



Lower and Middle School Enrollment Process for the 2026–2027 School Year

Please note: For any student new to Lower or Middle School, including siblings, alumni students, or students from our homeschool program, **being notified that a spot is available does not guarantee enrollment.**

A spot is only confirmed after completion of the **general admissions process** (school records, recommendations, and an interview). This ensures we can meet each student's academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

Nature School does not currently have traditional support staff (occupational/speech therapists, behavior specialists, academic interventionists) or the capacity to provide 1:1 academic or behavioral interventions.

Special Notes

- **Rising Kindergarten** families follow a modified admissions process (see below).
- Students must meet age requirements by **August 31** of the upcoming school year (details on the registration form).

Priority Enrollment Windows

Currently Enrolled Students + Camp Albemarle Staff Children

February 2-8 These students may register during this window.

Rising Kindergarten (from Nature School Preschool)

February 2-8

- Rising K students with a sibling already enrolled in Lower/Middle School or who are staff children receive *priority registration*, but must complete the Rising K admissions steps before a spot is confirmed.
- All other rising K students will be entered into a **priority lottery** (before the public lottery) after February 8.

Siblings of Currently Enrolled Students

February 9 – 15 (midnight)

- Siblings receive priority enrollment if a spot is open.
- If the grade is full, they receive priority waitlist placement.
- All placements are contingent on completing the general admissions procedures.

Homeschool Students enrolled in Alby Programs, Alumni Students, and Alumni Siblings

February 9 – 15 (midnight)

- These registrations are automatically waitlisted but reviewed **before the lottery**.
- Placement into class spots or priority waitlist positions is based on registration timestamp.
- These students are **not entered into the public lottery**, but all placements remain pending completion of the general admissions procedures.

General Admissions (Public Registration)

Public Registration Window

February 9 – 15 (midnight)

- Registrations during this period are automatically waitlisted and entered into the **lottery on February 16**.

After February 15

- Registrations are processed **first-come, first-served**.
- Students will be enrolled if space is available or placed on the waitlist.
- All placements remain pending completion of the general admissions process.

Families receive an email confirming receipt of registration forms.

This **does not guarantee placement**.

Lottery Process (February 16)

- The Lower & Middle School lottery will be held on **Monday, February 16**.
- All public applications submitted by February 15 at midnight are included.
- Applications received after that date are processed first-come, first-served.
- A neutral community member (not staff, Board, or family of enrolled students) will observe to ensure fairness.
- Registrations will be placed into an online lottery tool.
 - If the class is full when a name is drawn, that student is added to the waitlist, in order of name drawn.

After Lottery Notification

- Families notified of an open spot must complete the general admissions procedures within **one month**.

- Spots are not confirmed until the interview committee reviews all materials and makes a final decision.

General Admissions Procedures

For Rising Kindergarten

Must be completed within **one month** of being offered an available spot:

1. School Records

- a. If the child attended preschool elsewhere, submit previous school records.
- b. If the child attended Nature School Preschool, the Director will consult with the child's teachers to determine readiness for Kindergarten at Nature School.

2. Recommendation

- a. If the child attended preschool elsewhere: submit a recommendation from the preschool teacher.
- b. If not: submit a recommendation from a non-family member familiar with the child behaviorally, academically, and socially/emotionally.

3. Kindergarten Interview

- a. Interview with the Lead Kindergarten Teacher.

Families will be notified within **one week** of completing all admissions components.

If a spot is offered, the **registration and supply fee** must be paid within **one week** to confirm the spot.

For New Students Entering Grades 1–8

Must be completed within **one month** of being notified of an available spot:

1. School Records

- a. Submit academic records, attendance records, and any relevant documentation (IEPs, etc.).

2. Recommendations

- a. Submit **two recommendations** from non-family members familiar with the student academically, behaviorally, and socially/emotionally.
- 3. Interview**
- a. Interview with the Lower School Interview Committee (Director, School Counselor, and one additional staff member).
 - b. The student and at least one parent/guardian must attend.

Families will be notified within **one week** of completing all requirements.

If offered a spot, the **registration and supply fee** must be paid within **one week** to confirm acceptance.