



“Destined for Greatness”

AHMS VANGUARD/MAGNET PROGRAM – FAQs

1. What is the difference between a Vanguard/Magnet Program and a Magnet Program?

A **Magnet Program** offers some type of special curriculum for students in the program (examples: fine arts, science/math/technology, Vanguard, etc.)

A **Vanguard Magnet Program** is a Magnet program with an accelerated academic program for Gifted and Talented (GT) students.

2. When are applications available?

The application will be available online starting November 4, 2013.

3. When are applications due?

All applications must be entered on the online system no later than December 20, 2013 or delivered to Hamilton’s Vanguard Office, Room 208. The office closes at 4:00 p.m.

4. May I apply to more than one Vanguard program?

On the Vanguard Application you will mark your primary choice with an (x) and place (√) mark on up to 4 additional choices.

You may only submit **one** Vanguard Magnet application. Submit the application to your primary choice school.

5. What do I need to send with the application?

If your child is a current HISD 5th grader:

- The completed application including parent’s signature
- Last year’s 4th grade report card
- Last year’s 4th grade Stanford scores
- Current 5th grade teacher observation form
- 5th grade NNAT scores
- Utility bill (gas, light, water) as Proof of HISD residency



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If your child is in a private school or coming from out-of-district:

- The completed application including parent's signature
- Last year's complete report card showing each grading cycle
- Last year's Stanford scores (if student did not take Stanford, they will need to be tested)
- 5th grade NNAT (student will need to be tested)
- Current 5th grade Teacher observation form (third page of the application)
- Utility bill (gas, light, water): Proof of HISD residency

6. Can I apply if my child is entering the 7th or 8th grade?

Yes, the student will need to take the NNAT again. Testing will be January 11-18 2014.

Submit the application along with last school year's report card, Stanford, current teacher recommendation, and utility bill. **What scores are needed to qualify for the program?**

No single test score qualifies or disqualifies a student. A matrix is completed on each student. Students receive points from the following:

- NNAT- up to 30 points
- Stanford- up to 12 points each
- Teacher Recommendation- up to 10 points
- Report Card- up to 20 points

7. When are we notified?

You will be notified by a letter from HISD via U.S. mail or email for online applicants. Letters will be mailed on March 28, 2014.

8. Can I get my child's test results or application status early?

No, all notifications of application status are mailed by HISD via U.S. mail or email.

9. How do we turn in an application?

You may complete the application on the online system or you may mail it to Hamilton at 139 E. 20th Street Houston, TX 77008 to the attention of Mrs. Robinson, or you may bring it in person to the Vanguard office, room 208. Please turn in applications fully completed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. You can obtain all the documents needed for the application from the school your child is currently attending.



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10. What if I miss the December 20, 2013 deadline, will my application still be considered?

Yes, your application will be considered in phase two and notification will be sometime in June. Application's received after December 20th will be accepted on a space-available basis.

11. What if my child is zoned to Hamilton Middle School?

Neighborhood students zoned to Hamilton may complete the Vanguard application.

12. Is bus transportation provided?

Any student accepted into Hamilton's Vanguard program not zoned to Hamilton is eligible for HISD transportation unless they are within a two-mile radius from Hamilton. Zoned students that live outside a two-mile radius from the school are also eligible for transportation.

13. How many classes does a student take?

Each student takes eight classes: Periods 1-4 (Monday & Thursday), Periods 1-8 (Wednesday), and Periods 5-8 (Tuesday & Friday)

Does Hamilton have a dress code?

Yes, our students are required to wear a uniform that consists of khaki or navy blue bottoms with polo shirts in navy blue, white or gray. Shirts and hooded sweatshirts with HMS embroidered on the front are available to purchase.

14. Does Hamilton have any after school activities or clubs?

Yes, Hamilton has after school clubs students can join. Some afterschool clubs may be initiated by students. Girl Scouts also meet after school, and we have buses that pick up the students and take them to the nearest YMCA or the boys and girls club after school.

15. Can my child participate in any sports as a 6th grader?

The only sport 6th graders can participate in is softball and baseball, because it's a club sport. UIL sports are only offered to 7th and 8th graders.

For any more questions please feel free to contact Hamilton's Vanguard Office at:

713-802-4725.