



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are magnet schools?

Magnet schools offer specialized programs of learning with a focused theme that attracts a diverse population of students from throughout Huntsville City Schools.

What are the specific Huntsville City Schools magnet programs?

Pre-K through 8th grade:

Academy for Academics and Arts

www.aamagnet.org

Theme: Creative and Performing Arts

The Academy for Science and Foreign Language

www.asflmagnet.org

Theme: International Baccalaureate (IB), Science, Foreign Language

6th-8th Grade:

Academy for Gifted & Talented at

Williams Middle School

www.williamsmiddle.org

Theme: Gifted Education

9th-12th Grade:

Columbia High School –Grade 9/10 International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP)

Columbia High School-Grade 11/12 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP)

Columbia High School-Grade 11/12 International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (CP)

www.columbiahigh.org

Theme: International Baccalaureate (IB)

Jemison College Academy

www.huntsvillecityschools.org/magnet

Theme: College

Lee Creative and Performing Arts

www.leemagnet.org

Theme: Creative Writing, Dance, Orchestra, Theatre Performance, Technical Theatre, Video Broadcast, Visual Arts, Photography, Vocal Performance

New Century Technology High School

www.newcenturytechnology.org

Theme: Biomedical, Computer Science, Engineering

2. Who can apply to a magnet school?

Student applicants must live within the Huntsville City Schools district. Magnet programs accept students from all Huntsville City Schools district school zones.

3. How do I apply to a magnet school?

Applicants for Jemison College Academy and Academy for Gifted and Talented may obtain an application online and submit it to huntsvillecityschools.org/magnet during their open application window. Applicants for all other programs can apply online during the open application window.

4. Where can I obtain an application for a magnet program?

Applications for Jemison College Academy and Academy for Gifted and Talented can be found on the magnet website www.huntsvillecityschools.org/magnet during the open application time period. Applicants for all other programs can apply online. A link to the online application will be found on the Huntsville City Schools website; www.huntsvillecityschools.org, the magnet website; www.huntsvillecityschools.org/magnet, and all of the magnet school websites.

5. If a College Academy student is interested in playing sports, for what school would he/she play?

College Academy students are enrolled at Jemison High School and are eligible to participate in sports at Jemison High immediately upon enrolling in ninth grade. This is allowed due to a ruling from the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) that magnet students enrolled in the College Academy at Jemison or the Lee High School Creative and Performing Arts Magnet Program are eligible for athletics in their magnet school.

6. When can I apply for a magnet program?

The initial magnet application period will be open each fall. Students who apply during this time period will be eligible for selection for any open seats in all magnet programs in the next school year.

A second "Late Application" period will be open in the spring for any students who did not apply in the earlier application period. Applications will be available only for programs that have an opening where there are no students on a wait list.

7. Do I need to submit an application if my student is currently enrolled in a magnet program?

Students currently enrolled in a magnet program who wish to remain in the school/program for the following year, within the program/grade configuration (PreK-8, 6-8, 9-12), do not need to submit a magnet application to remain in the school/program. For example, 5th grade students at AAA or ASFL do not need to apply for the 6th grade program at their school. They will automatically be accepted into the 6th grade program.

8. If I apply on the first day of the application period, will I have a better chance of being accepted at my choice of school?

No. There is no advantage to applying on the first day. The application window is open to everyone. Selection will not be based on date of application. A lottery system or other eligibility criteria will be used to select students for available spaces if more eligible students apply than spaces are available.

9. Can I submit multiple applications for the same application window?

No. The system will only allow for one application per student based on the student's ID per application window.

10. How will I learn the results of my student magnet application?

Parents will learn the results of the magnet program selection process via email (if provided by the parent) or via letter sent via US Postal Mail to the address provided in the application.

11. What will happen once I accept a placement in a magnet program?

Your exiting school will receive an email notification that your child will be transferring from their school. It will instruct them to withdraw your child from their current school for next year and send your child's cumulative file to the magnet school. You should complete the HCS Online Returning Student Registration Process for SY 2016/17 using the magnet school as your student's next school when registration begins.

12. Does my student who currently attends a magnet middle school have priority in getting into a magnet high school program?

Eighth grade students who attend AAA and want to attend the Creative and Performing Arts at Lee High School will need to apply for this program. These AAA students will have a priority in the application process for Lee.

Eighth grade students who attend ASFL and want to attend Columbia do not need to apply for Columbia. Students will need to inform their counselor that they intend to attend Columbia High School.

13. Do my student's special education needs affect his or her magnet eligibility?

All students who are assigned to general education classrooms are eligible to apply for a magnet program. Some special education students have Individual Education Plans ("IEP") that require services in a self-contained special education classroom. For pre-kindergarten students, these special education classes are called "Kid Skills" classes. Due to their special education needs, students needing services met by self-contained or Kid Skills classrooms are not eligible to apply for a magnet program. If a student is accepted to a magnet pre-kindergarten program but is later identified as needing the services of a Kid Skills program, the student will be placed in a Kid Skills class instead of his or her magnet program. However, the student may be admitted to his or her magnet program for kindergarten the following school year if the student's IEP at the end of his or her year in the Kid Skills program does not require services in a self-contained special education classroom.

14. How does the selection process work?

How does the selection process work?

Pre-Kindergarten – 5th Grade Applicants: If the number of applicants exceeds the number of seats available the selection will be made by a lottery that is weighted by race and that considers the composition of the home/zoned schools of applicants.

6th-8th Grade Applicants: All applicants must participate in the "Next Step" process in order to be eligible for selection. The "Next Step" is dependent on the magnet program and may be an audition or essay response. Upon committee review of the next step a score is entered for the student. Students with a qualifying score will be eligible for selection. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available the selection will be made by lottery that is weighted by race and committee score.

9th-12th Grade Applicants: All applicants must participate in the "Next Step" process in order to be eligible for selection. The "Next Step" is dependent on the magnet program and may be an audition or essay response. A holistic review of the student's grade average and next step score will determine the overall score. Students with a qualifying score will be eligible for selection. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available the selection will be made by lottery that is weighted by race and committee score.

Columbia High School 9th and 10th grade applicants are selected based on available seats. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of seats available the selection will be made by lottery that is weighted by race and that considers the composition of the home/zoned schools of applicants. 8th grade students from ASFL do not need to apply to be accepted into the program.

15. What happens if my child is placed on a wait list?

Eligible applicants who are not offered a seat in the initial selection process will be placed on a wait list. If openings occur in the grade/program, selection will be made by lottery that is weighted by race and committee score. This may occur as often as seats become available. Students on the waitlist will remain on the list until either of two events occur:

1. He/she is selected for an open seat in the lottery process or
2. The wait list expires at six weeks after the start of the school year.

16. What kind of notification will I receive regarding my child's application status?

All applicants will receive notifications regarding the status of their application. Notification will be made by email and by posted letter. There are four types of notifications that an applicant may receive:

1. **Awarded:** This notification indicates that your student has been approved for selection. Applicants who receive this notification must accept the offer either by going to the online link or by calling the Magnet Office at 256-428-6864. If the applicant does not respond by the designated date and time, the magnet offer will be automatically declined.
2. **Wait List:** This notification indicates that your student has not be selected for the applied program(s) but will be placed on a wait list until an available seat is offered or until six weeks after the start of school.
3. **Denied:** This notification indicates that your student did not meet the required criteria for selection and is not eligible for the applied program. Eligibility is based on committee review scores for applicants in grades 6-12.
4. **Inactive Due to No Transcripts:** Student applicants in grades 9-12 who are not currently in the Huntsville City Schools system must provide grade transcripts prior to the close of the application process. Students who did not submit transcripts in the required time period are not eligible to continue in the application process.