



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are magnet schools?

Magnet schools offer specialized programs of learning with a focused theme that attracts a diverse population of students from throughout the Mobile County Public School System for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

What are the specific MCPSS magnet programs?

Kindergarten - 5th Grade:

Council Traditional School

<https://councilelemcpssal.schoolinsites.com/>

Theme: International Baccalaureate

Eichold-Mertz Magnet School

<https://eicholdelemcpssal.schoolinsites.com/>

Theme: STEM

Old Shell Road Magnet School

<http://www.oldshellroadmagnetschool.com/>

Theme: Creative and Performing Arts

6th-8th Grade:

Clark-Shaw Magnet School of Math, Science, and Technology

<https://clarkshawmcpssal.schoolinsites.com/>

Theme: STEMw

Denton Magnet School

<https://www.dentonmagnet.com/>

Theme: 21st Century Skills & Technology

Dunbar Creative and Performing Arts Magnet School [https://](https://dunbarmcpssal.schoolinsites.com/)

dunbarmcpssal.schoolinsites.com/

Theme: Creative and Performing Arts

Phillips Preparatory School

www.phillipsprep.com

Theme: International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

2. Who can apply to a magnet school?

Student applicants must live within the Mobile County Public Schools' district. Magnet programs accept students from all MCPSS district school zones for kindergarten through eighth grade students. *Pre-K functions separately and is not handled through the magnet process.*

3. How do I apply to a magnet school?

All magnet program applications are submitted **online** and will be posted on the district's website at www.mcpss.com.

4. Where can I obtain an application for a magnet program?

Applications can be found on the magnet website during the open application period. A link to the online application can be found on the MCPSS website; www.mcpss.com, the magnet website; <https://www.mcpss.com/magnetschools>, and all magnet schools' websites.

5. When can I apply for a magnet program?

The initial magnet application period for all programs will be open each fall. For the 2020-2021 school year, the online application will be available October 21st, 2019 - November 15th, 2019. Students who apply during this time frame will be notified of their selection status by December 19th, 2019. A second "Late Application" period will be open later in the spring for any students who did not apply in the earlier application period. Applications will be available for programs that have openings where there are no students on a wait list.

6. If I apply on the first day of the application period, will I have a better chance of being accepted at my choice of school?

No. There is no advantage to applying on the first day. The application window is open to everyone. Selection will not be based on date of application. A lottery system and other eligibility criteria will be used to select students for available spaces if more eligible students apply than spaces are available.

7. Can I submit multiple applications for the same application window?

No. The system will only allow for one application per student based on the student's ID per application window.

8. How will I learn the results of my student magnet application?

Parents will learn the results of the magnet program selection process via email (if provided by the parent) or via letter sent through US Postal Mail to the address provided in the application.

9. What will happen once I accept a placement in a magnet program?

Student academic and discipline criteria will be reviewed again following 3rd and 4th quarter to determine if the accepted student continues to meet eligibility criteria. Once available in the spring of 2020, complete the MCPSS Online Returning Student Registration Process using the magnet school as your student's next school.

10. Does my student who currently attends a magnet elementary school have priority in getting into a magnet middle school program?

Fifth graders in good standing at the conclusion of the school year are automatically eligible to attend their "feeder" magnet school.

Our magnet feeder schools include:

Old Shell Road - Dunbar

Eichold-Mertz - Clark OR Denton

Council - Phillips

If you wish for your 5th grade magnet student to attend a *different* magnet middle school besides their designated feeder magnet, you must reapply. Current magnet students in good standing will receive priority, but selection into a different magnet school is not guaranteed. If a student will attend the feeder magnet, the parent/guardian will *only* complete the "Intent to Return" online survey which will be emailed and sent home with your child's 1st quarter report card.

11. Does my student's special education needs affect his or her magnet eligibility?

All students are eligible to apply for a magnet program and are subject to the same criteria and eligibility requirements.

12. What criteria are reviewed for my child to be eligible for the magnet program?

Discipline and academic criteria are reviewed. Students must have *fewer* than five office referrals and *fewer* than two suspensions during the previous two school semesters to meet discipline criteria. Students must maintain a 70 or above average (entering grades 2-8) in all core subject areas to be eligible for magnet.

Once enrolled, students must remain in good standing regarding academics and discipline to be eligible to continue in the magnet program. In addition, school policies and procedures (including satisfactory attendance) must be followed by both the student and parent/guardian.

13. Do siblings of magnet students receive selection priority?

Siblings of *current* magnet students who apply for the same school that the current magnet sibling is already attending will receive priority status pending eligibility criteria and available space.

Siblings who apply for the same school but are not already in the magnet program are subject to the same lottery selection as all applicants.

14. Eligible applicants who are not offered a seat in the initial selection process will be placed on a wait list. If openings occur in the grade/program, selection will be made by lottery. Students on the wait-list will remain on the list until either of the following two events occur:

- a. He/she is selected for an open seat in the lottery process *or*
- b. The wait list expires at six weeks after the start of the school year.

15. What kind of notification will I receive regarding my child's application status?

All applicants will receive notifications regarding the status of their application. Notification will be made by email or by posted letter. It is imperative that you include a valid email address and mailing address when applying so communication is received in a timely manner. There are four types of notifications that an applicant may receive:

- a. **Awarded:** This notification indicates that your student has been approved for selection.

Applicants who receive this notification must accept the offered seat either by going to the online link (which will be provided) or by calling the Magnet Office at 251-221-4039 if you do not have Internet access.

- b. **Automatic Decline:** If the applicant does not respond by the designated date and time listed on the awarded notification, the magnet offer will be automatically declined.

- c. **Wait List:** This notification indicates that your student has not been selected for the applied program(s) but will be placed on a wait list until an available seat is offered or until six weeks after the start of school.

- d. **Denied:** This notification indicates that your student did not meet the required criteria for selection and is not eligible for the applied program.