What are the DeSoto ISD Magnet and Innovative Programs?

It’s what every parent wants – a learning experience that engages their child, supports his or her interests and opens pathways to success. DeSoto Independent School District’s fulfills that wish with exciting programs that are transforming the classroom experience as we know it. Simply put, we are giving students and their parents the power of choice. It is the power to choose a course of study based on personal interests and passions. It is the power to take ownership in the educational experience that comes with being engaged in learning and excited about the future.

Who can apply and how?

All interested DeSoto ISD students can apply, preferably when transitioning to the starting grade of the program. Other applications may be considered if space is available. DeSoto is a selective enrollment district, so even students outside of the district boundaries can apply to participate in our programs.

• Elementary and Middle School Applications, including STEAM3D
  The application is online at www.desotoisd.org from Monday, December 19, 2016, through Monday, January 23, 2017. Middle School STEAM3D Magnet Academy selections are done by a lottery pull of interested students.

• DeSoto High School - EChs, Cmp and IB Applications
  The application is online at www.desotoisd.org from Monday, December 19, 2016, through Monday, January 30, 2017. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.
  All applications are scored based on a pre-determined rubric.

Do students in vertical alignment academies receive preference?

Yes. For instance, a student applying for McCowan Fine Arts that has been in the Woodridge Fine Arts program will receive preference for placement.

Vertical Programs examples:
• WRE Fine Arts, WMS Fine Arts, DHS Fine Arts Endorsement
• RTE Medical, EMS Medical, DHS Public Service Health Science Endorsement
• TME STEAM, MS STEAM3D, DHS STEM Endorsement
• NSE Business/Law, WMS Male Leadership, DHS Public Service Pre-Law Endorsement

Additional Information:
All magnet academies are free, however transportation is not provided to a school outside the neighborhood campus. Students may participate in extra-curricular activities at the campus housing the magnet academy.

Students will be notified in March of their selection for elementary and middle schools. High School programs will notify in April.

To learn more, visit Innovative Programs online at www.desotoisd.org or call 972-223-4466 to speak with an administrator.

EAGLE ADVANTAGE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (DAYCARE)

Eagle Advantage CDC is a daycare setting for children of employees of the district, city, county, state or our district partners for children ages 2-5. The program, offered from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., includes a STEM-based curriculum with High Scope and Investigators Club. Rates vary based on the age of the child. Eagle Advantage is a state licensed daycare housed in the Amber Terrace facility.

AMBER TERRACE DISCOVERY & DESIGN EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY

Our full-day Pre-K offers a child-centered curriculum framework which follows Texas Pre-K guidelines and is aligned with the Kindergarten Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to lay a solid foundation for each student. The program includes fine arts, music, and dual language with Spanish to all students. Students can enroll through state eligibility for free Pre-K or, for those not eligible, enroll through our tuition-based process.

ACE - AFTER-SCHOOL CENTERS ON EDUCATION

DeSoto ISD offers a free after-school program at each of our six (6) elementary campuses for grades K-5 and three (3) middle school campus sites for grades 6-8. The academic- and enrichment-based program allows the students to extend their studies and grow socially through a consistent structure. The district provides tutorials for students before and after school, enrichment activities for students to explore science, technology, and the arts. In addition, the district provides activities and training that help families support their students to be successful at school.

SECONDARY ACCELERATION AND CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Dual Credit and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses - Two avenues to earn college credit (separate from the CMP or EChs programs) are available for all students. DHS students can enroll in AP classes which are weighed higher due to the increased rigor. Students scoring a 3 or higher on the AP exam earn college credit. DHS also offers the AP Capstone Diploma Program, one of just 21 in the DFW region. In Dual Credit classes, juniors and seniors may earn high school and college credit by enrolling in over 30 college classes at Cedar Valley College. Students receive a transcript from the college to transfer to another school or continue to earn their degree at CVC.

Career Technical Education - DHS students have the opportunity to pursue industry certifications while acquiring their diploma. Most of the 20 certifications include hands-on experiences while providing services to the community. In 2016, over 500 students receive their cosmetology license, or a certification in OSHA Shop Safety, Veterinary, Auto Maintenance, Fire Science, CPR, OSHA Shop Safety, Veterinary, and Nursing Assistant, A+ Programming, and more! DHS also offers dual credit in Advanced Technical Credit in several courses.
MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET ACADEMIES

COCKRELL HILL LINGUISTICS MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades K-5  Cockrell Hill Linguistics Magnet Academy prepares students for college readiness in fine arts. The program offers students meaningful and enriching opportunities in the arts curriculum as fine arts majors. Our curriculum is based on state TEKS standards for college readiness in fine arts. The program offers students meaningful and enriching opportunities in the areas of visual, dance, and theatre arts.

EAST MEDICAL MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 6-8  The Medical Academy offers a rigorous curriculum that focuses on the medical concepts and prepares students for a wide range of careers in healthcare. Students work closely with faculty members and community partners including surgeons, professors, hospital personnel, and other professionals to create an environment of academic exploration with real-world relevance.

MCWCCAN FINE ARTS MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 6-8  The Fine Arts Magnet Academy provides an inspiring and robust program for students who are pursuing an accelerated arts curriculum as fine arts majors. Our curriculum is based on state TEKS standards for college readiness in fine arts. The program offers students meaningful and enriching opportunities in the areas of visual arts, dance, band, orchestra, choral music, drama, and piano.

WEST INTERNATIONAL MALE LEADERSHIP MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 6-8  The Male Leadership Academy incorporates weekly character, civic, and leadership learning components unique to the learning style of boys. We provide a culture of academic competition for boys to study and excel. Our staff is trained in research-based strategies that benefit young males to be academically successful and motivated to be life-long learners making an impact on our world.

LOWNDIS BUSINESS & LAW MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 3-5  Northside Business & Law Magnet Academy offers students the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship through incorporating various elements of business into classroom curriculum. Students experience business operations from various levels, participating in hands-on activities through project-based learning. Learning will be student-led and facilitated by highly-qualified educators.

RUBY YOUNG MEDICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 3-5  Ruby Young Medical & Environmental Sciences Magnet Academy prepares students to compete in global markets. Students experience business operations from various levels, participating in hands-on activities through project-based learning. Learning will be student-led and facilitated by highly-qualified educators.

WOODRIDGE FINE ARTS MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades K-5  Woodridge Fine Arts Magnet Academy gives students a chance to experience an array of artistic programs. The study of the arts can significantly boost student achievement. Behavior, and prepare students for college and careers. Students will have the opportunity to participate in art, piano, strings, dance, and theatre arts.

THREE STEAM3D MAGNET ACADEMIES - ALL THREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Grades 6-8  All three DeSoto SD middle schools - East, McCowan and West - house STEAM3D Magnet Academies. These multi-grade academies - students in gr. 6-8 grouped in one large setting - focus on innovation in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through project- and problem-based learning. Interested students are selected through our lottery process.

DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET ACADEMIES

COLLEGIATE MAGNET PROGRAM (CMP)
Grades 9-12  Are you interested in earning two years of college credit and an Associates Degree while still in high school— for FREE? CMP offers different degree choices and college and industry certifications through personalized degree plans based on student interest. This rigorous program guides students to complete their traditional high school diploma while simultaneously completing college courses at DHS and Cedar Valley Community College.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (ECHS)
Grades 9-12  ECHS was developed based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Students of DeSoto ISD’s ECHS prepare for first-generation college-bound students; however, enrollment is not limited to this criterion. Each cohort of 100 students start 9th grade with a diploma and degree plan through Cedar Valley Community College to earn up to 60 college hours and an Associates Degree - at no cost.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)
Grades 11-12  IBDP is an assessed programme respected by leading universities across the globe. The aim of all IB programmes is to develop in internationally minded students who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. The “integration” of the academic, emotional, social and aesthetic needs of the students that the program offers is the reason our students will benefit most from this venture. IBDP is for DeSoto High School juniors and seniors who are ready for the challenge.

ELEMENARY MAGNET ACADEMIES

COCKRELL HILL LINGUISTICS MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades K-5  Cockrell Hill Linguistics Magnet Academy students acquire an understanding of the world’s people, places, and cultures. In this program, our students become knowledgeable and active citizens of our global society by studying various languages and their origins. The Academy is in the “candidacy phase” for the IB Primary Years and is seeking authorization in the upcoming year.

THE MEADOWS ISTEAM MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 1-5  The Meadows Elementary offers STEAM - innovation in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Students participate in hands-on activities through project-based learning. Learning will be student-led and facilitated by highly-qualified educators.

FRANK D. MOATES BLENDED LEARNING MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 2-6  The 2016-17 school year welcomes the transformation of Frank D. Moates Elementary into the Moates Blended Learning Magnet Academy. Participating students will experience a station rotation model in math and reading classes, as well as small group and online instruction with a prescriptive curriculum, and project-based learning (PBL) activities. Teachers will use a learning management system (LMS) to deliver student-centered instruction daily in the classroom and accessible at home.

NORTHSIDE BUSINESS & LAW MAGNET ACADEMY
Grades 3-5  Northside Business & Law Magnet Academy offers students the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship through incorporating various elements of business into classroom curriculum. Students experience business operations from various levels, participating in hands-on activities through project-based learning. Learning will be student-led and facilitated by highly-qualified educators.

WOODRIDGE FINE ARTS MAGNET ACADEMY
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