



GPPSS Magnet Program FAQ

The District has compiled responses to frequently asked questions regarding the Magnet program. The purpose of this document is to support families who are making decisions about Magnet and to provide clarity about the program. This document will be updated with the most current information regarding our Magnet program. You may also contact your building principal, Pam Albrecht (magnet coordinator) at albrecp@gpschools.org, or Keith Howell (elementary director) at howellk@gpschools.org for additional information.

Q: Who can attend the Magnet program and where is the program located?

A: The Grosse Pointe Public School System offers a magnet program for 3rd and 4th graders that exhibit the ability for accelerated learning. Recommendation for the magnet program is based on several factors: district-wide NWEA testing results in both Math and ELA, Fountas and Pinnell Reading level, current classroom teacher recommendation in ELA, Math, and gifted traits, student Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment sample, and parental input. Criteria for Magnet placement includes but is not limited to the following:

- Ability to work approximately one grade level ahead
- Consistently performing above 90th percentile in Math and Reading NWEA
- Fountas and Pinnell level approximately one grade or more ahead with Independent levels of comprehension at 98% or better in accuracy
 - Level Q or better for 2nd grade being nominated
 - Level S or better for 3rd grade being nominated
- Grosse Pointe Writing scores above grade level expectations

The magnet classrooms are currently housed at Defer, Ferry, Monteith and Richard Elementary. Staffing for the magnet classrooms will be completed in the summer. The district reserves the right to add, combine, or cancel any Magnet location based on interest and/or space availability.

Q: What is the nomination process for the magnet program?

A: Parent nominations are accepted in December. Teacher nominations are accepted in January. The Magnet Child Study Committee meets in March to review each nominated student's portfolio. A formal recommendation for placement in the magnet program will be made in early April.

Q: Where can I find information about the magnet program?

A: Please visit our [website](#) to learn about the program. If you don't find the information you are looking for, please contact your building principal, Pam Albrecht (magnet coordinator) at



albrecp@gpschools.org, or Keith Howell (director of elementary instruction) at howellk@gpschools.org.

Q: Can you help us understand whether the middle school is tied to which magnet school a kid attends?

A: Students will attend the middle school that is based on home address no matter the school attended for Magnet.

Q: Is there a separate magnet program for middle school kids, or is a program being planned? What does middle school entry mean for a magnet student entering 5th grade?

A: We do not have a Magnet program in middle school. As students transition to middle school they are accelerated for math and have opportunities for ELA workshop grouping in 5th grade, advanced ELA in 6-8th grade and mixed ability science and social studies courses.

Q: Can you help us understand how the same GPPSS curriculum is administered differently? What is the same, and what is different?

A: The curriculum provided is the same as grade level peers; however, students are one year accelerated in math. The content and learning is accelerated and enriched at a greater pace or depth, depending on the needs of the students. Learning experience includes differentiation based on level, modern learning experiences, and project based learning that is responsive to student interest. Teachers will provide examples on how this is accomplished at the information meeting in the spring.

Q: How do the magnet students integrate with the other students at the given school?

A: Students experience lunch, recess, and building-wide events with other students in the school. The classroom connects with school activities in the same way any other classroom would so that all students have a sense of belonging no matter the classroom they are in. Building principals and teachers will provide more details in the spring during the information meeting.

Q: What is the magnet classroom class size and what happens if the class is full?

A: Classrooms are capped at 27 students. If a child is recommended to the Magnet program, then families will submit their intent to attend the program by mid-April. Families' "First School



Choice” must be their neighborhood school if Magnet is offered at that school. (Magnet locations are currently at Defer, Ferry, Monteith, and Richard.) The remaining choices will be based on preference. If interest exceeds classroom capacity, students entering the program will be placed based on lottery results. If necessary, a lottery will be held at the end of April. Students will be placed on a waitlist if there is greater interest than spots available at a school.

Q: How does the Magnet Lottery work?

A: If interest exceeds classroom capacity, then new students entering the program will be placed based on lottery results. If a lottery is necessary, families will be notified of the process during an informational meeting in April. The lottery will be held in late April.

Q: Will there be preference given if the Magnet location is your home school?

A: Lottery preference will not be given to neighborhood schools. The Magnet program is a District program and all new students will be placed into the program based on lottery results.

Q: What if there isn't enough enrollment to house a Magnet program at one of the current schools?

The magnet program operates based on student eligibility, interest, and staffing. The district will analyze enrollment and class size each year and reserves the right to combine classrooms if necessary. If enrollment numbers indicate combining or canceling the Magnet program within a particular building then a lottery will take place and placement will be based on lottery results for the remaining schools.

Q: We missed the December date for nominating my child. Can my child still get into the program if they qualify?

A: Please contact Pam Albrecht at albrecp@gpschools.org or Keith Howell at howellk@gpschools.org for a conversation. Please note that parent nominations are accepted in December. In January/February nominated students are asked to complete NWEA testing and a writing sample. A Child Study Committee meets in March to review each nominated student's portfolio. A formal recommendation for placement in the magnet program is made in April.



Q: I nominated my child for a Magnet placement but they did not get in. Can a family appeal the decision?

A: On rare occasions, families might ask the Magnet Child Study Committee to reconsider student placement. A parent or guardian who wishes to appeal a magnet placement decision shall pursue the following process:

Step 1:

Notify the Elementary Director through email (howellk@gpschools.org) to request a conversation to understand the appeals process and timeline.

Step 2:

The Elementary Director will reconvene a Magnet Child Study Committee in June after spring testing is completed. The committee will review the following:

- *Additional information provided by the parents to the Elementary Director*
- *Spring test scores in comparison to previous test scores*
- *Any additional and pertinent information provided by the current classroom teacher*

Step 3:

The Child Study Committee will determine if the child is eligible for Magnet placement and the Elementary Director will notify parent/guardian of the decision.

Step 4:

If the student is eligible for Magnet placement, the family will work with the Elementary Director regarding available space. If space is not available then the student will be placed on the waitlist.

If the student isn't eligible for placement then the building principal will place the student in a grade level classroom.

Decisions are final at this time.

What if my question isn't answered in this FAQ document?

Not a problem! Please contact Keith Howell at (313) 432-3044 or email your questions to howellk@gpschools.org or Pam Albrecht at albrecp@gpschools.org. They are happy to answer your questions and add the responses to this FAQ document.