

**Mobile County Public School System
Magnet Schools Program**



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

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- ✦ Council Traditional School
- ✦ Eichold-Mertz Magnet School of Math and Science
- ✦ Old Shell Road School for the Creative and Performing Arts
- ✦ Clark-Shaw School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
 - ✦ Denton Magnet School of Technology
 - ✦ Dunbar School of Creative and Performing Arts
 - ✦ Phillips Preparatory School

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The Magnet Schools Program of the Mobile County Public Schools System is under the jurisdiction of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. Procedures and guidelines are monitored by the by the Deputy Superintendent of Academics and the Magnet School Resource Teacher.

I. MCPSS MAGNET SCHOOLS PROGRAM

A. Schools of Choice

Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) Magnet Schools are open-zoned schools. Open-zoned schools not have a designated attendance area for students, but instead, encompasses the entire MCPSS attendance area. To determine which students should be able to attend our selection schools, students are chosen based on an application and lottery process and are required to meet entrance criteria.

MCPSS Magnet Schools are built on the foundation of the five pillars of diversity, innovative curriculum and professional development, academic excellence, high quality instructional systems, and family and community partnerships. Our choice schools embody the belief that highly motivated and academically focused students have interests and talents that are better cultivated in a magnet school program. Our magnet schools have focused themes and aligned curricula in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Fine and Performing Arts, and International Baccalaureate.

Diversity is an important element of a magnet school. Students from a wide array of cultures and backgrounds, including special education students and English language learners, attend our magnet schools. Thus, students are exposed to different ways of thinking and develop a stronger sense of tolerance and a broader world view. Magnet schools make the extra effort to create a sense of classroom and school community and to cultivate school spirit.

The curriculum, and the professional development that supports it, promotes higher level cognitive thinking and uses a “hands on–minds on” approach to learning that is inquiry or performance/project based. The magnet schools use state and district standards in all subject areas, however, they are taught within the overall theme of the school. The curriculum is also clear and transparent for families so they can fully engage in the learning of their students.

Magnet schools are designed for academic excellence. The curriculum and grading scales are modified from a regular program. Each grade level is accelerated and, due to the theme focus of each school, require students to carry a heavier academic load than non-magnet schools. The grading scale in our programs is allows for grades A, B, C, and E with all averages below a 70 resulting in a failing grade. Based on this criterion, students in our programs are expected to work harder, attend school on-time and regularly, and be more responsible for their own learning. We use a random computer-based lottery system for admission.

MCPSS Magnet Schools are considered “schools of choice.” They are designed to make students successful using focused themes, implementing accelerated curriculums, and supporting students who are active and willing participants in their learning. Therefore, MCPSS Magnet Schools have more rigorous and strict guidelines and procedures in place to make learning successful for all learners. Please read the guidelines and procedures outlined in this handbook so that you understand the magnet school program if your child is selected.

B. Magnet Themes

- A proposed magnet school's theme can be determined based on either district needs or community survey.
- Themes of the original seven magnet schools were determined as a provision of the Birdie Mae Davis Consent Decree and have been voluntarily retained.

C. MCPSS Magnet Schools

Clark-Shaw School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, located at 5960 Arlberg Street, serves 804 students in grades 6-8 and is a twice-recognized National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Faculty and staff encourage students to learn through laboratory-based science, mathematics, and technology courses. At Clark-Shaw School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, all students participate in project-based instruction in a culture of high expectations for academic success. Clark-Shaw’s curriculum is accelerated.

Council Traditional School, located at 751 Wilkinson Street, emphasizes accelerated academics and communications skills for 658 students in grades K-5. Council Traditional School is a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and provides Spanish instruction to its students at all grade levels, as well as project-based learning through its International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program and through Talents Unlimited skills-based lessons.

Denton Magnet School of Technology, located at 3800 Pleasant Valley Road, serves 550 students in grades 6-8. Denton Magnet School provides a quality education that prepares students to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. It features a technology-driven curriculum that focuses on communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Mastery of specific

technology tools are integrated into digital projects and assignments in core subjects. Students go beyond the use of software applications, to include exposure to algorithms, data structures and data management. Denton's curriculum is accelerated.

Dunbar School of Creative and Performing Arts, located at 500 Saint Anthony Street, serves 535 students in grades 6-8 and emphasizes a strong academic curriculum with a focus on creative and performing arts. Student learning is enhanced with electives in band, strings, piano, guitar, chorus, dance, baton, art, ceramics, musical theater, and drama. Dunbar Magnet School provides students opportunities to develop skills in the creative and performing arts by providing instruction equivalent to that of private lessons. Arts-integrated instruction, project-based learning and annual recitals and performances are used to support the curriculum of Dunbar School of Creative and Performing Arts. Dunbar's has standard grade level curriculum with advanced course offerings.

Eichold-Mertz Magnet School of Math and Science, located at 2815 Government Boulevard, serves 424 students in grades K-5 and is an ideal learning environment for students interested in an accelerated mathematics, science, and technology curriculum. Students learn using a laboratory-based math and science curriculum. Teachers at Eichold-Mertz strive to produce curious, confident students who explore, experiment, and solve problems to ensure success in the 21st century.

Old Shell Road School for the Creative and Performing Arts, located at 3160 Heather Street, serves 499 students in grades K-5 and emphasizes a strong academic program enhanced with dance, drama, art, and music courses. The arts are infused into academic classes to increase student achievement. It is the philosophy of Old Shell Road Magnet School that children learn in different ways and that the arts provide an additional way to help each child reach his/her potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Old Shell Road School for the Creative and Performing Arts was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2015.

Phillips Preparatory School, located at 3255 Old Shell Road, offers an accelerated college preparatory curriculum to 808 students in grades 6-8 and is a twice-recognized National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Phillips Preparatory emphasizes communication skills, accelerated mathematics, and foreign languages. The curriculum provides opportunities for academic exploration, extension and mastery of core subjects with emphasis placed on broad-based enrichment opportunities. Phillips Preparatory is preparing to implement the International Baccalaureate Middle Years program in 2016-2017. Phillips' curriculum is accelerated.

II. MAGNET SCHOOL RESOURCES

A. Funding of Magnet Schools

- Magnet schools are funded like every other school within the school system through federal, state, and local funding.
- No specific funding is provided just for magnet schools.
- Magnet schools write for education grants to help in funding programs.
- Magnet Schools may make application for additional funds under Title V.

B. Magnet Teacher Allocations

- Magnet schools are allocated teacher units based on the same formula used for all other schools.
- Extra magnet allocations may be given for program requirements but are not guaranteed.

III. MAGNET SCHOOLS ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

A. Eligibility

Any student meeting the following criteria may APPLY to be selected during MCPSS Magnet Schools drawing:

- All students entering grade 2- 8 must be enrolled in a regular school program. (If selected, students enrolled in a non-accredited school program will be required to take grade validation test to determine if they can be enrolled in the selected grade.)
- At the time of application, an applicant to a MCPSS magnet school must reside in the Mobile County Public School System attendance area. EXCEPTION: Military personnel with written orders which place them in the MCPSS attendance zone prior to the beginning of the application year may apply.
- General guidelines for being eligible to apply to magnet schools are below.
 - Legal Age to Enter School
 - As stated in the Code of Alabama (1975) §16-28-4, a student is eligible to enroll in kindergarten if he/she turns five on or before September 1. A child is eligible to enter first grade if he/she will turn 6 on or before December 31st.
 - Guardianship of Students
 - Only custodial parents or legal guardians can complete an application to magnet schools. Applications completed by others not having legal custody will be voided.
 - A parent may be asked to provide certified custodial or guardianship documents for student(s) in question.
 - Enrollment must be completed by the parent/guardian who has custody at the time of enrollment.
 - Social Security Numbers
 - Federal Law requires a student to have a social security number if the student is a U.S. citizen.
 - Exchange students, Canadian citizens, non-U.S. students etc. are issued a student number through the Office of Student Services. These student numbers are validated through the State of Alabama.

- Proof of Residence
 - Students enrolled in the magnet schools program must be legal residents of the Mobile County Public School System. To verify residency, the parent or legal guardian must provide 2 legal proofs of residence.

B. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Applications for the next school year will be available November 5, 2018. Applications are ONLY available online.
2. The application period for the 2019-2020 school year is from the November 5, 2018 until May 29, 2019.
3. The magnet application must be completed truthfully with all requested information.
4. To complete a new application for the selection process, parents must have the student's ID number, date of birth, and a valid email address (method of contact).
 - ALL students will need their INow student number, a 4 to 6-digit number beginning with an S.
 - Students enrolled in a MCPSS school already have a student number in INow.
 - Kindergarten applicants and non-MCPSS students will be required to complete online form and submit required documents to be entered into INow and receive a student number. (Specific directions provided in Appendix A.)
5. The school system has the authority to deny or void an application for the following reasons:
 - duplicate applications for ANY reason (Only one application per student will be accepted.)
 - underage applicants
 - applications completed for a magnet school when recommitted to the current magnet school.
 - application completed by someone other than the student's legal guardian or parents (If one parent has legal custody, only that parent can complete the application.)
 - students who do not reside in MCPSS at the time of the application.
 - incomplete applications.
 - ANY FALSIFIED INFORMATION WILL VOID THE MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATION.
Application data is checked for accuracy against Mobile County Public School System records and against the State of Alabama Special Education Database.
6. Making Changes to submitted applications
 - Parents can make changes to email address and phone numbers emailing requests to magnetinfo@mcpss.com. Please reference the student's name and provide the student ID # and date of birth.

C. SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

- There are 3 elementary grades magnet school options. (See schools listed in section I, part C.)
- There are 4 middle grades magnet school options. (See schools listed in section I, part C.)
- Parents applying must list at least ONE school option for which they want their child to be selected.
- Parents may select all options available, but it is not required.
- **Parents should select ONLY SCHOOLS for which they are willing to send their child. Students are offered an initial seat and, if the seat is declined, the student may, with approval, be returned to the waitlist for another school but will added to the END of that waitlist. Therefore, parents should CAREFULLY consider which schools they lists as options since declining the first school will put them at the bottom of the waitlist for any other school.**

D. CURRENT MAGNET SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Parents must login into the Magnet Schools Application/Commitment Portal and recommit their child to his/her current magnet school or feeder middle school.
- The online recommitment in the portal MUST be completed by the parent/legal guardian. The portal will be available between between November 5, 2018 to December 5, 2018. Any recommitments not completed within these dates will not be accepted.
- Current magnet school students who wish to apply for another magnet school different from their current school or feeder magnet middle school must complete an application for the other magnet school.
- Students CANNOT recommit to their current school/feeder middle school AND apply for another school.
- If a parent recommitments their student to the current school/feeder middle school AND completes an application for another magnet school, BOTH options will be voided and the student will not be considered for ANY magnet school.

E. DRAWINGS

- The initial drawing will be held on December 10, 2018. All selected students will be notified via email within a week of the drawing
- Subsequent drawings will be held approximately every 3-4 weeks. (See the 2018-2019 Magnet Schools Calendar for specific dates and deadlines.)

F. SELECTION

- Below is the priority list for selection during drawings.
 - **To receive priority, applicants MUST complete an application before December 9, 2018. The siblings of current students should apply by December 6, 2018 to receive priority. After that date, no guarantee of priority will be given to any students for any reason**
1. Children of Magnet School Employees
 - The following list outlines the criteria for students to be selected as an employee's child.
 - Employees' children are given placement preference only to the magnet school where the worker is a full-time employee. (Children of the employee only. Extended family does not apply.)
 - A magnet school employee must make application for his/her child(ren) to the desired magnet school and meet all other entrance criteria for selection as would any other Mobile County Public School System resident student that requests placement.
 - A written request for placement of an employee's child along with written employment verification is sent to the magnet schools program office by the magnet school's principal.
 - An opening in the desired school must be available for the employee's child.
 2. Siblings of Currently Enrolled Magnet School Students
 - Siblings of currently enrolled magnet school students are 3rd in the priority list.
 - Sibling applicants must first meet the criteria for consideration as a sibling and then meet sibling preference criteria.
 - The following list outlines the criteria for students to be considered for sibling preference.
 - Natural siblings and half-siblings who reside in the same household with one or both custodial parents. The sibling preference does not apply in situations where students live in separate households.
 - Step-siblings may be considered a sibling of a magnet student if they both live in the same house with legally married parents.
 - If an extended relative or other legal guardian with a magnet school student has legal custody of an applicant, the sibling preference will apply if documentation of custody and residency can be provided.
 - The following outlines the criteria for sibling preference.
 - the applicant and the sibling will be attending the same magnet school in the same year;
 - there is space available in the applicant's grade level.
 - the sibling applicant meets all pre-screening entrance criteria.
 - Priority does NOT mean automatic selection. If there are more sibling applicants than spaces available, the sibling applicants are selected through random drawing.
 - **IF PARENTS WISH TO APPLY THE SIBLING PREFERENCE OPTION, ONLY 1 CHOICE MAY BE SELECTED ON THE APPLICATION, THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE CURRENT MAGNET STUDENT SIBLING IS ENROLLED.**
 3. General Selection
 - All remaining slots will be filled via a general selection
 4. New applicant siblings
 - New applicant siblings are siblings who are ALL newly applying for selection and NONE of them are currently in a magnet school.
 - If one of the applying siblings is offered and accepts a seat, priority for the other applicant sibling(s) will not be given until after end of year enrollment criteria is checked and the selected sibling is finalized and enrolled.
 - After end of the year entrance criteria is checked and the selected sibling is finalized and enrolled, the magnet office will attempt to place applicant siblings with the newly enrolled sibling if there is space.
 - When completing applications for several children, parents should consider whether they are willing to accept selection of children at separate schools. Depending on availability of slots and the schools listed as options, sibling applicants may be drawn for separate schools and there is no guarantee they will can be accommodated at the same school later. Therefore, parents should consider only listing one school option if they do not wish to send students to separate schools.

G. NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

- Once the initial drawing is conducted, parents will receive an email notice informing them of the student's status WITHIN A WEEK OF THE DRAWING

H. TRANSFERS

- The only way to enter a magnet school is through the random selection process. This occurs as parents complete applications during the application period.
- There are no transfers permitted between magnet schools because magnet schools are not *attendance-zoned schools*. Magnet schools draw students from throughout the Mobile County Public School System by a random selection process.
- A student may not be placed at a magnet school by any other means other than random selection. Homeless status, IEP requirements, medical needs, ESL directives, etc cannot be used as a means of entering a magnet school.

IV. COMMITMENT TO ATTEND

A. Commitment to Attend Procedures

- Each new student selected for a magnet school is sent a notification of selection.
- If a student is offered a seat at a magnet school, parents must go to the Magnet Schools Commitment Portal, accept the seat, and sign the commitment contract.
- The acceptance and contract **MUST** be completed by the deadline stated on the notice. **NO EXCEPTIONS** for any reason.
- The magnet school office is not responsible undelivered emails due to an invalid email address, being sent to SPAM, inoperable phones, etc. If a parent needs access to a computer to check email or to check status, they may access one at Central Office.

V. MAGNET SCHOOL ENTRANCE CRITERIA

A. ENTRANCE CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS

Since magnet schools are “schools of choice” and have a select and/or accelerated curriculum, entrance criteria have been established to help assure student success. The criteria under review involves academics, behavior, and attendance. An outline of the entrance criteria can be found in Appendix B.

B. CONTINUATION CRITERIA FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

All current students must reapply during the application period and must adhere to the same entrance criteria as NEW students with the exception the entrance exam. Returning students entering grades 1-8 do not have to take the MCPSS Magnet Schools Entrance Exam.

C. PROCEDURES FOR VALIDATING ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- Pre-Screening Criteria:
 - Entering grade 1 – 8 students enrolled in a MCPSS school:
 - All grades, attendance, and behavior will be checked through INow records.
 - Entering grade 1 – 8 students not enrolled in a MCPSS school:
 - Parents will be required to submit the most current report card showing grades and attendance. As long as conduct and attendance show acceptable criteria, the student is eligible for selection.
- Final Entrance Criteria:
 - Current MCPSS Students: Grades, behavior and attendance will be checked through the INOW database. **ALL CRITERIA WILL BE CHECKED BASED ON FINAL STATUS ON THE LAST TEACHER WORK DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. (May 29th, 2019) NO CHANGES TO STUDENT DATA WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.**
 - Non-MCPSS students: Students entering in grades 2-8 must submit the end of the year report card to the selected school within 1 week of the end of the school year. The final report card **MUST** show final grades in all subjects, attendance, conduct, and show that the students was promoted to the next grade. A form confirming attendance and behavior must also be submitted along with the report card.
 - Students are required to score on grade level on the MCPSS Magnet Schools Validation Exam.

VI. ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

- Enrollment is finalized when parents/guardians have completed BOTH online registration and on-site registration.
- Each magnet school will hold registration during the month of June. Parents will be required to complete both online and on-site registration at that time. Only student selected **AFTER** the June registration dates will be allowed to enroll/register during July make-up dates.

- Those students who have NOT completed both registrations during the month of June will have their names removed from the school's enrollment list and their selection voided in the magnet school database.

VII. CONTINUATION WITHIN THE MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Currently enrolled magnet school students must meet the same criteria as newly applying students excluding the MCPSS Magnet Schools Validation Exam.
- Parents will be sent notification in report cards if their child did not meet criteria to continue in the magnet school program.

VIII. WITHDRAWAL FROM MAGNET SCHOOLS

A. VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWALS

- A parent/legal guardian can voluntarily withdraw a student from a magnet school at any time.
- A voluntary withdrawal from a magnet school during the academic year terminates a student's placement in the magnet schools program. This also voids any recommitments to the current magnet school or to a feeder magnet school.
- If a withdrawn student wishes to re-enroll in a magnet school, he/she must make a new application and be selected through the random selection process for the next year.

B. FORCED WITHDRAWALS

- A student who does not abide by magnet school guidelines can be forcibly withdrawn from his/her magnet school. See Consequences for Failure to Adhere to Magnet School Standards in the next section for situations where and when a student can be forcibly withdrawn. ANY student removed from a magnet school must wait one year before applying to any magnet school program.

IX. CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO ADHERE TO MAGNET SCHOOL STANDARDS

MCPSS Magnet Schools are schools of choice and students are not guaranteed attendance and continuation since a zoned school is available for a child's free and public education. While all magnet schools support students and work to make them successful in their programs, this can only be realized through a partnership between the school, parents, and students. Based on these facts, the magnet schools uphold high expectations for behavior, attendance, and academics. Guidelines, consequences, and procedures for these expectations are outlined below.

A. GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES

- Behavior
 - Students found guilty of a C, D, or E infraction(s).
 - The student can be removed from the magnet school and is subject to receive a long-term suspension and be referred to an alternative school for attendance.
 - NO TRANSFERS will be granted to any other school if a student is removed from a magnet school due to a C, D, or E infraction.
 - C, D, and E offenses are serious in nature and do not require PST or other intervention documentation.
 - Students who receive 2 or more suspensions and/or more than 5 days suspension.
 1. Student handbook protocol for referral to an alternative school for behavior will be followed regarding suspensions.
 - Appeals – Removal of a student from a magnet school who has an infraction under appeal with the Office of Student Services will be carried out based on the final results of the appeal.
- School Guidelines for Documentation and Removal
 - Documentation of student support and parent communications must be logged in the student's cumulative folder.
- PST is to be utilized for behavior and/or academics. Notification for removal will be sent from the magnet schools office. Documentation should be submitted to the Magnet Schools Office with a request for removal of a student BEFORE meeting with the parent.

MCPSS Magnet Schools PROCEDURES FOR NON-MCPSS STUDENTS

Kindergarten applicants and students not currently enrolled in a MCPSS school will be required to complete an online information form to be assigned a student number and be preloaded into the Magnet Application System. This must be done before a magnet application can be completed. Follow directions below.

1. Go to the magnet application page from our main website – www.mcpss.com
Look under the large picture streaming across the page and you will see the options below.
Click on “I WANT TO Apply For Magnet Schools.

I WANT TO

Apply For

- A Signature Academy
- Virtual School-Online/At Home
- Bid/Vendor Opportunities
- Job Opportunities
- Magnet Schools
- Pre-K Programs
- Transfers
- License/Permit Enrollment Verification

Find

- School Year Calendar
- Parent Resources
- Bus Routes
- Diploma and Graduation Requirements
- Pre Schools
- Student Grades
- School Zones
- Common Core Information

Get A Copy Of

- Financial Reports
- Lunch Menus/Wellness Plan
- Parent Student Forms
- Student Handbook and Policy
- Sports Forms
- School Zone Maps
- Archived Transcripts & Diplomas

Register

- New Students
- Returning Students
- Requirements for Enrollment

Get Information

- Contact Us
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Signature Academies
- Career and Technical Education
- Bids & Contracts
- E-funds Fee Pay
- Understanding Your Child's ACT Aspire Results
- Scheduled Board Meetings
- Attendance & Enrollment
- Vaccinations and Health Services
- Special Education

2. Then click on “Links to Applications and Forms”
3. Then, click on “Non-MCPS Students Pre-Registration Form” This is a link to an online form.
4. This is a form which must be completed so the student can be placed in a temporary INOW school. This allows us to provide a student number and then import the student’s information into the application.
5. Once the form has been completed and submitted, the magnet schools’ office can add the student to the Magnet Application System in INOW.
6. Parents also must submit the following documentation:
 - Copy of student’s social security card or proof of social security number.
 - Copy or student’s birth certificate.
 - Two (2) proofs of residence matching the student’s information and with the parent’s name.
 - Student’s most recent report card. (Students currently in grades 1 – 7.)
7. Documents can be submitted 1 of 3 ways. (1) Scan full pages to a PDF and email to magnetinfo@mcpss.com, (2) mail documents to P.O. Box 180069, Mobile, AL, 36618, or (3) bring documents to Central Office, Academic Affairs Building I, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

After the form is completed and documents have been submitted, an email will be sent to the email address provided with the student’s ID number.

**2019-2020 MCPSS MAGNET SCHOOLS
ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES AND ENTRANCE CRITERIA
GRADES K - 8**

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES FOR SELECTION, COMMITMENT, AND ENROLLMENT

1. Complete a new application for the selection process providing the correct information.
 - To apply, ALL students will need their INow student number, a 4 to 6-digit number beginning with an S.
 - Students enrolled in a MCPSS school already have a student number in INow.
 - Kindergarten applicants and non-MCPSS students will be required to complete an online information form to be assigned a student number. This must be completed before a magnet application can be done.
2. Complete the Magnet Schools Commitment Portal, accept the offered seat, and sign the contract within the date on the notification email.
3. Submit final report cards to the selected school during scheduled “report card check” dates and times
4. Complete on-line and on-site registration during scheduled dates.
5. All IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) guidelines must be completed for students with an IEP.

PRE-SCREENING ENTRANCE CRITERIA CHECK (Must meet to be offered a seat)

- Must live in the MCPSS attendance zone at the time of the application.
- Meet state age requirements for entering school. (Kindergarten and grade 1)
- No more than 5 unexcused absences.
- No more than 15 unexcused check-ins (tardies) or check-outs (early dismissals) in quarters 1 and 2.
- No single C, D, E infractions on record in last 2 years or multiple C, D, E infractions in the last 3 years.
- No more than two (2) suspensions and/or more than 5 days in the last 2 years.
- No more than 5 “B” infractions on record in the last year.
- Fail to test on grade level when taking the district’s placement test for non-accredited schools.

END OF YEAR ENROLLMENT CRITERIA (Must meet to enroll)

<p>ENTERING K: Score developmentally ready on MCPS Kindergarten Screener (STAR Early Literacy)</p>	<p>ENTERING GRADES 2 – 8:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit final report card showing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No more than 5 unexcused absences. b. No more than 15 unexcused check-ins (tardies) or check-outs (early dismissals). c. Placement in the next grade. d. A grade of “C” or higher in math and reading (2-6) or language arts (7-8). e. No failures in any other subjects. 2. Clear final behavior check showing none of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No single C, D, E infractions on record in last 2 years or multiple C, D, E infractions in the last 3 years. b. No more than two (2) suspensions and/or more than 5 days in the last 2 years. c. More than 6 “B” infractions on record in the last 1 year. 3. Test at grade level on Grade Level Validation Test if coming from a private, out-of-state, or home school. 4. Score on grade level or better on the MCPSS Magnet Schools’ Validation Exam* <p>*-The MCPSS Magnet Schools Validation Exam is the state accountability test for grades 3-8 and the STAR test for grade 2.</p>
<p>ENTERING GRADE 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit final report card showing a yearly total of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 5 unexcused absences. • No more than 12 unexcused check-ins (tardies) or check-outs (early dismissals). 2. Score developmentally and academically ready on MCPS Grade 1 Screener (STAR Early Literacy) 	

ALL GRADES:

Any student may be voided if his/her end of the year report card shows:

- Failure the current grade and/or must attend summer school to be promoted to the next grade.
- Promoted to the next grade due to chronological age.

2018-2019 MCPSS MAGNET SCHOOLS CONTRACT

STUDENT NAME: _____ SELECTED SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

By choosing to commit your child to an open-zoned, school of choice, you are choosing a RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM within a STRUCTURED and DISCIPLINED ENVIRONMENT. Please carefully read the following commitment statements and initial each one to indicate you have read and agree with each item.

Initial Each

- _____ I understand the school my child is enrolled at is a MCPSS magnet school, which is an open-zoned school of choice. This means my child has a zoned school of attendance for which he/she can attend, but I am choosing to place my child at the named magnet school which has a unique set of rules, policies, and procedures to which my child and I must adhere. Therefore, I will cooperate and work collaboratively with the school staff for the benefit of my child.
- _____ I understand that each magnet school has uniform and dress guidelines which are unique to magnet schools. By choosing to send my child to a MCPSS magnet school, I am deciding to adhere to these guidelines. If at any time I choose not follow these guidelines, I will remove my child and return him/her to his/her zoned school of attendance.
- _____ I understand the magnet school has grading and failure policies which differ from other MCPSS schools. (1) grading scale -see below. (2) Failure to pass by the magnet school grading scale (in all subjects) will result in a student being unable to attend any magnet school for a period of 1 year.
A = 90 – 100, B = 80 – 89, C = 70 – 79, D = 60 – 69, E = below 60. (A grade of 69 or below is failing by magnet standards.)
- _____ I understand that only five (5) unexcused absences and fifteen (15) unexcused check-in (tardies) and/or check-outs (early dismissals) are allowed each year. Any amount more than this, for any reason, will result in my child being unable to return the following year.
- _____ I understand that attendance and punctuality are important to my child's academic success and that continued attendance problems negatively impact both my child and the instruction provided in the classroom. Therefore, I will continually monitor my child's attendance records through INOW, progress reports, and report cards to verify attendance is correct.
- _____ I acknowledge that the final report card distributed on the last teacher work day of the year is a legal document of attendance and grades and that no changes made to the records after this date will be accepted for consideration for entrance criteria.
- _____ If my child is suspended 2 or more times and/or for more than 5 days, or commits a C, D, or E infraction while enrolled in a magnet school, he/she can be immediately removed and be placed at an alternative school for behavior. He/she will also be unable to attend a magnet school for a minimum of 1 year.
- _____ If my child attains 5 or more B infractions within a 1-year period, he/she will not be able to attend any MCPSS magnet for a minimum of 1 year.
- _____ I understand that since I have elected to send my child to a magnet school, I am responsible for the transportation of my child to and from a school which may or may not be located near my home or work. Therefore, I will abide by all rules and guidelines set forth by my child's school and the transportation department regarding drop off and pick up, including times, locations, carpool lines, walking, bus locations, etc. I understand that violating these rules and guidelines can result in my child being removed from the school.
- _____ I understand that the avenue of contact with my by the magnet schools office is via email and that I am responsible for maintaining an active and accessible email address for communication. I agree to continually monitor my email for any notices that may be sent to me regarding my child's status or actions required by me by the magnet school office.
- _____ I understand that I must login in to the Magnet Schools Application/Commitment Portal each year to recommit my child to his/her current magnet school or feeder middle school.
- _____ I understand enrolling my child at a magnet school is one-year commitment to the program and, if I withdraw him/her within that year, he/she will be unable to return to a magnet school for a period of 1-year.
- _____ I understand that my child's seat (recommitted or newly committed) is not finalized until he/she clears enrollment criteria and I have completed all enrollment procedures, including on-site registration.

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Name – Printed: _____

Please initial, sign, and return this document to your child's magnet school not later than September 15th or his/her consideration for any future seat at a magnet school will be voided.