

CI & Aesthetics Requests FAQ

CI Questions

- How many CI classes can my child take?
 - Students may participate in up to 3 CI courses per year.
- Does my child have to take CI classes?
 - CI courses are completely optional. These courses are for students who are already showing an aptitude in a particular area.
- Why can we only pick up to 4 CI courses?
 - Students can only take a maximum of 3 CI courses per year. Additionally, some students become stressed out or miss too much class time from too many screenings.
- What happens if my child passes 4 screenings?
 - Your child will be placed into your highest ranked courses that do not have a scheduling conflict (such as meeting at the same time).
- What happens if my child doesn't pass their screenings?
 - Students who do not pass the screenings are not ready for the course materials at this time. They would likely be interested and do well in one of the similar Aesthetics course offerings, and can try again the following year.
- Are the CI courses very demanding/rigorous?
 - The goal of CI courses is to dig a little deeper into a particular subject area where students have already shown aptitude. To accomplish this goal, these courses meet twice as often as an Aesthetics course, and may involve a final project or performance.
- How often do CI courses meet?
 - Most CI courses meet two times per week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) during 1 cycle. Advance Gymnastics and Fiddlin' Around meet 1 time per week but meet during cycles 1 & 2.
- Can teachers make recommendations as to which CI courses might be a good fit for my child?
 - Some teachers may be able and willing to do so, some teachers are newer to the building and CI & Aesthetics and might not be familiar enough with all the courses to do so. Reach out to your teacher to see what they think.
- Can my student request Drama Rama 2 if they didn't take Drama Rama 1?
 - Yes, the 1 and 2 are grade level distinctions and the prior grade course is not a pre-requisite.
- When do CI & Aesthetics courses take place?
 - CI & Aesthetics courses take place during 8th period on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for 8 weeks during each grading cycle.
- If a student qualifies for a CI course after the screening process, does it guarantee them a spot in the course?

- The cap for most courses is 15 students, but we can override the cap if needed, and in some cases, we have added another section in order to accommodate all students that passed the screening, depending on the course.
- My child is pulled for related services. Will this conflict with the CI/Aesthetics schedule?
 - We work hard with our related service providers to try to accommodate CI & Aesthetics for our 1st & 2nd graders whenever possible.
- How many students are in a CI or Aesthetics course?
 - The cap for most courses is set at 15. Some classes may have a lower cap due to materials used, while other courses may have a higher cap – such as the PE and chorus courses.
- What is the difference between CI and G&T?
 - G&T is part of a state mandate and held district-wide for ELA and Math at this time, it also has its own separate screening and referral process. CI courses are offered in all content areas for students that show an aptitude or high interest for those courses.
- My child transferred schools this year. How do I know which CI classes they are involved in and who enrolled them?
 - All new to Nishuane students receive a course request form for CI & Aesthetics that the family fills out and returns to school. The child is then screened for any CI courses requested and schedule for CI & Aesthetics according to the rankings completed by the family and passing of any screenings.
- What does the screening process look like?
 - Screenings can take various forms. For some courses we look at multiple measures (test scores, teacher rubrics, or a special test for the course), other courses may have a performance-based screening (such as the related arts courses). Sometimes students need to be pulled out of class to perform the screenings, sometime the teacher can complete the screening as part of a class assignment.
- Can a child switch out of a course if they don't enjoy it?
 - We schedule for the entire year and switching of courses can become difficult once courses fill up. The CI courses meet for 16 classes and Aesthetics meet for 8 classes so we encourage our learners to persevere and show persistence whenever possible. We look at any requests to switch classes on a case-by-case basis.
- In the long run, which is more beneficial a CI or Aesthetic course?
 - That really depends on your child and if they show a strong aptitude or interest in a particular subject, or if they need more time to explore their interests.
- Who are the instructors for each CI & Aesthetics course?
 - The instructors for CI & Aesthetics courses are our 1st & 2nd grade teachers and our related arts teachers. Generally, instructors of CI courses are certificated in those areas. Some courses are offered multiple times throughout the year and have different instructors depending on the day or cycle.

Aesthetics Questions

- How many Aesthetics classes can my child take?
 - This depends on the amount of CI courses the child screened into, if requested.
 - 0 CI means the child would need to take 6 Aesthetics courses
 - 1 CI means the child would need to take 4 Aesthetics courses
 - 2 CI means the child would need to take 2 Aesthetics courses
 - 3 CI means the child would not need to take any Aesthetics courses.
- How often do Aesthetics classes meet?
 - Aesthetics classes meet 1 time per week for 1 cycle.
- Can my child repeat a class they had last year?
 - Most courses cannot be repeated. The content usually stays the same from year to year and most students would not like to repeat the same work. Also, we would like other students to have the opportunity to partake in the class.
- Do I have to select Aesthetics courses?
 - Yes, you must request 10 Aesthetics courses for your child (6 ranked and 4 unranked alternate selections). The only students who do not need to select Aesthetics are those scheduled for 3 CI courses as their schedules would then be full.
- What happens if my child's selections are all full? Is there a chance that my child won't get anything I requested?
 - In previous years, there were no students who didn't get some of their selections. In the rare event that none of the selections are open/available you will be contacted to make other selections for your child.
- What days and times do Aesthetics courses meet?
 - CI & Aesthetics meet during 8th period on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Does my child still get to take PE, Music, Art, etc.?
 - Your child will still travel to Art, Mandarin, Music, PE and Technology with their class during the week. Unlike Hillside, our CI & Aesthetics courses do not replace these classes.
- When will I know my child's courses for next year?
 - CI notices will go out to the families after the screenings and placements have been completed (the week of June 1st this year). The placement process for Aesthetics is much more complex and take quite a while to complete. Families should be able to see their students Aesthetics courses in Genesis when it opens back up for families in late August.

Registration Questions

- Why aren't my selections going through?

- Generally, selections do not go through because not enough selections were made. **You MUST select 10 Aesthetics courses for your child, 6 ranked and 4 unranked alternates. If you do not select 10 the requests will not go through.**
- How come I can't see a particular course?
 - The course may not be available for your child's grade level OR your child may have already taken that course.
- I can't get into Genesis, what do I do?
 - If you have any problems with Genesis during this process, please email your issues to ParentAccess@montclair.k12.nj.us.
- What should I do if I missed the deadline(s)?
 - If you miss the deadline, please email your ranked requests to dmcgowan@montclair.k12.nj.us.
- Is there a waiting list for classes that are full?
 - There are no waiting lists for any of our courses because we handle all the scheduling at once in a fair and thorough process. There is no way to open up any more sections of our most popular courses and courses cannot be changed after completing the scheduling process.
- How do I know what courses to pick?
 - Discuss the courses with your child, ask your child what they are interested in taking. You could also pick courses that you feel would be beneficial, engaging, interesting, and enriching for your child.
- Can I make any changes to my child's courses?
 - The only changes that we currently allow is for a student to drop a CI course at the time of the Aesthetics request window, or in the case of a severe medical issue. Because of the separated CI registration window and feedback, and the parent ranking of the Aesthetics courses children are getting the courses that you selected.