



2021/2022 STUDENT APPLICATION MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

STAGE I: PARENT VISIT

Virtual tour of school and /or attendance at Middle School Information Night (Thursday, March 4, 2021)

STAGE II: WRITTEN APPLICATION

All completed applications must be received by **March 31, 2021**, to be considered in the first round of the admissions cycle. Applications received after that date will be reviewed if spaces are still available. Acceptance decisions will be made by May 7.

Please review the enclosed application instructions and check list on the inside back cover.

STAGE III: STUDENT VISIT

Virtual visit to Countryside School for applicants for whom there is a potential opening

Nondiscrimination Policy: Countryside School admits academically qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual identity, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.



Dear Prospective Family,

Thank you very much for your interest in Countryside School! We offer a unique educational opportunity for middle school students, with exceptional preparation for high school in a warm and secure environment.

Countryside School enrolls students through an application process. The procedure helps identify students who will most benefit from the philosophy and goals of the school program and enables us to balance classrooms by age and gender.

To qualify for admission, a student should be working at or above grade level in all subjects and be able to work successfully in the Countryside environment, as evidenced in Stage III of the application process.

Enclosed is an Admission Application Packet for Middle School. Parents are requested to visit the school on a virtual tour before the written application is submitted, so that you may better understand the mission and philosophy of the school before making a decision about application for admission. You and your student are also invited to attend the virtual **Middle School Information Night** on **Thursday, March 4**, at 7 p.m. Student virtual visits to classes are scheduled as part of the final stage of the application process.

If you have any questions relating to the procedures or forms, please contact me. Again, thank you for your interest in Countryside School. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Kaplan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Kaplan

Admissions Director

217.355.1253

kaplan@countrysideschool.org



WRITTEN APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All completed applications must be received by **March 31, 2021**, to be considered in the first round of the admissions cycle. Applications received after that date will be reviewed if spaces are still available. Applications of eligible students who cannot be placed in the first round, and those who apply after March 31, will be placed in a wait pool and will be considered in the event an opening should occur later in the year.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

- Applicant information sheet with photo
- \$50 non-refundable application fee
- Parent questionnaire (2 parts)
- Student questionnaire
- Evidence of performance at or above grade level
 - Progress report from the current year and last year
 - Most recent standardized testing results (if available)
- Recommendation form
(one required; up to three accepted)
- Financial aid application (if relevant). Please read the Financial Aid page in this packet, and access the FAST application link on our website.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please contact us with any questions you have about the application process.

Submit your completed forms to:

Judy Kaplan
Admissions Director
Countryside School
4301 W. Kirby Ave.
Champaign, IL 61822

or email to kaplan@countrysideschool.org

Phone: 217.355.1253
Fax: 217.355.7492

Thank you for your interest in Countryside School.

Countryside School is an independent school for grades K-8 that fosters high academic achievement, develops creative and critical thinking skills, and emphasizes balanced growth - intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially - for every student.

For more information, please visit our website
www.countrysideschool.org



INDEPENDENT. SINCE 1992.

Countryside School is fully accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (www.isacs.org), is a member of the Illinois Coalition of Non-Public Schools, and is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. The extensive ISACS accreditation process, which must be repeated every seven years, assures that the school adheres to the highest quality educational and operational standards, and it holds the school accountable for achieving our mission *Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education*.

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL?

Independent schools are unique. Each was founded with a distinct mission – a specific, distinct approach to education. These schools are supported through tuition dollars, and do not receive any government funding. Such schools usually belong to an accrediting organization. Countryside is a member of ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States).

*Joy in Learning
Excellence in Education*



4301 W. Kirby Ave.
Champaign, IL 61822
217.355.1253
www.countrysideschool.org



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Champaign, Illinois 61822
217.355.1253 • fax 217.355.7492

OFFICE USE

Date Received: _____

Date Fee Paid: _____

All information provided to the school is strictly confidential

APPLICANT INFORMATION FOR 2021/2022

This form is to be completed by a parent or guardian of the applicant. A \$50 non-refundable application fee must be attached. The fee covers processing and screening costs and will not be applied toward tuition.

APPLICANT

Boy Girl

For Grade _____

Full Legal Name _____

Name student prefers (nickname) _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Place of Birth _____ Citizenship _____

List schools attended (begin with current school year)

PARENTS

1st Parent Mr. Mrs. Dr. Ms.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

2nd Parent Mr. Mrs. Dr. Ms.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Parents are separated or divorced? Yes No

If yes, with whom is the applicant living? _____

Should correspondence be mailed to both parents? 1st Parent 2nd Parent Both Parents

Employer _____

Occupation _____

Business Address _____

Work Number _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Occupation _____

Business Address _____

Work Number _____

Email _____

Who referred you to Countryside or how did you learn about the school?

I certify that the information provided on this application is accurate and complete.

Parent's or guardian's signature

Date

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 1

The information you provide below and the following checklist will help us get a sense of your child's abilities, interests, and personal style. Feel free to add any information you think might be useful in giving us a good picture of your child.

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Language spoken at home _____

1. What four adjectives best describe your child?

2. Please describe the strengths and talents that you perceive in your child.

3. What are your child's special interests and hobbies?

4. Please describe any areas that you feel need to be particularly encouraged in your child's growth and development.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 1 (Continued)

5. Please describe your child's organization and time management skills.

6. What are your goals for your child?

7. Has your child been tested or evaluated for possible learning disabilities? If so, please list recommendations.

8. Does your child have any chronic medical or psychological conditions or disabilities? If so, please explain.

9. Why do you think Countryside School would be a good match for your child?

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 2

Please indicate with an "X" which category best describes your child for each of the behaviors listed below. Using a range of ratings helps us to better understand your child's greatest strengths. If you wish, comments may be added to provide further explanation.

| | usually | sometimes | rarely |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Is a self-starter, takes initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is very creative; original; imaginative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gets absorbed in topics; seeks out information | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has a good memory | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shows unusual reasoning power | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tries to excel | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is happy working independently | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gets along well with other students | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Respects authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Responds well to redirection or correction | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has a great interest in mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Demonstrates great interest in science or mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reads avidly | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | |
| | excellent | satisfactory | needs work |
| Child's time management skills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child's organization skills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please check the math levels your child has completed in school:

Grade 5 math
 Grade 6 math
 Pre-algebra
 Other

What level math is your child doing in school this year? _____

Additional comments:



STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Full Legal Name _____

Name you prefer (nickname) _____

Applying for Grade _____ Current School _____

1. Please describe yourself using four adjectives:

2. What is your favorite subject in school and why?

3. What is your least favorite subject? Why?

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Continued)

4. What are your major interests outside of school work?

5. If you could spend a day with anyone, whom would you choose? Why?

6. Is there anything else we should know about you?



RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6-8 FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

To the applicant: Please print the student's name on the first line below and give this form to at least one teacher, past or present. Include with each form a stamped envelope addressed to Judy Kaplan, Admissions, Countryside School, 4301 W. Kirby Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61822. Please mark the envelope CONFIDENTIAL.

Name of Student _____ Applying for Grade _____
 Current School _____ Current Grade _____

To the recommendation writer: The above-named student is an applicant for admission to Countryside School. Countryside School is dedicated to offering a challenging and rewarding program to students who are motivated to learn. We would appreciate your candid and confidential evaluation of the applicant. Please mail the completed form directly to Countryside School or email to kaplan@countrysideschool.org. This form is for Admissions Committee review only. It is not available for applicant or parental review.

In what grades and subjects do you or did you teach this applicant? _____
 How long have you known the applicant? _____

Please circle the words that you feel describe this student:

- | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| aggressive | confident | easily discouraged | irritable | organized | self-centered |
| anxious | conscientious | follower | loner | over-protected | self-disciplined |
| articulate | cooperative | happy | manipulative | perfectionist | shy |
| average | disobedient | helpful | motivated | positive leader | social |
| cheerful | distractible | honest | negative leader | responsible | well-liked |

| | Advanced for Age | Appropriate For Age | Needs Development | Below Age Level | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Academic Traits | | | | | |
| Academic potential | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Academic achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Self-motivation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Effort/initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Intellectual curiosity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Attention span | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Organization/study skills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commitment to homework | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ability to follow directions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ability to work independently | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ability to work in a group | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ability to express ideas orally | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ability to express ideas in writing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Use of time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Participation in class | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR STUDENTS (Continued)

Character and Personality

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Emotional maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Self-confidence | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Integrity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Sense of responsibility | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Social relationship with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Interaction with adults | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Sense of humor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Respect for others | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Concern for others | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Please write a few words of recommendation in the space provided below. Include your impressions about this student's academic ability, work habits, and relationships with peers.

Please comment on this applicant's attendance, behavior in the classroom, attitude, and emotional maturity.

Parental expectations, cooperation, and involvement with the school (please describe):

Math Level _____ Textbook Used _____

I recommend this candidate:

Enthusiastically Strongly Fairly Strongly Without Enthusiasm Not Recommended

Name _____ Position _____

School _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Date _____

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Countryside uses the model of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) for middle school students. BYOD programs enhance student learning in the following ways:

- Students who bring their own devices from home are already familiar with and comfortable using the device, thus increasing productivity.
- Students take care of and are responsible for their device, leading to better outcomes in digital citizenship.
- Having the same device at school and at home creates a seamless opportunity for learning.
- BYOD eliminates the need for file-sharing between school and home devices.
- Students' mobile devices tend to be more cutting-edge than what we as a school can provide.

Although we do not recommend any specific device over another, we have the following minimum system requirements for a device brought to school:

Laptop:

- WiFi Capability
- 11" Screen Size (or larger)
- 4 GB of RAM memory (or more)
- 120 GB of Hard Drive storage (or more)
- Operating System (OS)
 - Windows 10 or above
 - Mac OS X or above
 - Chrome OS
- Battery life of (at least) **8 hours**, extended battery if available
- Anti-virus software for Android, Windows OS (Avira is a free anti-virus app)

Chromebook:

- 11" Screen Size (or larger)
- 4 GB of RAM Memory (or more)
- Battery life of (at least) **8 hours**, extended battery if available

Tablet:

- WiFi Capability
- 9" Screen Size (or larger)
- 32 GB of storage (or more)
- Battery life of (at least) **8 hours**