



# Lower and Middle School Enrollment Process for the 2024-2025 School Year

Please note that for any student new to the lower or middle school, including siblings, alumni students, or students from our homeschool program confirmation of an open spot does not mean your child automatically has a spot – it is just the first step in the process.

The general admissions procedures detailed below, and including prior school records, recommendation forms, and an interview, are the determining factor in whether or not your child receives enrollment at Nature School.

This helps us ensure that we can meet the learning and behavior needs of each potential new student. Nature School does not yet have traditional support staff like occupational or speech therapists, behavioral specialists, academic interventionists, or the ability to provide 1:1 academic or behavior interventions.

- ◇ Rising Kindergarten families have a slightly different procedure detailed below.
- ◇ Students must meet the age requirement by August 31st of the upcoming school year. Age requirements will be specified on the registration form.

## Priority Enrollment:

- Students currently enrolled in our lower or middle school and children of Camp Albemarle staff may register between January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Rising Kindergarteners who have attended preschool at Nature School may register between January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rising Kindergarteners receive priority registration if they have a sibling already enrolled in Lower or Middle School or are a staff child but must complete the

general admissions procedures detailed below for rising Kindergarteners before confirmation of the spot is given.

- All other rising K students will be entered into a priority lottery, before the general public, after priority registration closes on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Siblings of currently enrolled students may register between January 29<sup>th</sup> until February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.
  - All other siblings (not entering Kindergarten) receive priority enrollment if there is an open spot in the necessary grade, or priority waitlist placing if the class is full, however confirmation of an open spot will require completion of the general admissions procedures detailed below and final approval by the interview committee.
- Students currently enrolled in our homeschool program, alumni students, and siblings of alumni students may register between January 29<sup>th</sup> until February 9<sup>th</sup> until 3pm. You will be automatically waitlisted, but we will review registrations before the lottery and first move students currently enrolled in our homeschool program and then alumni students/siblings into open spots or priority spots on the waitlist, if classes are full, based on the date and time of registrations.
  - Homeschool students from our program, alumni students, and alumni siblings will receive spots in the class or on the waitlist before the lottery occurs and will not be entered into the lottery. All spots offered are pending completion of our general admissions procedures, detailed below.

## General Admissions:

- The public has from January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to complete online registration which will be entered in the registration lottery. When completing this paperwork, you will be automatically waitlisted until the date of the lottery.
- Online registration forms completed after February 9<sup>th</sup> will be enrolled (if open spots) or placed on the waitlist on a first come first serve basis, pending completion of general admissions procedures, as detailed below.
- An e-mail confirmation of your online registration will be sent upon completion. This does not guarantee a spot however it does confirm your registration has been received.

## Lottery Process

- The Nature School at Camp Albemarle Lottery will take place on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>
- All registration forms received from the public on or before February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm will be eligible for the lottery drawing. All applications received after February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm will be enrolled on a first come first serve basis or placed on the waitlist if the class is full, in the order they are received, pending completion of the general admissions procedures detailed below.

- At least one member of the community (who is not staff, a Board member, or relative of students at Nature School) will be present at the lottery to make sure that all procedures are conducted fairly and accurately.
- Each registration form from the public will receive a number. Numbers will be pulled one at a time and the student will be placed in the desired class. If the class is full, the student will be placed on the waitlist.
- . Upon notification:
  - Families must complete the general admissions procedures detailed below within one month of receiving notice of an open spot. Spots are not confirmed until the interview committee has met with the family and made their decision.

***General Admissions Procedures for All Students entering Kindergarten:***

Once a spot is confirmed as available, families must complete the following within one month:

1. Submit all previous school records, if child attended preschool elsewhere. If child attended preschool here, the Nature School Director will verbally confirm with the child’s teachers that Nature School Kindergarten is a good fit.
2. Submit a recommendation from the child’s preschool teacher if child attended preschool elsewhere. Otherwise, submit a recommendation from a non-family member who is familiar with the child behaviorally, academically, and socially/emotionally.
3. Complete an interview with the Lead Kindergarten teacher.

We will notify you within one week of completion of the interview and receipt of previous school records and recommendations as to whether or not your child has received a spot. At that time, if offered a spot, the registration and supply fee must be received within one week to confirm acceptance of the spot.

***General Admissions Procedures for New Students Grades 1-7:***

Once a spot is confirmed as available, families must complete the following within one month:

1. Submit all previous school records including academic & attendance records, IEPs, etc.
2. Submit two recommendations using the form provided from non-family members who are familiar with the student behaviorally, academically, and socially/emotionally.
3. Complete an interview with the Lower School Interview Committee made up of the Nature School Director, the school counselor, and one other staff member.
  - a. The student and at least one parent/guardian must participate in this interview.

We will notify you within one week of completion of the interview and receipt of previous school records and recommendations as to whether or not your child has received a spot. At

that time, if offered a spot, the registration and supply fee must be received within one week to confirm acceptance of the spot.