



Bob Lanier Middle School

A Vanguard Magnet and International Baccalaureate World School

Admissions Policy

District Philosophy

Houston ISD strives to provide every student with a high-quality education that meets their needs and prepares them for life beyond the classroom. Houston ISD is a District of School Choice with an open-enrollment process that offers opportunities for all students and families. Through the School Choice Office families can attend excellent neighborhood schools, or have the option to enroll in career academies, health and science magnet schools, high school preparatory academies, international schools, language-immersion schools, and many more options through specified application processes.

Houston ISD has a robust portfolio of 128 magnet programs at 119 schools, with programs like dual language, single-grade preparatory, and STEM. This means about 40 percent of our schools have a magnet program. In the 2021-2022 school year over 53,000 students were served through the magnet programs. HISD continues to exemplify what it means to be a district of choice.

With equity at the center of everything that is done at Houston ISD, our district strives to make our programs accessible to all students regardless of socioeconomic status or location. With over 15 themes, which include aviation, college prep, medical, careers, fine arts, Montessori, International Baccalaureate Programmes, and STEM, students are prepared for a successful college and career experiences in a rapidly evolving, competitive world with 2035 competencies.

Magnet Program

Lanier Middle School is a Vanguard Magnet campus. We serve students who have been identified as potentially gifted or talented in intellectual abilities. Students at Lanier MS receive Gifted/Talented instruction via the cluster model, which means G/T identified students at Lanier are grouped homogeneously in the four core areas (math, science, reading language arts, and social studies) and receive instruction with other gifted students. These students study interdisciplinary units that emphasize higher-level thinking, problem solving, and creativity. The extensive use of experiential methods of learning and investigative processes in research and problem solving, allows the student to develop and refine higher-level thinking skills. The teacher serves as a manager of learning, furnishing a positive environment and guidance, thus encouraging students to share in the responsibility for their own growth and development. Approximately 70 percent of Lanier students are identified as gifted and talented and participate in our Vanguard program

Our Vanguard program allows families who do not reside in our attendance zone to apply for a seat at Lanier. Non-zoned families must submit a magnet application during Phase 1 of the application process, as we do not currently accept applications for Phase 2. Lanier typically receives over 1,000 magnet

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applications for 6th grade and we offer between 200-250 sixth grade magnet seats. Lanier only accepts students through the lottery for entering sixth grade students. Because we receive more applications than seats available, a computer-generated lottery is run by the HISD Office of School Choice for our campus. Lanier magnet applicants must be G/T identified by HISD, to qualify for lottery placement; no other data points or criteria are considered. Lottery selection is random, all qualified students have an equal opportunity to be selected.

Students who are not currently identified as G/T should request testing at their zoned HISD or current HISD campus, and MUST submit a magnet application during Phase 1. All G/T test results will be reviewed prior to our lottery being run. Magnet applicants who are identified as G/T during the G/T test window, will be placed in our magnet lottery for the following school year.

Zoned Students

If your family resides in our attendance zone, you are automatically guaranteed a space at Lanier Middle School. If your student is identified as Gifted and Talented, he/she will automatically be placed in our Vanguard/MYP program. If your student has not been identified as Gifted and Talented by HISD and you are not new to the district. All students are placed in our MYP program. Families who move into our zoned area from another school district should provide our Gifted and Talented coordinator, with any G/T identification documentation prior to the start of the school year, to ensure your student is placed in the appropriate academic pathway.

Students who enroll at Lanier as zoned students, must reside in our attendance zone for the duration of the time they attend Lanier. If a zoned student moves out of our attendance zone, they will automatically be withdrawn from Lanier and enrolled at their new zoned campus, per district guidelines.

All zoned families new to Lanier must complete the Lanier enrollment process. Please contact our Registrar for additional enrollment information. Zoned families who plan to maintain a residence in the Lanier attendance zone for the duration of the time your student is enrolled at Lanier, SHOULD NOT submit a magnet application for the following school year.

Conditions for Participation

All students who attend Lanier Middle School participate in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, regardless of G/T-identification.

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Employees of the Houston Independent School District shall not discriminate on the basis of or engage in harassment motivated by age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. A substantiated charge of harassment against a student or employee shall result in disciplinary action.

Admission Policy Review Process

This policy has been created using IB support materials, district data, and input from all stakeholders and shall be reviewed by all stakeholders each year to ensure continued alignment with IB and local district expectations. Newly hired teachers will be trained on assessment practices throughout the first semester of their teaching contract. Parents and students shall be made aware of this policy through normal communication channels at the beginning of each semester. This policy is communicated to staff and faculty in regular PLC meetings and team meetings

Resources

Houston Independent School District: School Choice. Accessed May 12, 2026, from <https://schoolchoice.houstonisd.org/>

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Admissions policy will be reviewed yearly with staff, leadership, and families.

*Updated May 2026 by Eileen Bell, IB MYP Programme Coordinator

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