Questions and Answers . . .

Q. Who can apply to Carolina School for Inquiry?

A. Enrollment for the school year is open to all students in grades 3-K through six. Priority is given to families residing in Richland School District One. See the lottery information on the Enrollment and Admissions page for more information on how priority is given.

Q. What if I have two elementary school children?

A. You may enroll both children. In the event of a lottery, if one sibling is drawn, the other will automatically be enrolled.

Q. Do SC State Curriculum standards apply?

A. Yes. Students learn the same curriculum content and take the same standardized tests as all other Richland One students. There is a link to the standards on the About Our School page.

Q. Can my child transfer into the program during the school year?

A. Our students are selected before the beginning of the school year. In rare circumstances, spaces become available during the year. When this happens, the office manager contacts families according to a waiting list.

Q. What about facilities like a library and cafeteria?

A. CSI has its own cafeteria that serves hot breakfast and a full lunch each day school is in session. Food and snacks come pre-prepared from Eau Claire High School. In addition to milk, students are offered water at each meal. Our library is computerized and functional, thanks to our partnership with the Blythewood Lions Club and several community volunteers.

Q. Will my child participate in subjects like art, music, and PE?

A. Yes. CSI offers a wide variety of related arts classes, including art, music, physical education, guidance, yoga, technology, and Mandarin Chinese. After school band (beginning and advanced), chorus, art club, and Student Government are some of our ongoing extracurricular options.

Q. Is transportation available?

A. CSI students do not have access to school bus transportation. Families are encouraged to carpool. For assistance in setting up a carpool network, please contact the main office.

Q. Is there an after school program?

A. Yes. Our enriching aftercare program is called Extended Explorations. Please check the After School Program page or call the program director, Mrs. Willis-Faust, at 803-691-1250 (ext. 21) for more information.

Q. What If my child is currently in the ALERT program?

A. A child can retain his/her status as a gifted student, but there is not an ALERT component to our program. The academic needs of gifted students are accommodated in each classroom. The multi-age classroom environment at CSI is ideal for gifted students, as it is designed to customize a child's stages of learning. Children are not confined to grade-level sets of outcomes. Curriculum is presented through in-depth topics, which encourages students to explore specific aspects that interest them.

Q. What if I have a special needs child?

A. Any student in the district is welcome to apply to Carolina School for Inquiry.

Q. What if we reside outside Richland District One?

A. On a tuition-based and space-available basis, enrollment is open to residents outside Richland School District One.

Q. Is priority given to experienced children who have been introduced to the inquiry-based teaching?

A. No. The charter school is open to all students. However, a hallmark of Carolina School for Inquiry will be an inquiry-based curriculum and all families should familiarize themselves with this specialized curriculum in order to make the best choice for their child.