



Heron School Admissions Policy

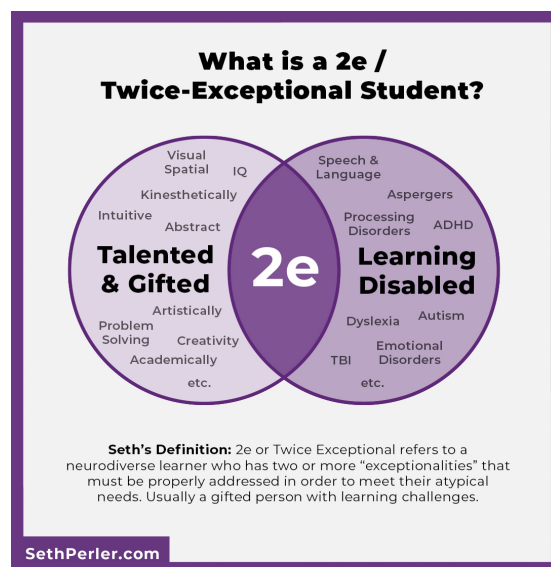
Heron School is a private, secondary school that specializes in serving the profile of twice-exceptional (2e) students, where a student presents as gifted or talented and is neurodivergent (such as a diagnosed learning disability). The needs of students with this profile are often overlooked due to one exceptionality masking the other. Additionally, gifted students may not present with a specific disability but often fit the profile of a 2e student due to the complexities of being a gifted learner. Ultimately, if your child's educational needs are not being met in their current educational setting, Heron School might be a great fit for your family.

THE HERON SCHOOL STUDENT PROFILE

The following is a more detailed description of the twice-exceptional learner, including a helpful diagram. If your child identifies with any descriptors in this profile, we strongly encourage you to consider applying to Heron School:

1. The student is an above grade level learner in one or more subject areas, which is referred to as **gifted and/or talented** in most educational settings. At Heron School, we aim to be inclusive in our definition of "gifted and talented" by recognizing the many ways a student's talent or intelligence can present itself. Oftentimes, 2e student's gifts are most evident *outside* of the classroom. For example, a remarkable athletic gift would be evidence of a talented kinesthetic learner. Many 2e students engage in passion projects during their personal time (like researching topics of interest or pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors) that most definitely indicate a gifted or talented learner.

2. The student is **neurodivergent**, where they have diverse ways of learning, thinking, processing, and behaving. This divergence can be both a gift and a challenge in the classroom. The student may have a diagnosed learning disability such as ASD (autism spectrum disorder), ADHD, GAD (generalized anxiety disorder), dyslexia, dysgraphia, or dyscalculia. The structure of Heron School supports students with these diagnosed learning disabilities. The



student may also not have a formally diagnosed learning disability, but neurodivergence in gifted and talented students can still present challenges in the classroom. This can look like perfectionism, controlling behaviors, rigidity, defiance, performance anxiety, social anxiety, laziness, lack of executive functioning, etc. Again, Heron School supports students through all learning challenges due to their neurodivergence.

THE PROCESS

In order to attend Heron School, we must be able to determine that your child would fit-in and benefit from our program. We have a holistic admissions process (outlined below) that considers the whole child and is mindful of the complexities created by twice-exceptionality. Heron School takes advantage of a wide range of tools, procedures, and metrics during the admissions process. We look at examples of strengths and interests, personal and professional recommendations, student records, and medical records and formal diagnoses*. We are committed through this admissions process to ensuring that Heron School is the right fit for your child and their educational needs.

Even though our curriculum is designed to promote social-emotional learning, Heron School is not a qualified therapeutic facility. We are unable to admit students who are not physically, mentally, or emotionally capable of participating in the fundamental nature of our program. Our instructors and faculty are well-versed in classroom interventions in order to offer support and accommodations for 2e students, but we are not equipped to enroll students who are not prepared to be challenged or students who may pose a threat to themselves or others.

*Certain state scholarships require your child to have a medically diagnosed disability recognized by the IDEA Act. If they are not diagnosed but you believe they are neurodivergent and you would like to apply for this funding, we strongly encourage you to pursue a formal diagnosis.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Heron School is committed to fostering and maintaining an educational community that is free from discrimination. Heron School admits students of any race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability in the administration of any of its school programs, its educational policies, or admissions policies.

APPLICATION STEPS

Step 1: Contact Dean of Students (Emilia Cubelos - contact information below) for an initial conversation about Heron School and how to begin the application process. At this time you will schedule a site visit and student interview.

Emilia Cubelos

Email: emilia@heronschool.com

Phone: 435-260-2952

Step 2: Family site visit and student interview at Heron School

Step 3: Shadow day (only necessary for mid-year applicants)

Step 4: Complete and submit application materials

Step 5: Apply for scholarships

Thank you for considering Heron School for your child's education. Please contact us with any questions you may have throughout the entire admissions process. We are here to support your child in meeting their educational needs.

