

Advanced Scholars Program at Friendship Elementary

**Application Packet
2023-2024**

Student Name

School (Currently Enrolled)

Grade Level in 2023-2024



Introduction

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship (ASP) is an innovative program of choice that seeks self-motivated, passionate students. A rigorous, personalized, and authentic learning experience has been carefully and deliberately created to meet the needs of the individual learner. The faculty and staff of ASP recognize that all children come to school with different levels of prior knowledge, skills, interests, and needs. ASP is eager to design customized schedules and instruction to better serve the unique needs of each student.

ASP will develop learning experiences that use the Georgia Standards of Excellence as the core knowledge for integrated thematic units of study which promote inquiry, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Project based learning will utilize a personalized learning platform that will reflect both a student's interests and learning style as they research, explore, and discover. Students will have enrichment activities extending beyond the traditional classroom into the community. Effective communication, both oral and written, is a necessary component. Students will be given opportunities to showcase their work and will be required to articulate understanding to real world audiences.

In addition to a curriculum with high expectations, it is the desire of ASP to develop the whole child. The staff is committed to producing well rounded students who also exhibit exemplary character and citizenship. Character development will be purposeful and practiced daily to nurture high standards in regards to respect and manners. All students will be part of community service learning. One of the most essential components of ASP will be a commitment from parents to be engaged in the entire learning process as valued partners and volunteers.

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Application Process

Requirements to Apply

Any Hall County School District student currently in K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade may apply. Parents of students who live outside the attendance zone must provide transportation for their children to and from school. If students live outside the Hall County School District, tuition will be required.

Application and Selection Procedure

1. Parents/Guardians and students complete a Student Application and submit it to Abigail Celli:
Advance Scholars Program at Friendship
Attn:ASP Selection Committee (fesasp@hallco.org)
4450 Friendship Road
Buford, GA 30519
2. Parents/Guardians of rising 1st – 5th grade, please ask their current and previous years' teachers to serve as references for your child. Please share the confidential recommendation form (page 6 of the packet) with your references.
3. Completed application packets will be reviewed by the ASP Selection Committee. Students will be selected based on evidence from their applications, recommendations, and transcripts (test scores and report cards).
4. Depending on the number of applicants, it may be necessary to conduct student interviews and/or additional assessments. If that is the case, a member of the ASP staff will notify families of finalists and schedule the student interviews and/or assessment.
5. Committee decisions are final. Applicants not selected during the initial review will be placed on a waiting list and may be admitted to ASP if any selected students elect not to attend.

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Application Process

Criteria	Evidence/Documentation
<i>The student must:</i>	
Demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge, interest and aptitude	Transcript Recommendations Application (Interview, if necessary)
Exhibit outstanding communication skills	Transcript Recommendations Application (Interview, if necessary)
Possess qualities associated with creativity, including curiosity, resourcefulness and a problem-solving disposition	Transcript Recommendations Application (Interview, if necessary)
Be highly motivated to excel in his or her studies	Transcript Recommendations Application (Interview, if necessary)
Possess the maturity to work well independently and in small group settings	Transcript Recommendations Application (Interview, if necessary)

Application Checklist

(Please check off as each step is completed)

1. Complete all of the student and parent/guardian information in Parts I and II of the application Packet.
2. If your child does not currently attend Friendship Elementary School, please obtain official copies of your child's standardized testing history and most recent report card (attach these to the application packet).
3. Complete the *Parent Questionnaire* and attach it to the application packet.
4. Ask two teachers to complete the short confidential recommendation forms.
5. Complete **Parent Assurances** (page 4).
6. Sign and have your child sign the **Certification and Signature** (page 4).

Application must be completed by March 31, 2023

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Student Information

I. Student Information

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current School: _____ Student ID#: _____

Indicate Area(s) of Special Interest: _____

II. Parent/Guardian Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

III. Academic Record

1. If your child does not currently attend a Hall County School, please print and/or photocopy and attach your child's standardized testing history. These must be official records, which may be obtained from your child's school and/or your own copies of standardized test score reports.
2. If your child does not currently attend a Hall County School, please photocopy and attach your child's most recent report card.

IV. Parent Questionnaire

Please answer the three questions below. All responses must be typed. Please print them and attach them to the application. Limit your responses to no more than two pages total.

1. **What are the gifts and talents that your child will bring to ASP?** (Discuss not only academics, but provide specific examples of their character, leadership, and motivation.)
2. **What have been your child's greatest challenges in school, and what has been done to help your child overcome those challenges?** (For example: particular learning difficulties, social/emotional issues, illness, stress)
3. **Please share some of your expectations in the following areas:**
 - a. **Academics**
 - b. **Extracurricular activities**

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Student Application

V. References

Please ask two teachers to complete short confidential recommendation forms, found on page 5. One of the references must be a current classroom teacher. The other reference should be last year's teacher.

Optional: You may ask one individual who is not a teacher to submit a letter of recommendation. This should be an individual who has observed your child's talents, work ethic, and ability to work with others, etc., in ways that may not be seen in school. This reference may not be a family member. The letter, which should not exceed one page in length, should be sent directly to ASP Selection Committee at fesasp@hallco.org or faxed to 770-932-2162.

VI. Parent Assurances

- I grant permission for the ASP Selection Committee to request and review my child's complete academic and discipline records.
- If I live outside the attendance zone, I will provide transportation to and from school for my child to attend ASP.
- I understand the ASP curriculum is accelerated and regular attendance is crucial to your child's success in the program.
- I understand that the nature of the ASP curriculum and the variety of individual and/or small group activities available at the ASP require students to exhibit more maturity and self-control than would be expected of elementary schoolers in a traditional setting. Therefore, if my child has persistent problems with behavior, motivation, and/or attendance ASP may not be the best fit for him/her. I understand that there is a procedure to determine the correct placement for my child.

VII. Certification and Signature Page

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if selected for ASP, falsified statements may be grounds for removal.

Student Name (Print please)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print please)

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Student Reference

Dear _____ (Current Homeroom Teacher),

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for _____, who is applying to The Advance Scholars Program (ASP). Your confidential ratings of this student's interests and aptitudes, creativity and personal responsibility will be submitted electronically. Please e-mail our ASP Selection Committee at fesasp@hallco.org to request a recommendation form. They will then e-mail the short form to you, along with instructions for the completion and submission of the form. Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environment of the ASP. Thank you for being an important part of the application process.

Sincerely,

Abigail Celli

Principal
Advance Scholars Program
Friendship Elementary School

The Advance Scholars Program at Friendship Student Reference

Dear _____ (Last Year's Homeroom Teacher),

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for _____, who is applying to The Advance Scholars Program (ASP). Your confidential ratings of this student's interests and aptitudes, creativity and personal responsibility will be submitted electronically. Please e-mail our ASP Selection Committee at fesasp@hallco.org to request a recommendation form. They will then e-mail the short form to you, along with instructions for the completion and submission of the form. Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environment of the ASP. Thank you for being an important part of the application process.

Sincerely,

Abigail Celli

Principal
Advance Scholars Program
Friendship Elementary School