



March 3, 2023

Dear Manzanita community,

This is the time of year when decisions for NEW student enrollment begin. For the past 13 years, Manzanita has been able to say 'Yes' to ALL new student enrollments taking place during the defined enrollment periods each year. Historically, our waiting lists only began *after* the defined enrollment period ended. This year, Manzanita's open enrollment window (for NEW scholars) began on December 1, 2022, and ended on January 31, 2023. For the first time in the school's history, we must now move to an official "lottery system approach" because we have more Letter of Intent than we do seats available for the 2023-24 school year.

Manzanita's charter language, which was crafted by Manzanita Charter School founders and follows CA ED code regarding charter school lottery guidelines, includes the following:

- First preference** is given to staff children (Lottery will only take place when Intent to Enrolls exceed available seats for this group)
- Second preference** is given to sibling privilege (Lottery will only take place when Intent to Enrolls exceed available seats for this group)
- Remaining** seats will be selected by a random lottery approach in order of selection
- Due to the military, prison, and migrant populations, Manzanita may offer a second lottery for seat placement on May 31, 2023, IF there are additional seats available due to changes in enrollment. The second lottery will ensure ALL populations receive enrollment opportunities at Manzanita.
Manzanita may offer additional lotteries prior to start of the school year if enrollment count changes.

What does this mean for my current Intent to Enroll?

Manzanita has hired an outside agency to run its lottery system. This agency also runs the lotteries for Orcutt Academy High School and Orcutt Academy Charter School in Los Alamos. **Manzanita's first lottery will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, in the school MPR at 6:00 pm.** Families may attend in person or by ZOOM. ZOOM meeting ID 2721730487 Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2721730487#success>

What happens if my child doesn't get selected for an open seat?

A waiting list will be formed during the lottery. As each child's name is randomly selected, they will either be placed in a 'seat' or placed on the waiting list. Families will leave the lottery knowing what 'spot' their child was given by the end of the lottery.

Should I enroll my child in another school if they don't get selected for a 'seat' and placed on the waiting list?

Yes. Manzanita recommends you enroll your child in another school setting if they are placed on the waiting list. We make every effort to quickly place students in an open seat once one becomes available; however, there are no guarantees that a child placed on our waiting list will be accepted for the 23-24 school year.

Thank you for your support and commitment,

Suzanne Nicastro

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