



STELLA SCHOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stella Schola means "Star School" in Latin



PRINCIPAL: Mr. Joe Gorder

OFFICE MANAGER: Mrs. Susan Jensen

INSTR. ASSISTANT: Mrs. Brandi Comstock

EDUCATORS: Ms. Hattie Midboe, Lead and Sixth Grade Teacher
Ms. Gwen Gossler, Seventh Grade Teacher
Ms. Judy Ronning-Larson, Eighth Grade Teacher



MISSION



Stella Schola offers sixth, seventh, and eighth graders an inclusive, comprehensive, challenging, and engaging learning environment with high academic standards and character development, through extraordinary school-family-community partnerships.



WHO ARE WE?



STELLA SCHOLA...

- ...is a choice middle school for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders
- ...organizes curriculum in a thematic way, integrating content areas to maximize learning
- ...is an inclusive environment, where students will be exposed to diverse perspectives and literature
- ...plans frequent field trips providing experiential learning tied to what is being studying in class, which deepens learning
- ...provides a small classroom environment where students get to know each other and their teacher very well, as they spend the majority of the day together
- ...promotes high academic standards and provides personalized teacher support for its students





STELLA SCHOLA



- Stella Schola has 90 students, and we share a campus with Rose Hill MS
- Students remain with the same teacher and in their 30-student cohort for English (L.A.), History (Social Studies), Mathematics, Science, and Stella elective – Art I (6th), Art II (7th), and Speech and Debate (8th)
 - One exception: 7th & 8th grade teachers swap for Math and ELA
- Students choose an additional elective that is taken at Rose Hill MS
 - PE, Band, or Orchestra; more options in 7th & 8th grade, including Spanish 1 or French 1 in the 8th grade for high school credit opportunity
- Students may participate in after school *sports* at their neighborhood middle school or RHMS
- Students may participate in clubs at Stella, their neighborhood middle school, or RHMS (dependent upon availability)
- Stella Schola shares a campus and administration with RHMS, with access to the library, cafeteria, and school groups
- Each student receives a district-issued laptop for the year



Thematic Flow

Stella uses the same district adopted curriculum as other LWSD middle schools. The subjects are organized and integrated within a historical timeline from earliest to latest. Math is taught separate from this in its own time slot each day.

Basic History Core for Sixth Grade: Prehistoric hominids through Ancient Civilizations, including the origins of major world religions are incorporated where they are developed in history. *Foundations of Greek and Latin languages tied in lay foundations for a world language elective option in 8th grade.*

Basic History Core for Seventh Grade: Medieval Europe, Medieval Asia, Islam, Renaissance Intro, Intro to Explorers

Basic History Core for Eighth Grade: U.S. History from 1877 to current events as well as a full semester of Washington State history from statehood to current events.





Sample of Sixth Grade Curriculum

Late Winter to early Spring Quest: It's All Greek to Me, Does It Have To Be?

History Core:	Phoenicia, Ancient Greece, Persian Empire, Current Events
Literature:	Iliad & Odyssey, Greek Mythology, Labors of Hercules, Greek Cinderella
Language Arts:	Figurative language, report writing, essay writing, asking questions so you will understand (then it won't be Greek to you!), Greek roots, book reports
Science:	Geology, Topography (tie-in to Mount Olympus), landforms, cartography Puget Sound Studies, living cells
Mathematics:	Measurement, Geometry (area, volume, and surface area), Statistical Measures and Displays, Golden Ratio (Greek tie-in), Problem solving
Art I:	Greek Pottery Excavation, Watercolor, Gefilte Fisch
Field Trips:	Geology Adventures, Marine Excursion, Cinderella Play

*We write in cursive, as well as word process
using the district-provided laptops.*





Sample of Seventh Grade Curriculum

September/October/November

History Core: Mesoamerica, Middle Ages, begin US History through 1877

Literature: The Birchbark House, The Moor's Account, Chains, and more. Focus on multicultural studies within their novels.

Language Arts: Literary analysis, supporting a claim with evidence, reading critically, examining multiple perspectives.

Latin: Verb conjugation, vocabulary building, Pledge of Allegiance, basic grammar

Science: Scientific process, plant introduction, astronomy



Mathematics/Pre-Algebra Integers, Rational Number, Proportions and Rates, Percents

Art II: Elements of Art, Principles of Design

Field Experiences: Rock Climbing, Fencing, Sailing







Sample of Eighth Grade Curriculum

History Core: U.S. History from 1877 through current events as well as one semester of Washington State History; National History Day – a national History competition.

Literature: Thirst, Dark Sky Rising, Nothing But The Truth, Girl in the Blue Coat, and more.

Language Arts: Focusing on analyzing literature, citing evidence, technical writing, writing and supporting a claim, analyzing multiple points of view, communicating ideas in a variety of mediums.

Speech and Debate: A rigorous course in public speaking as well as debate.

Film Production: Students learn cinematography skills, sound editing, and professional software to produce documentaries.

Science: Ecosystems, Climate Change, Taxonomy, Physics, Science Journaling, Engineering and Design; FutureCity – a national STEM contest.

Mathematics/Algebra I: Integers, rational numbers, algebraic function, analyzing data, problem solving, sine & cosine

Field Experiences: Multiple field experiences in support of curriculum culminating with a June trip to Washington D.C.





STEAM SKILLS

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

- ★ integrated in a seamless fashion
- ★ all grade levels
- ★ professionals in field as guests in classroom (career options)
- ★ here are a few 'pull outs' so you can see how our students become 'STEAM READY'



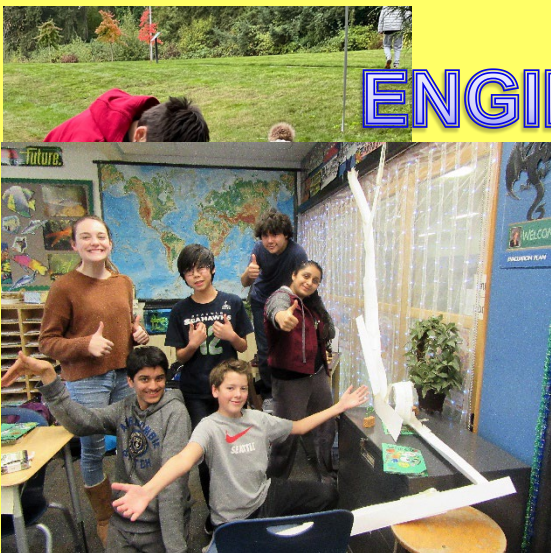
SCIENCE: Earth sciences, microbiology, biology, neuroscience, botany, chemistry, gravitational forces, scale in the universe, heredity, ecosystems, zoology, physics, climate change...

TECHNOLOGY: Research skills, formatting skills, digital citizenship, presentation building, digital collaboration, online curriculum access, film production...

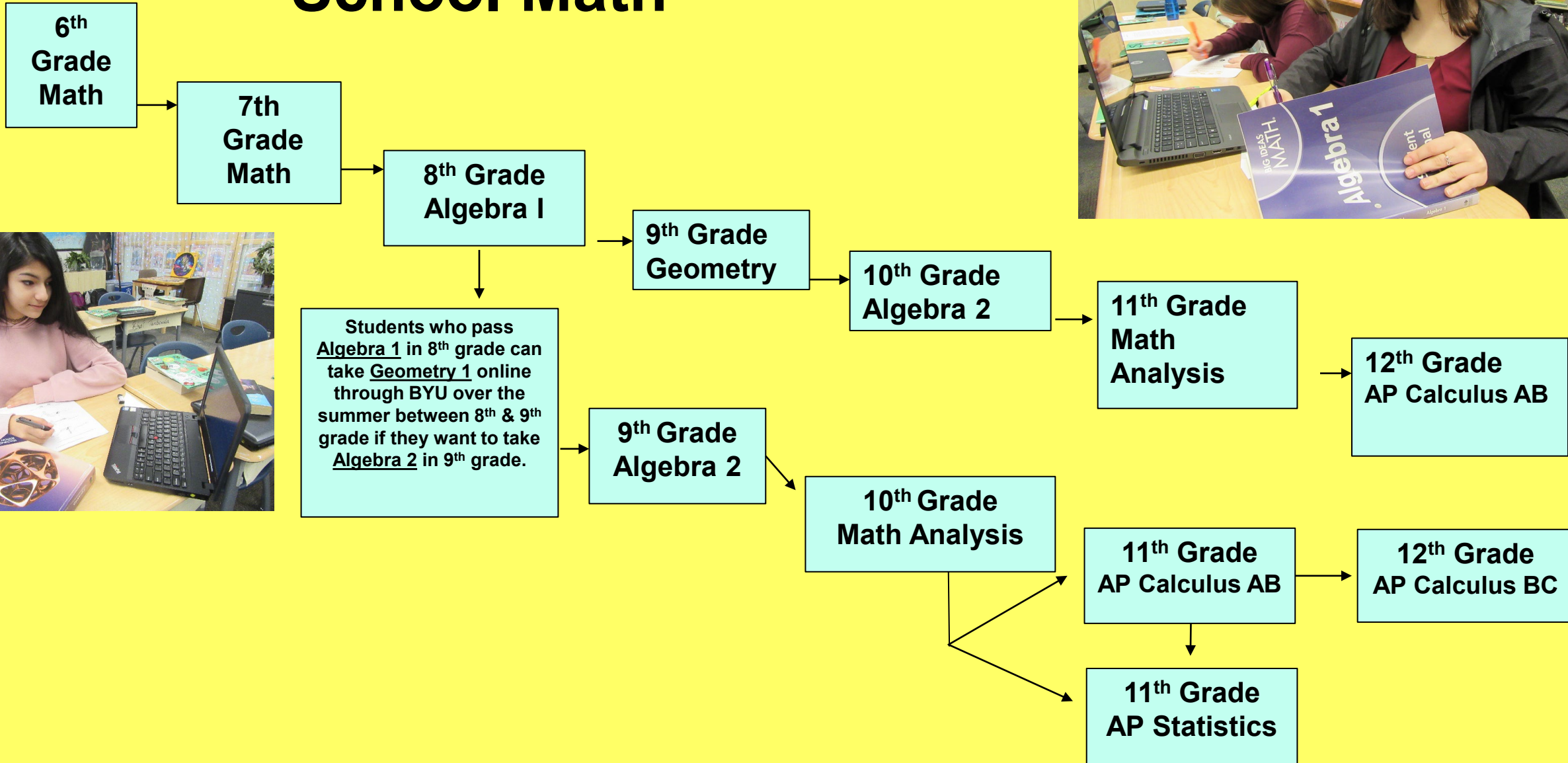
ENGINEERING: Early structures, architecture, construction of Stonehenge, Roman aqueduct, bridge building, cell construction, FutureCity...

ART: Line, color, shading, perspective, ceramics, projects integrated into units of study (i.e. cave art, Greek pottery)

MATHEMATICS: Operations, pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, challenge math problems and reasoning (MRE)...



Stella Math Pathways into High School Math



Grading Standard



A = 90% or higher

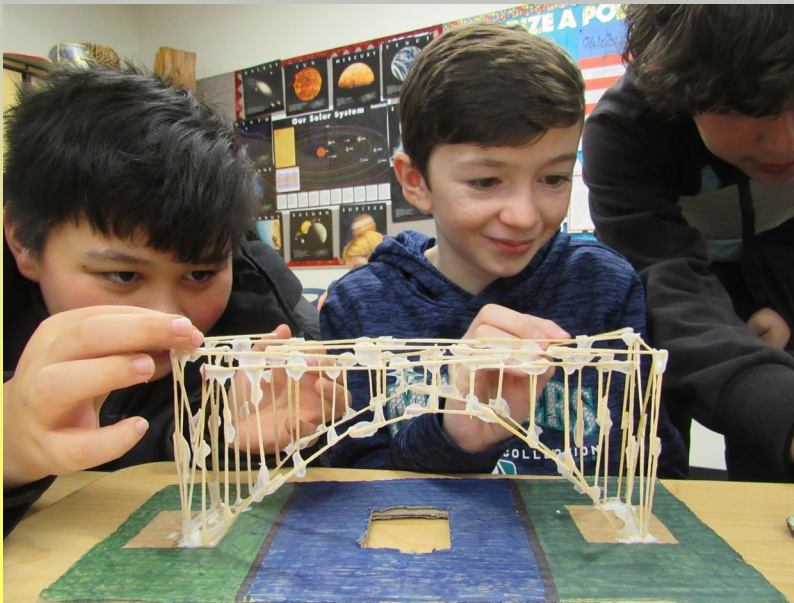
B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

N = 50 – 59%

50% is the floor



STUDENT TO STUDENT MENTORING

- Triads of one 6th, 7th, and 8th grader
- Mentor sessions happen about once a month

6th graders say: “It feels good to have a friend who will look out for you on campus”, “My mentor is like a big sister to me, and she gives me compliments and helps me when I need it”, “Mentor days are fun because we can learn new things together”



8th graders say: “I don’t have any brothers or sisters, so it’s nice to have someone else depend on you and look forward to being with you”, “I have learned a lot about myself as I have worked with my mentee”, “I love the welcoming looks on their faces when we come into their classroom! It makes me feel special.”



Goals for Stella Students



- **To be an eager learner:**
 - Embrace academic challenge & rigor
 - Engage in intellectual curiosity & play
 - Ask questions and participate in thoughtful discussions
 - Support peers' individual learning journeys
- **To be willing to develop a strong work ethic:**
 - Follow through with schoolwork (responsible)
 - Stay organized
 - Demonstrate perseverance



COMMENTS FROM Students

- ★ Our teachers are our advisors & can be a mentor to us
- ★ We get personal attention because our teachers know us really well and help us focus on our strengths and areas of growth
- ★ We have a lot of friends and everyone in the class and school support one another
- ★ We use our class time well since we don't spend time switching classes
- ★ Since we don't switch classrooms each period, our day is flexible, allowing us to learn more in-depth concepts
- ★ The hands-on projects help us learn (and they're exciting!)
- ★ We love all our field trips because they are fun, and they tied to what we are learning about in class
- ★ We remember things better because the subjects are separated into different parts of the day, but rather integrated together, just like in the real world



Transitioning into high school...

- Academic transition is smooth. Students are well prepared for high school at their neighborhood High School, Tesla Stem and Cambridge.
- Honors/AP classes are appropriate for most Stella Schola students.
- They enter high school with essential organization, study skills & work habits.
- We work to build each students' self confidence and interpersonal skills, which students employ in high school when meeting new people and developing friendships. Students often maintain their friendships from Stella.
- Stella students acclimate to the larger environment, finding classes and navigating new social circles within the first month of school typically.



PARENT COMMENTS

BENEFITS FOR OUR CHILDREN

Students grouped by grade level with the same teacher (5 periods)

- For academic, emotional, & social stability
- Teacher serves as student advisor & mentor
- Integration of subjects provides depth of understanding and increases retention

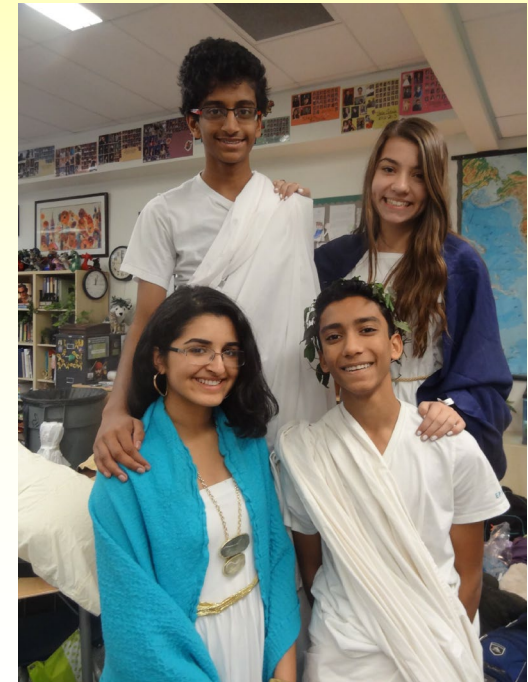


Continuous flow of curriculum over 3 years

- Organizing all content-area standards to flow chronologically, as well as integrating subjects, provides depth of knowledge and increases retention

We also really like...



- Focus on high and consistent academic and behavioral standards
- Relevant homework, not busy work
- Focus on organizational skills (daily planner & weekly graded work and grade check)
- Basically, only one teacher to stay in communication with

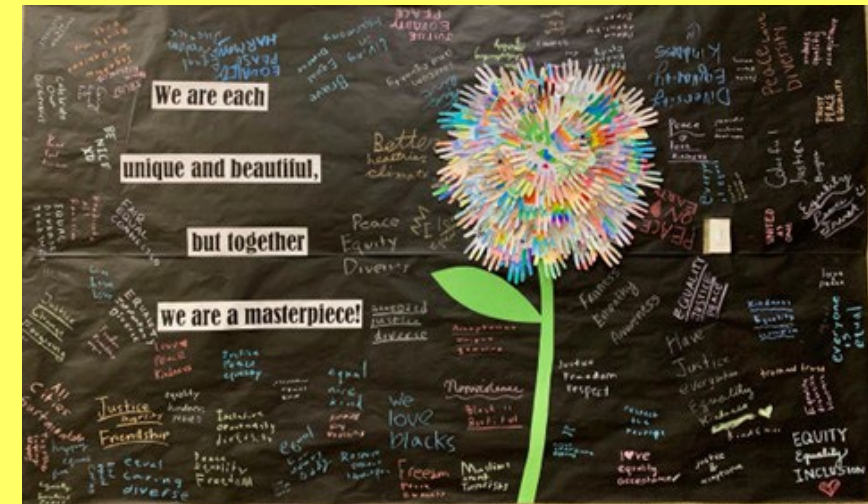


PARENT COMMITMENT

Choice schools are a commitment for students, families, and staff, which is why we have great partnerships with parents, alumni, and community members. Please consider the following:



- Parents are responsible for transportation if outside the Rose Hill MS attendance area; there is a paid shuttle available from Evergreen MS, Inglewood MS and Redmond EI to Stella and back. Shuttle costs approx. \$375 per year.
 - The Stella Schola PTO invites parents to make an annual tax-deductible contribution for enrichment materials & lab supplies (essential to the hands-on learning embedded in Stella's curriculum)
 - Pay for field trip fees (additional cost – scholarships available)
 - Attend bi-yearly parent-teacher conferences (November & March)
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- In order for the teachers to do all of the amazing activities and field trips, the PTO asks families to complete 20 volunteer hours for Stella Schola each year
 - Volunteer opportunities include PTO Board member, other various coordinator/chair positions, Room Parent, field trip chaperone/driver, chaperone Stella Dances, Ski Club chaperone, run/monitor a club (chess, coding, D&D, etc.), and various other classroom jobs
- Provide the support your child needs to succeed academically, including completing their summer packet to prepare for the coming school year





PARENT COMMITMENT





QUICK FACTS



- ★ School hours are: 8:00am – 2:30pm M, Tu,Th, F, & on Wednesdays from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Doors open at 7:45am daily.
 - ★ We provide a three-year specialized curriculum that is organized and presented differently than traditional neighborhood schools
 - ★ There will be an orientation for accepted applicants and parents in June before the end of the school year
 - ★ Those who accept a spot in Stella will complete a registration packet which include both parent and student components.
 - ★ Students who do best at Stella are those who are allowed to choose this path themselves as they will be the ones carrying out the work
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<http://ssms.lwsd.org>

APPLICATION PROCESS

- November 1, 2022 – Online application opens at 9:00am
- December 2, 2022 – Online applications due by 4:00pm
- January 6, 2023 – Lottery held at district
- January 13, 2023 – Notification to families
- January 25, 2023 – Acceptance deadline





<http://ssms.lwsd.org>

- ★ Once a spot is accepted, registration documents will be emailed to the parent emails provided in the application.
- ★ The original lottery list is maintained through the following three years and families are contacted in order from this list.
- ★ Students are removed from the waitlist if they accept a spot at another choice school or Quest.





<http://ssms.lwsd.org>





STELLA SCHOLA

Where Every Student Shines!