



World Academy

CHICAGO

Applying to GEMS World Academy Chicago

We are delighted that you are considering GEMS World Academy Chicago for your child! Our thoughtfully designed admissions process helps you explore the unique educational opportunity the school offers and helps us learn more about your child's academic and social development. Our dedicated and professional admissions team is ready to answer your questions about the school and the application process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 312-809-8910 or admissions@gemschicago.org.

Application Timeline & Key Dates

We offer two admissions cycles for all grades for fall 2019. Please contact us if you are considering a transfer into the current school year.

Regular Admissions

We encourage applicants to apply during our Regular Admissions cycle as many grades are likely to reach capacity.

- **Application submission:** Dec. 31, 2018
- **Completion of requirements:** Feb. 8, 2019
- **Notification:** on or before Feb. 22, 2019
- **Commitment:** on or before March 15, 2019*

Rolling Admissions

After Dec. 31, applications will be accepted based on grade-level availability.

- **Application submission & completion of requirements:** ongoing until all seats are filled
- **Notification:** within two weeks of application completion (submitted application and requirements complete)
- **Commitment:** within two weeks of notification*

Application Procedure & Requirements

All families are required to:

- Submit an application online
- Provide the records release form to the applicant's current school
- Provide a birth certificate or passport to verify age
- Attend an admissions event and/or tour the school
- Participate in a parent meeting with Director of Admissions Adriana Mourgelas (or her representative).
- Register to participate in an applicant evaluation
 - Preschool-kindergarten: playgroups conducted by our early childhood education staff
 - Grades 1-4: shadow day, GEMS assessment for grade 1 and ISEE for grades 2 and above, review of academic records, and teacher recommendations
 - Grades 5-10: shadow day, review of academic records and standardized test scores (recent ISEE, SSAT, ACT, Aspire, or PSAT scores), teacher recommendations, and interview with division head (grades 6 and up)
 - Grades 11-12 Diploma Program: review of academic records and standardized test scores (recent ISEE, SSAT, ACT, Aspire, or PSAT scores), teacher recommendations, world language assessment (where applicable)

Enrollment at GEMS World Academy Chicago is open to children and families of any race, color, religion, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin. We seek a diverse student body and family community in support of the mission, vision, and values of the school.

**Signed enrollment agreement and payment of a non-refundable enrollment deposit of 10% of tuition.*

FAQs

Why should my family choose GEMS World Academy Chicago?

GEMS World Academy Chicago, an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School and an Apple Distinguished School, delivers a rigorous academic program using the IB framework as a tool for exploration of local and global issues and topics. We build not only the academic foundation for success in college and beyond but deliver on our mission of educating morally responsible leaders with the skills to create a more connected, prosperous world. We are part of GEMS World Academy Connect, a network of international schools providing opportunities for active participation in studies that expand knowledge and broaden experience with other cultures and beliefs.

What is the International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate curriculum framework is a vertically integrated and inquiry-based program of studies. This sequential international education experience integrates best practices in teaching with the most current research into how learning takes place at each stage of child development. IB students at GEMS develop the critical-thinking skills needed to succeed at leading universities in the United States and around the world.

What is the class size and the student to teacher ratio?

The average class size at GEMS World Academy Chicago is 16 for preschool, 18 for junior kindergarten and kindergarten and 22 for grades 1 and up. Our current student to teacher ratio is 8:1.

What are the school hours? Is it a full-day program?

All programs, including preschool and kindergarten are full-day programs. The school day starts at 8:15 a.m., and dismissal times are staggered by grade level:

- 3:15 p.m for preschool through kindergarten
- 3:30 p.m. for grades 1-5
- 3:45 p.m. for grades 6 and up

We offer before-school care starting at 7:15 a.m.; our after-school care and extracurriculars go no later than 6 p.m.

What languages are taught at GWA?

Students can choose Spanish, French or Mandarin, taught daily starting in preschool.

What is the tuition?

Tuition for the 2019-2020 school year will be set by Dec. 1, 2018.

Is there a fundraising obligation for families?

GEMS World Academy Chicago does not require any fundraising by families.

When should I begin the application process?

The application process begins in the fall of the year prior to enrollment.

What are your student age requirements?

Preschool students must be 3 years old by Dec. 31 of the school year in which they are enrolled.

What grades have openings?

The majority of openings will be available in our entry points of preschool, junior kindergarten, kindergarten, and at this time in our growth, grades 9 through 11, but select seats are available in most grades.

Is there financial assistance offered?

We are committed to creating a school community that supports socioeconomic diversity. Our financial aid program provides need-based grants with no expectation of repayment. We also provide merit scholarships to students in grades 6 and up.

Our dedicated and professional admissions team is ready to answer your questions. Contact us at **312-809-8910** or admissions@gemschicago.org.