



## How do I apply for my child to attend a choice or charter school?

Parents should complete the online form found on the school district's website at [www.lacrosseschools.org](http://www.lacrosseschools.org). Select PARENTS/GUARDIANS tab to find the QUICK LINK on CHOICE AND CHARTER OPPORTUNITIES. Those without internet access can call 789-7654 for assistance.

Interest forms will be accepted through April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The deadline for priority consideration for current school district students is late December of each year. See district website for current year's deadlines.

## Is transportation provided to the choice and charter schools?



The School District of La Crosse provides bussing to the district's choice and charter schools from other elementary schools and the Hogan Administrative Center. When bussing is needed, parents are responsible for getting their child to the elementary school pick-up location at the appropriate time. Bussing is only provided during the traditional school calendar. Thus, Hamilton students needing transportation must plan accordingly based on their school's calendar. Bus routes are announced prior to the start of the school year each year.

## When will I know if my child has been accepted into the school?

Students with interest forms submitted during the Priority Placement window will be contacted in March. Open Enrolled and additional students will be notified by June of their placement.

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Is the same curriculum taught in all district schools?

Yes, the same high quality curriculum is taught in all district elementary schools, including the choice and charter schools. However, how the curriculum is delivered is different in these schools, which all have a specific area of focus or building-wide theme.

### What is the difference between the choice and charter schools and my neighborhood school?

The School District of La Crosse has three choice elementary schools, Hamilton Early Learning Center, North Woods International School and Summit Environmental School. These schools include students from neighborhood attendance areas as well as students that choose to attend. These schools deliver the elementary school curriculum using a thematic approach or have a unique school calendar as described in this brochure.

Coulee Montessori and the School of Technology and Arts I are charter schools. These schools are governed by a governing council that includes parents, community members and staff. Students come from throughout the district to attend these schools. Charter schools, including those in the School District of La Crosse, use unique and innovative instructional approaches to deliver their curriculum.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
**LA CROSSE**



### *Mission Statement*

*Students will discover their talents and abilities and will be prepared to pursue their dreams and aspirations while contributing effectively to their local, national, and global communities.*

### *Core Values*

*Responsibility  
Respect  
Perseverance  
Compassion  
Honesty  
Giving  
Self-Discipline*

For More Information Contact:

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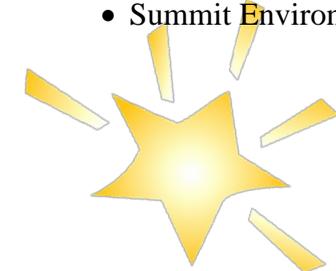
# Elementary Choice and Charter Schools



In the School District of La Crosse we know that one size does not fit all in education. We are proud to deliver the district's high quality curriculum through innovative instruction in all of our schools.

Choice and charter options exist at:

- Coulee Montessori
- Hamilton Early Learning Center
- North Woods International School
- School of Technology and Arts I
- Summit Environmental School



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
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Coulee Montessori offers preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade instruction using the Montessori educational philosophy. The school's curriculum is based on Montessori founder Dr. Maria Montessori's belief that children have an innate desire to learn and they will learn best in an atmosphere where learning first occurs on a concrete level.



Students work at their own pace, following an individualized work plan. The calm, peaceful environment of the Coulee Montessori classrooms develop students' self-discipline, positive social interactions, independence and responsibility.

Northside Elementary/Coulee Montessori  
1611 Kane Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-789-7970

- Promotes child-centered hands-on learning
- Encourages independence and personal responsibility
- Fosters a desire for lifelong learning
- Provides a learning environment where respect for self, others and the environment is of primary importance



North Woods International School offers preschool through fifth grade students a strong academic curriculum that integrates Spanish language, global education and service learning into daily lessons. Our curriculum is linked to world events, geography and world cultures. Students gain an understanding that all people share common needs and have differences that should be recognized and valued.

North Woods International  
N2541 Sablewood Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-789-7000



## Two Educational Strands

### Global Strand

- Academic curriculum linked to world events, geography, and world cultures.
- Each grade has a "Continent of Study" that is integrated into the curriculum.
- International guests and service learning projects connect local issues and topics to world events.

### Spanish Partial Immersion Strand

- Approximately 45 – 50% of classroom instruction is presented in the Spanish language.
- Spanish will be the primary language used in teaching the subjects of math, science and social studies.
- Each grade of the program is taught by a certified Spanish teacher.



The School of Technology and Arts (SOTA I) enhances the district's K-5 curriculum by uniquely blending daily lessons with hands-on creative experiences that result in a diverse, well-rounded education for students. Dance/movement, music/strings, drama/theater, media and the visual arts are all integrated into the school's curriculum.

- Emphasis on Arts and Technology
- Multi-aged, non-graded continuous classrooms
- Assessment by performance, product and/or demonstration
- Active staff/parent governance model



Hamilton/SOTA I Schools  
1111 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-789-7695

## Hamilton Early Learning Center Year-Round School

Hamilton Early Learning Center is a preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade school that operates on a year-round calendar. **The school's innovative 45-15 day schedule operates the same number of days as the rest of the district**, but the days are dispersed more evenly throughout the school year. Hamilton's school calendar includes the same staff development days and holiday breaks as the district's traditional nine month school calendar.

The 45-15 calendar is designed to *best meet the needs of students* and tackle the "summer slide" that often occurs for learners over the extended summer break. Between quarter sessions (45 days), students will have the opportunity to register for three week intersessions that will include enrichment classes as well as math and reading intervention.

Hamilton/SOTA I Schools  
1111 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-789-7695

~ Learning and Growing Together ~



Summit Environmental School provides students with a solid educational foundation in the core academic areas with an environmental focus integrated throughout. Units of study emphasize hands-on, outdoor experiences for our students using different outdoor education spaces established on our school site. A variety of environmentally-focused agencies partner with the school to provide students with unique and authentic learning experiences.



- Ongoing study of the interrelationship among natural systems and people
- Hands-on learning where students identify, investigate and evaluate problems
- Opportunities for active citizenship
- Examination of students' own commitment to environmental stewardship
- Environmental impact of daily living habits and recreational activities

Summit Environmental School  
1800 Lakeshore Drive  
La Crosse, WI 54603  
Phone: 789-7980

