District Five CHOICE & MAGNET PROGRAMS

Choice & Magnet Programs

March 22, 2021

Dr. Michael Harris

D5 Magnets

- Purpose of Choice & Magnet Programs
- History of Choice & Magnet in D5
- About Choice & Magnet Programs
- 2020-2021 Timeline, Application, & Selection Process

Purpose of Choice & Magnet Programs

- Gives options to the community
- Keeps all schools viable
- Allows students to explore their interests
- Aligns with the educational landscape






Types of Choice & Magnet Programs

Schools open to Choice

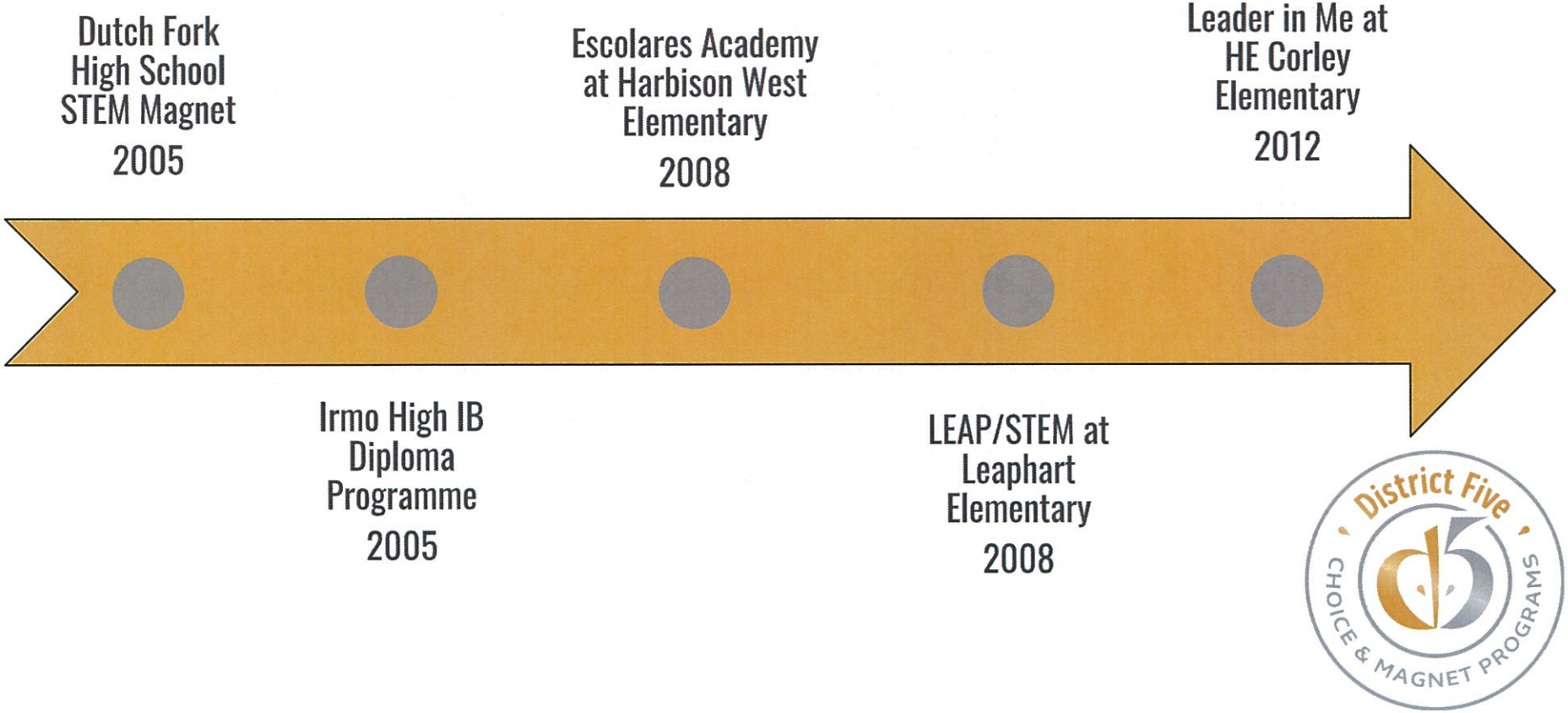
- Based on available space

Magnet Schools

- Whole school model – lottery based
- Criteria based model - selection
- Schools within a school – can be lottery or selection

District Five
CHOICE & MAGNET PROGRAMS

Implementation of Magnet Schools and Programs in School District Five



Implementation of Magnet Schools and Programs in School District Five

Discover 5 Schools (4 programs) 2017

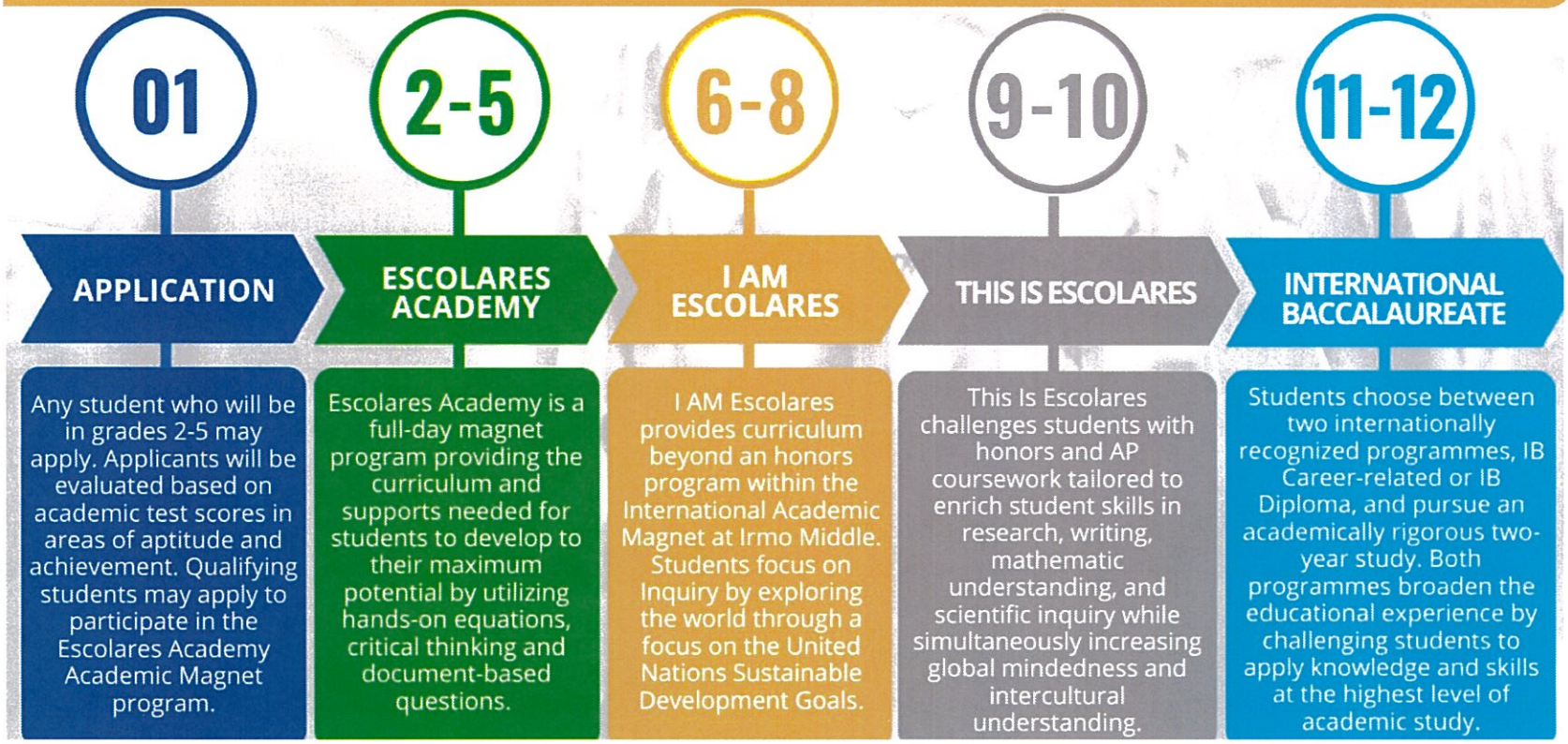
This Is Escolares at Irmo High International School for the Arts 2021

Project ACCESS Schools (5 programs) 2013

I AM Escolares at Irmo Middle International Academic Magnet 2018

District Five Choice & Magnet Programs

Escolares Pathway



District Five
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Choice & Magnet Timeline 2020-2021

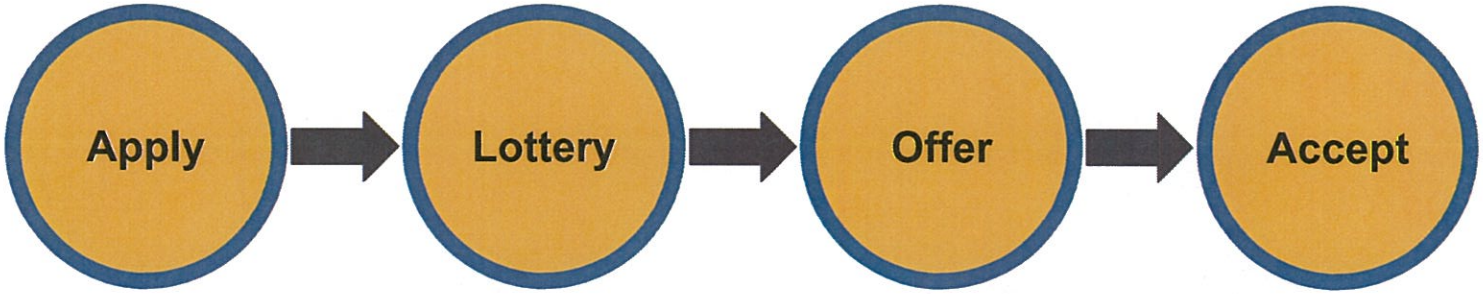
- Magnet Fair - Nov. 12, 5:30pm
- Information Nights
- Application Windows
  - Escolares Academy: Nov. 12 - Dec. 13
  - Secondary Criteria-based: Dec. 7 - Jan 10
  - Choice & Magnet: Jan. 11 - Jan 24
- Notification Emails
  - Criteria-based Programs: Jan. 15
  - Choice & Magnet Programs: Feb. 5
- Acceptance window: Feb. 5 - 14
- Choice & Magnet window closed: Feb. 14

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Choice/Magnet Transportation

- Provided to SHHS through hubs
- Provided for the Discover 5 magnet schools/programs
- Not provided to other magnet schools/programs
- Not provided to schools "open to choice"

Application & Selection Process



- One online application for Choice & Magnet programs with 3 application windows
  - Must provide necessary information for criteria-based magnets (STEM)
- Choice & Magnet programs use a random lottery for selection
  - Criteria-based magnets are an exception and selection is based on qualifications
- All notifications come from the Magnet Office
- Once a student has been accepted and enrolled in a Choice or Magnet school, they will be able to remain until the highest grade. There is no need to reapply each year.

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Employee Choice & Hardship

- Employees who wish for their child to attend a magnet school MUST apply through the online application
- Employees interested in non magnet school choice will follow the employee choice process outlined in Board Policy, JFBA, Intra District Transfer and Withdrawal
- Families and employees interested in a different school outside of the application window must request "Hardship" through the Office of Planning & Administration

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How Can You Help?

- Understand the application and lottery process
  - Be aware of application windows and timeline and communicate with families
  - Direct families to the Choice & Magnet FAQs
  - Zoned students to a magnet school do not need to apply*
- Encourage families to visit and explore all programs to find the best overall "fit" for their student
- Present comprehensive information about each magnet school or program and provide benefits of each program
- Refrain from recommending one program over another

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Superintendent's Priority #3 & #4

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