GPPSS Magnet Program FAQ - Last Revision 2/3/26

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 visit our website to learn about the program. If you do not find the information you are looking for you may also contact your building principal, Pam Albrecht (Magnet Coordinator) at *albrecp@gpschools.org* or Sara Delgado (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning) at *delgads@gpschools.org* for additional information.

What is the Magnet Program?

The Magnet Program is designed for students who demonstrate advanced academic abilities and a need for accelerated learning. While students follow the district's grade-level curriculum, instruction is enriched and accelerated in pace, depth, and complexity to better meet advanced cognitive needs. Learning experiences may include differentiation, project-based learning, and opportunities driven by student interest.

Which grade levels are served?

The Magnet Program serves third and fourth grade students. The referral and nomination process referenced in this document applies to current second and third grade students being considered for placement in the 2026–27 school year.

Where is the Magnet Program located?

Magnet classrooms are currently housed at:

- *Defer Elementary*
- *Ferry Elementary*
- *Maire Elementary*
- *Monteith Elementary*
- *Richard Elementary*

Program locations and staffing are reviewed annually based on student eligibility, interest, enrollment, and space availability. The district reserves the right to add, combine, or cancel Magnet locations as needed.

How are students identified for Magnet Program consideration?

Student identification is based on multiple measures. No single measure determines placement. These include:

- *District-wide NWEA assessment results in Math and English Language Arts (ELA)*
- *Classroom teacher recommendations in ELA, Math, and gifted characteristics*
- *Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment*
- *Parent and teacher input through a giftedness inventory*

What are the general criteria for Magnet Program placement?

Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- *Ability to work approximately one grade level ahead*
- *Consistent performance near or above the 90th percentile on NWEA Math and Reading*
- *Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment scores above grade-level expectations*
- *Teacher and Parent input*

How does the initial referral process work?

The process begins with a district-wide review of student data, which includes NWEA assessment scores, Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment results, and classroom-based assessments. Students who score at or above the 90th percentile on the non-auditory NWEA are automatically referred for further consideration. After this initial review, teachers provide additional input to help identify students whose advanced abilities may not be fully reflected through traditional testing alone. Both teacher and parent input are included as part of the referral process.

What is the difference between auditory and non-auditory NWEA tests?

- *Auditory: questions and directions are read aloud*
- *Non-auditory: students read and respond independently*

Initial referrals require performance at or above the 90th percentile on the non-auditory assessment. Students who previously took the auditory version will have an opportunity to take the non-auditory version.

What if my child is not automatically referred based on test scores?

Assessment data is only one part of the process. Teachers receive training and dedicated time to refer students whose gifted characteristics or abilities may not be fully reflected in assessment data alone.

How will families know if their child has been referred?

Parents and guardians will receive a letter from the Department of Teaching and Learning if their child has been referred for Magnet Program consideration. Parents have the opportunity to complete giftedness inventories at this time as well as accept or decline the nomination.

What happens after a student is referred?

For referred students:

- *Parents and teachers complete a giftedness inventory, which is a survey that will be sent home if a student is referred.*
- *Assessment data, inventories, and classroom evidence are compiled into a student portfolio that is then reviewed by the Magnet Study Committee.*
- *This committee consists of teachers and administrators from across the district. The committee reviews each portfolio using a holistic approach and makes placement recommendations.*

Does a referral guarantee placement?

No, a referral means a student's information will be reviewed, but placement decisions are made after the full portfolio review and committee recommendation.

When will families be notified of final decisions?

Families will be notified after the portfolio review and any appeal processes are complete. Specific timelines will be communicated during the process.

How is the Magnet curriculum different from grade-level classrooms?

The curriculum aligns with district grade-level standards; however:

- *Students are accelerated one year in math*
- *Instruction is enriched and accelerated in pace and depth*
- *Teachers differentiate learning experiences based on student needs*

More details and classroom examples will be shared during spring information meetings.

How do Magnet students integrate with the rest of the school?

Magnet students participate in lunch, recess, school-wide events, and activities with other students, ensuring a strong sense of belonging within the school community. Every effort is made for magnet students to attend field trips not only with their magnet class, but also with their grade level peers throughout the school year.

What is the Magnet classroom size?

Magnet classrooms are capped at 30 students.

What happens if interest exceeds available space?

Families of recommended students submit their intent to attend by mid-April. If interest exceeds capacity:

- *A lottery is held in late April*
- *Students may be placed on a waitlist*

Lottery procedures will be explained during an April informational meeting.

Is lottery preference given to neighborhood schools?

No, the Magnet Program is a district-wide program. Lottery placement does not prioritize neighborhood schools.

What if there is not enough enrollment at a Magnet location?

The district reviews enrollment annually and may combine or cancel classrooms if needed. If this occurs, placement at remaining schools will be determined by lottery.

Does attending a Magnet elementary school affect middle school placement?

*No, students attend the middle school assigned to their **home address**, regardless of Magnet placement.*

Is there a Magnet program in middle school?

The District does not offer a magnet program in the same manner in the middle schools. However, students transitioning to middle school have access to other methods of differentiation and acceleration of curriculum.

- *Accelerated math - students can attend accelerated math classes with the middle school building, or even at the high school level if applicable and appropriate.*
- *ELA differentiated grouping in 5th grade*
- *Advanced and Honors ELA courses in grades 6–8*

Is there an appeal process?

Yes, families may appeal if:

- *They believe their child should have been nominated but was not*
- *They wish to appeal a decision not to recommend placement*

Appeal procedures, timelines, and documentation requirements are shared after placement decisions.

What is the process for appeals of magnet program referral for consideration by the committee?

If a student was not referred to the magnet program based on data or teacher referral, parents may appeal that decision and request for their child to be considered using the following process:

> ***Step 1:** Notify the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Sara Delgado - delgads@gpschools.org, to request a conversation to understand the appeals process and timeline.*

Step 2: *The Magnet Study Committee will review the student scores, gather teacher and parent recommendations and determine if the student portfolio will be considered during the March review process.*

What is the process for appeals of magnet program decisions by the committee?

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 Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Sara Delgado - delgads@gpschools.org, to request a conversation to understand the appeals process and timeline.*

Step 2: *The Magnet Child Study Committee will reconvene in June after spring testing is completed. The committee will review the following:*

- *Additional information provided by the parents to the 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 Director will notify parent/guardian of the decision.*

Step 4: *If the student is eligible for Magnet placement, the family will work with the 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 Sara Delgado delgads@gpschools.org or Pam Albrecht at albrecp@gpschools.org. They are happy to answer your questions and add the responses to this FAQ document.*

This FAQ will be updated as needed to reflect the most current information.