

Information about Priority 1 – Sibling Lottery for LCW

This year, for the first time, LCW faces a large number of incoming siblings in all grades, Kinder – 6th, for the 2012-2013 school year. While we have always received requests for many Kinder siblings, this year is unique because of the introduction of 50 new families to our current 5th grade class during the 2011-2012 year.

All of these families went through last year's lottery with the understanding that siblings were the 1st priority for entrance the subsequent year. However, since we were not aware of the large number of siblings and we have not faced this situation before, LCW did not emphasize strongly enough to families that 1st priority only meant enrollment at the school IF spaces became available.

Currently we face the following numbers of siblings applying per grade level...

Kindergarten 25 (this is not a factor in this decision as all Kinder applicants will be offered a space)

First grade 6

Second grade 5

Third grade 7

Fourth grade 3

Fifth grade 2

Sixth grade 1

The fourth grade class experiences natural expansion (currently from 23/class to 25/class) so fourth grade applicants will probably be offered spaces. The fifth and sixth grade applicants have a reasonable chance of getting a space. However, we have never experienced the kind of attrition that would provide open spaces for those siblings applying to First-Third grade and have no reason to expect so this year.

Since these families have enrolled at our school and made plans around the assumption that both (or in some cases all 3) of their children would be able to attend during the 2012-2013 school year, we would like to extend the courtesy and assistance of informing them as early as possible of their chances of getting in.

By drawing the lottery numbers for our Priority 1 – Sibling group early (January 16th) we allow our families 6 additional weeks to make arrangements for their siblings if they should get a low lottery number. We believe that this timing is very important because it falls during the time of deadlines for school applications and private school requests for deposits.

In some cases, this will be a very difficult decision for families, and it is possible we could lose some families if they have to go through another year with children at different schools. I have already heard anecdotally from families in which the

siblings separated this year are twins; one parent is on active military duty while the children are at separate schools; and children are at 3 different schools while waiting to get them all together at LCW.

We have made siblings Priority 1 because of our commitment to serving our enrolled families to the best of our ability, and I believe that this offer of more time is a courtesy we must extend this one time. I do not anticipate needing to do so anytime in the future, both because we will communicate more clearly and specifically about this possibility to all lottery applicants in the future, and because we will not be bringing in large numbers of older students as we did this past year.

Thank you for your consideration.