

GERALD R. FORD ACADEMIC CENTER

ENROLLMENT

Gerald R. Ford Academic Center is a theme school whose chosen theme is college preparation. All students, including pre-school students, will be taught with a very specific pedagogy that focuses on creating a college-going culture. **GRFAC will focus heavily on language arts, math, science, and technology.** GRFAC will also operate knowing that the school, alone, cannot educate students; parents and guardians are equally important. With that in mind, GRFAC will require more mandatory parent involvement than most programs.

Admission to the GRFAC is a unique opportunity that is by selection, so it is important that parents, students and building administrators know all that is required of them. Therefore, GRFAC requires both an application and a parent/student interview. During this interview, the interview team will give the parent and student a sense of what is expected of them. This also gives the interview team a chance to glean vital information about the student and parent.

All students and parents will be required to interview. Students who apply to join GRFAC after the start of the school year will be scheduled for an interview at that time.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

To enroll your child at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, you must:

1. Complete the GRFAC theme school application and return all necessary application and enrollment forms.
2. Schedule and complete your student/parent interview with the GRFAC interview team.
3. Decide if GRFAC is a good fit for you and your student.
4. Read, commit to and sign the Guidelines Agreement.
5. Agree to attend Parent/Student Orientation in August, Parent Teacher Conferences and other GRFAC required mandatory meeting during the school. ***This is mandatory and your failure to complete this may result in revocation of your student's enrollment at GRFAC.**

If you are accepted, your child will be scheduled for applicable testing and screening.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ACCEPTANCE

The following factors will be considered in determining acceptance to GRFAC:

1. Whether your child has previously attended GRFAC. (Exceptions: (a) your child left GRFAC because he or she moved out of Grand Rapids or, (b) if your child is reapplying for the 7th or 8th grade, your child left GRFAC's elementary program on favorable terms. You may reapply to GRFAC; however, the decision will be based upon your "standing" in the program and discretion by the staff.)
2. Whether you were involved in your child's previous school, if applicable, and are willing to participate at GRFAC (as assessed by the Interview Committee).
3. Whether your student had attendance and/or behavioral issues in their previous school.
4. Whether there is a slot open in your child's grade. The Enrollment Committee may waive this requirement if necessary to permit enrollment of all of your children.

MANDATORY ORIENTATION

Once a student is accepted, each student and their parent will participate in a mandatory orientation before the start of school. During the orientation, parents and students will spend time learning about the school culture and expectations. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet their teachers and get to know one another. It is very important to the success of GRFAC that teachers and parents work together for the academic and social success of their students. During orientation, parents and students will be given Positive Behavior Intervention and Support information. This ensures that every student and parent is well versed in the expectations and culture of the school before school starts, and is ready to be a participating member of a cohesive team and family environment wherein students will succeed.

Students will also be asked to sign a Commitment to College Completion at this orientation, where the commitment, the meaning of it, and its significance to the scholarly community are discussed at length. Students will be expected to be able to explain the school values and the commitment, as well as why such things are important to their educational success.

RE-ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

You will have an option to re-enroll your child for the next school year only if you and your child have fully complied with all Guidelines. A meeting will be held at the end of the school year for all parents interested in their student attending GRFAC for the next school year. If your student is asked to return to GRFAC for the next school-year, a letter will be mailed and you must return the reservation for the following school year with in ten (10) days after receipt. Exceptions may be made at the principal's discretion.