

# F.A.Q.

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **WHAT IS A MAGNET SCHOOL?**

A magnet school enhances the North Carolina Standard Course of Study with innovative approaches to learning. Magnet schools have curriculums that emphasize a particular educational focus such as: ***engineering, science, technology, or the arts.***

A magnet school opens doors of opportunity and sparks the imagination of students, preparing them to become responsible citizens in a global society.

### **HOW CAN I DECIDE WHICH MAGNET PROGRAM IS BETTER FOR MY CHILD?**

NHCS encourages parents to visit each magnet school, meet the principal, and talk with staff members to gain more information about the unique magnet programs NHCS has to offer. Parents can contact each school to schedule an appointment or stop by during a school open house.

### **DOES A MAGNET SCHOOL STILL TEACH MY CHILD ALL CORE COURSES LIKE A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL WOULD?**

Yes, a magnet school's curriculum includes all traditional subject areas which adhere to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND A MAGNET SCHOOL?**

There is no charge to attend a New Hanover County magnet school. A student must be a resident of New Hanover County to attend.

### **IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?**

Yes, transportation is provided for any magnet school student residing in New Hanover County.

### **DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO HAVE A CERTAIN ACADEMIC LEVEL TO BE ADMITTED TO A MAGNET SCHOOL?**

No, students are not tested to be admitted to a magnet school. Each magnet school works with students to provide the best educational experience and helps all students grow and excel.

### **ARE UNIFORMS REQUIRED?**

Yes, all three magnet schools require students to wear a standard uniform.

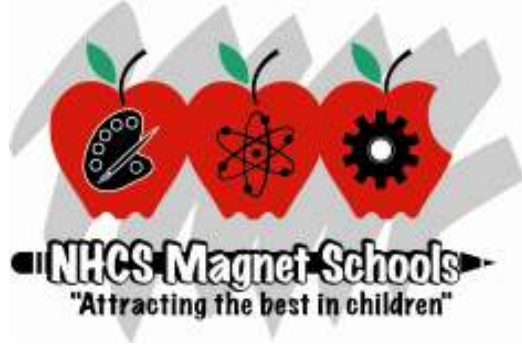
### **DO I HAVE TO APPLY EVERY YEAR?**

No, once accepted to a magnet school, a student can attend until they age out (6th grade). NHCS does ask that parents sign an intent to continue form each year.

### **ARE THE MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?**

Yes, all student enrollment applications are available in Spanish.





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### **HOW DOES THE MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?**

The process begins by completing and submitting the one-page application for the magnet school you are seeking acceptance.

The applications are available at every New Hanover County elementary school and on the NHCS web site, [www.nhcs.net/forms](http://www.nhcs.net/forms).

Once the application is completed, it should be submitted to the NHCS Student Support Services Department. Magnet school applications are accepted by U.S. mail, fax, or hand delivery, or applications can be submitted directly to the magnet school for which it is for.

### **HOW ARE THE STUDENTS SELECTED TO ATTEND A MAGNET SCHOOL?**

All student applications are entered into a lottery pool. Based on the number of student seats available within the school and specific grade level, the lottery system will randomly select students for placement.

### **WHAT IS THE APPLICATION TIME LINE?**

Applications will be accepted from February 23 – March 6, 2009 for kindergarten students and March 9 – April 17, 2009 for grades 1 – 5. The lottery selection process will begin after March 6, 2009 for kindergarten and after April 17, 2009 for grades 1 - 5. Letters of acceptance or letters of regret will be sent by April 24, 2009 for kindergarten. For grades 1 – 5, a date has not been set for letters of acceptance or letters of regret.

### **DOES THE REGISTRATION/ENROLLMENT PROCESS NEED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE DISTRICT SCHOOL?**

Yes, students should be enrolled in their district school prior to submitting a magnet school application.

### **CAN I APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE MAGNET SCHOOL?**

Yes, a total of three student enrollment applications can be submitted, including open choice and year round applications.

### **CAN THE APPLICATION BE DENIED DUE TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION?**

No, while we would like the parent to complete all the information on the application, every effort will be made to fill in the missing information. Applications will not be denied because of missing information.

### **IF MY CHILD IS ACCEPTED INTO A MAGNET SCHOOL AFTER BEING REGISTERED AT THE DISTRICT SCHOOL, DO I NEED TO GO THERE AND WITHDRAW HIM AND PICK UP HIS RECORD FOR THE MAGNET SCHOOL?**

No. Upon acceptance to a magnet school, the district school will be notified and the student's records/registration will be forwarded to the magnet school.

### **DOES A STUDENT'S YOUNGER SIBLING HAVE TO APPLY TO THE MAGNET SCHOOL FOR ACCEPTANCE?**

An application does need to be completed for the younger sibling; however, they will receive "sibling privilege." Sibling privilege is defined as if there are any available spots at the magnet school: the younger sibling would be placed before a vacancy is filled.