterwards?**

**A:** You do not have to tune in. The lotteries will be recorded and information about results will be sent out to families after.

**Q: Am I free to choose any of the 3 sites as my primary site? Due to commute route considerations from work the one I want actually is not the closest to my address.**

**A:** Yes you can select any one of the three sites.

**Q: How do the multi-age group works for kids work together if 4th and 5th grade are not in the same class?**

**A:** The classrooms are adjoined and the teachers mix and match the students for difference activities/

**Q: Where is the location to STEM?**

**A:** Briarwood, Clark and Cascade Ridge.

**Q: They no longer get to ride the bus. is that the case? thxs...**

**A:** Transportation is not provided if the student transfers schools to attend a SciTech sites. Is the SciTech site they apply and get into is the school they are currently at and they take the bus then they would co

**Q: What happens if we move out of school district, can the kid continue this program?**

**A:** The student may not continue in the program is they are not living in and enrolled in the district..

**Q: Just to understand the lottery process better - all the applications will be downloaded and picked random manually or is it random system picked?**

**A:** See: [How does the lottery work?](#)

**Q: How are the kids divided between Cascade Ridge and Clark elementary? Do they each have a classroom with 25 kids?**

**A:** At each school there is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class of 25 and a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class of 25. There are 50 students at each school and 150 students total. (The exceptions is there are 2 extra students at Briarwood – 1 in 5<sup>th</sup> and

**Q: Is there going to be any new subjects?**

**A:** No, just integration of STEM.

**Q: Just to clarify, we have the same schedule, same time as regular school, and still do SAGE?**

**A:** Yes and yes.

**Q: "I attended the March 9th Zoom information meeting:"**

**Is there an additional session to attend. If not - can we mark yes for having attended this one?**

**(sorry for the early send)**

**A:** Yes

**Q: And the students will take the same kind of tests like the regular students, e.g. SBA, etc?**

**A:** Yes

**Q: Which site is more space challenged and more combined groups vs separate?**

**A:** All are similar.

**Q: One more question, will the students also do health class like my previous 5th grader regular schooler??**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Does the child have a choice of going to the middle school that the new elementary feeds into?**

**A:** Students go to their feeder middle school of the neighborhood school. Families are welcome to apply for the district transfer process if they wish to be considered for a different middle school

**Q: What is the purpose of statement of purpose by student on application?**

A: The purpose of the statement of interest is to ensure student aware of being entered in the lottery, understand the program design and expectations, is excited about the program, <b>and is willing to transfer</b>
<b>Q: Is statement of purpose a factor in selection?</b>
A: No. The purpose of the statement of interest is to ensure student aware of being entered in the lottery, understand the program design and expectations, is excited about the program, <b>and is willing to transfer</b>
<b>Q: What gets taken out of the regular curriculum to fit in these activities?</b>
A: Nothing is removed. Teachers have the discretion in integrate content and abbreviate some units as needed as long as the esseltial leanrings and standard are taught and met.
<b>Q: There has been a lot of talk about student transferring to a different school, which is wonderful, but if my student already goes to one of the program sites they can apply to that school correct?</b>
A: Yes.
<b>Q: What are the expectation from parents in terms of supporting projects or helping in the classroom, providing additional supplies, etc.</b>
Expectations are the same as in other classrooms.
<b>Q: What if the student has to transfer to different school in middle of the program?</b>
A: More information is needed to answer this question.
<b>Q: Are there any chess clubs in any of these schools?</b>
A: Please check the websites of the schools.
<b>Q: Is there a similar program in middle school and hs?</b>
A: No.
<b>Q: If someone drop out after a few months, will those on waitlist still join the program?</b>
A: Yes.
<b>Q: I understand kids will go through the same curriculum, but will the mode of testing also remain the same as regular students?</b>
A: Yes.