

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HISD SchoolMATCH

Catalog partially funded by a Magnet Schools Assistance Program federal grant

2015-2016



Education. Your future. Your choice.

HISD OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

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HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Because this publication was going to press as HISD was performing its annual magnet school review, some changes in magnets may occur. Please check the www.HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice website for the most updated magnet information.

ON THE COVER: *Dreams take flight at Sterling Aviation HS, where real-world experience on the school's own flight simulator can lead to a pilot's license for students.*



A MESSAGE FROM

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

We're proud of our outstanding neighborhood schools; however our huge array of school choices is one of HISD's most magnetic features. If you need proof, consider that we received more than 60,000 applications last year for our magnet programs.

School choice has a proud history in HISD: Our magnet programs were created more than four decades ago. Since then, innovative programs such as the DeBakey High School for Health Professions, the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts have developed a pipeline of professionals in medicine, law, engineering, energy, and the arts.

Today's options, more than ever, prepare our students to be competitive in a rapidly changing world. You can choose from Montessori, gifted-and-talented, international, college preparatory, and career-focused programs, to name a few.

Most importantly, you can count on the integrity of HISD's options as never before. We've spent the past five years reforming and refining our magnet school policies and practices to assure high academic standards, fair access, and equitable funding for our magnet programs.

But don't just take our word for it. Among the useful information in these pages you'll find testimonials from happy families who found the perfect educational match. Good luck on making the best possible choice!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry B. Grier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

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Johnston MS musicians play at such a high level that they performed at New York's famed Carnegie Hall in the spring of 2014, one of only three middle school ensembles to earn an invitation.

FINE ARTS PROGRAMS allow students to explore their creative nature through specialized instruction in music, visual arts, theater, dance, writing, and more. Depending on the discipline, there may be growth opportunities for both individual expression and collaboration that build self-esteem and social skills. Research has shown that students who apply themselves in the arts perform higher academically, and HISD's fine arts magnet programs provide a strong core of knowledge.

Our Choice: Fine arts

Crespo Elementary School

“The school has helped bring out so much talent in my child as he’s learned how to play the piano, violin, and percussion. He has excellent teachers who have helped him improve his penmanship, his presentation skills, and his overall academic skills. My child is flourishing at Crespo because of the school’s strong support system.”

– Emilio Ontiveros
Father of a Crespo student and graduate



FINE ARTS PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bell – Physical development	MacGregor – Music & science
Bruce – Music	Parker – Music
Burbank – Fine arts	Patterson – Literature
Burrus – Fine arts	Poe – Fine arts
Codwell – Fine arts	Roberts – Fine arts
Cook – Fine arts	Scroggins – Fine arts
Crespo – Fine arts	Twain – Literature
Garden Villas – Music	
Gregory-Lincoln – Fine arts	
Horn – Academy	
Longfellow – Creative & performing arts	
Lovett – Fine arts	

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Fleming – Fine arts
Gregory-Lincoln – Fine arts
Johnston – Performing & visual arts
Marshall – Fine arts
Pershing – Fine arts
Welch – Physical development

HIGH SCHOOLS

High School for the Performing & Visual Arts

www.HoustonISD.org/FineArts

Education. Your future. Your choice.



HISD's Vanguard magnet programs, like this one at Windsor Village ES, challenge gifted-and-talented students to become independent thinkers who love learning.

HISD'S VANGUARD MAGNET PROGRAMS serve students who have been identified as gifted and/or talented in intellectual ability or creativity. Vanguard curricula are both accelerated and enriched, and are continually rigorous throughout a student's academic life. At Carnegie Vanguard, the district's only Vanguard magnet high school, students must take pre-AP and AP courses in all four core areas plus a foreign language each year.

My Choice: Vanguard

Carnegie Vanguard High School

"I chose to attend Carnegie after I toured the campus with my family in eighth grade. I liked the school's aura, openness, and learning intensity. At Carnegie, I feel at home with other intellectually brilliant students who don't mind having a philosophical discussion during English class or arguing about a calculus solution — something you would only typically see in a college setting.

The Vanguard program has helped me prepare for college. Despite the tremendous workload, the program has greatly improved my time management skills and taught me how to effectively complete long-term projects. The school's rigorous academics have helped me prove to myself that I am fully capable of tackling assignments and learning new curriculum with ease. I look forward to college with each passing day."

– Surender Kannah
Carnegie Vanguard High School student



VANGUARD MAGNET PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Askew
Carrillo
De Zavala
Herod
Oak Forest

K-8

T.H. Rogers

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

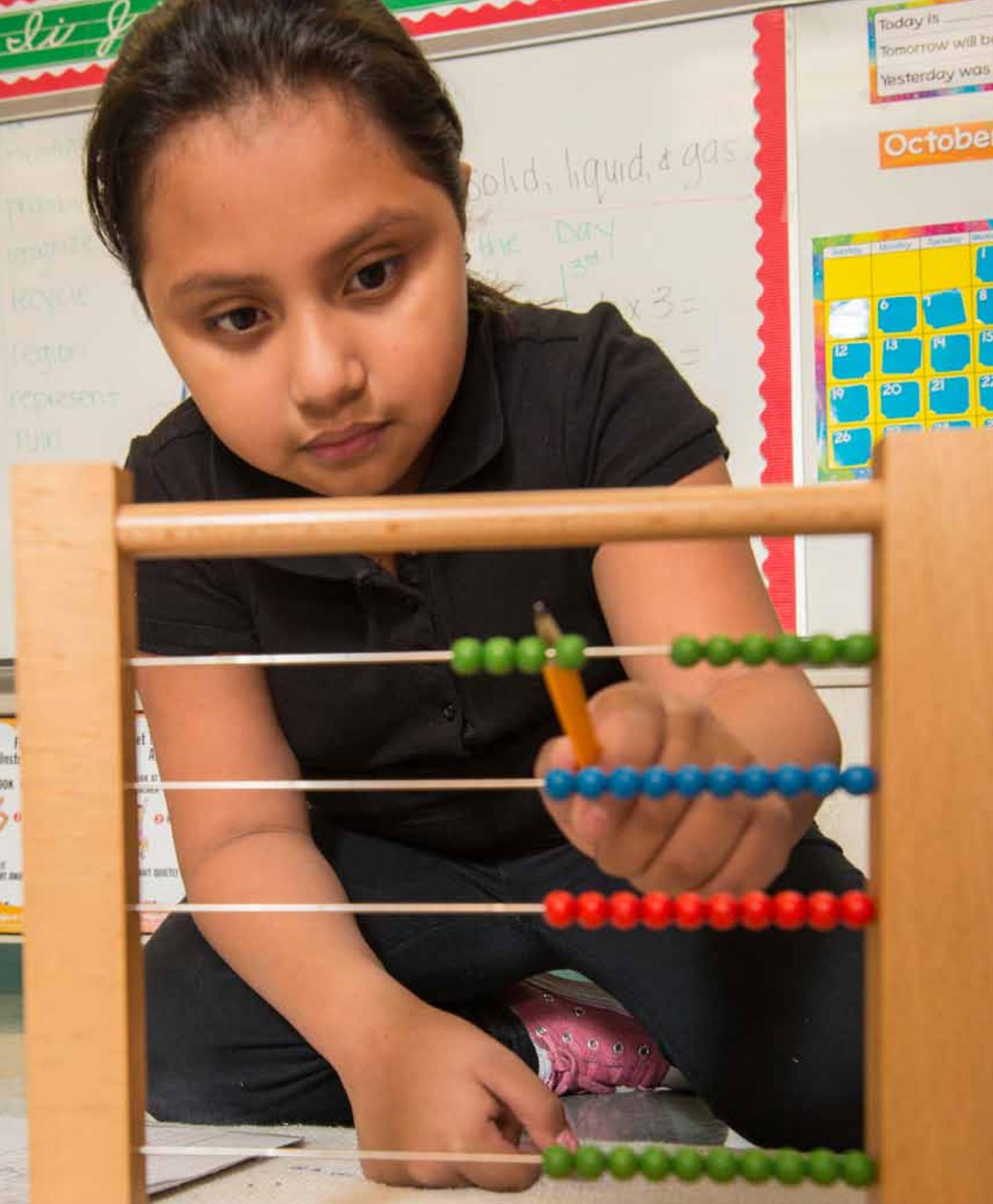
Black
Burbank
Hamilton
Lanier

HIGH SCHOOL

Carnegie Vanguard

www.HoustonISD.org/Vanguard

Education. Your future. Your choice.



Students at Blackshear and HISD's two other Montessori schools use a century-old teaching method and specialized tools to personalize learning and develop each child to his or her fullest potential.

HISD'S MONTESSORI SCHOOLS use century-old techniques emphasizing highly personalized learning for each child to develop his or her own interests and full potential. Every classroom is equipped with special materials designed to work with the whole child to develop social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination, and cognition. Class communities emphasize independent, purposeful work and collaborative explorations.

Our Choice: Montessori

Garden Oaks PK-8

“Being part of a school that is fostering an environment of holistic learning makes all the difference. My children can be whoever they want to be at this school because the students have an opportunity to explore their interests with confidence and support. They look forward to new experiences in their classroom and in their roles as leaders on a campus where they can interact with people from all backgrounds and different walks of life.”

“The teachers and staff have adopted a sense of community that is helping them focus on developing the whole child in the classroom, the computer lab, the school garden, the playground, and at home.”

“At Garden Oaks, you will see diverse cultures interacting, friendships being made, play dates and study groups being set up, parents volunteering and collaborating, and afterschool programs that are not just a daycare for working parents but impactful activities that keep kids growing and gaining new skills.”

– Landi Spearman
Parent of two Garden Oaks students



MONTESSORI PROGRAMS

PK-6 Blackshear

PK-8 Garden Oaks

PK-8 Wilson

www.HoustonISD.org/Montessori

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Nursing students from Prairie View A&M University teach nutrition and digestion to pre-K students in the medical health science magnet at Whidby ES.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH PREPARE STUDENTS FOR BOOMING CAREER FIELDS

Through a variety of STEM programs, HISD is preparing students for the most in-demand 21st century jobs that help fuel our local economy and our nation's growth. In addition to broad exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math at all school levels, HISD offers focused programs in health sciences, environmental science, and computer and communications technologies.

STEM MAGNET PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Berry – Environmental science
 Cornelius – Math & science
 Elrod – Emerging medical scholars
 Harvard – STEM
 Herrera – Integrated technology
 Lantrip – Environmental science
 Lockhart – STEM
 Pugh – Science & technology
 Red – STEM
 Ross – STEM
 Sinclair – STEM
 Valley West – STEM
 Wainwright – Math & science
 Whidby – Medical health science

K-8

The Rice School – STEM
 The Rusk School – STEM

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Baylor College of Medicine Academy @ Ryan
 Clifton – STEM
 Hartman – Medical health science
 Hogg – STEM
 Long – Allied health professions
 M.C. Williams – STEM
 Revere – STEM
 Stevenson – STEM

HIGH SCHOOLS

Chavez – Environmental science
 Energy Institute – Energy
 Furr – The Green Institute
 Kashmere – Chemical & process technology
 Milby – STEM
 Reagan – Computer technology
 South Early College – Advanced Technology Institute
 Sterling – Aviation sciences
 Waltrip – Research & technology
 Washington – Engineering professions
 Westside – Integrated technology



My Choice: STEM

Westside High School

“As a Westside student, I am given various opportunities to explore and develop my interests while preparing for college, whether it’s by joining the engineering program or the Futures Academy of Health Sciences. I have been able to take summer college classes at HCC and dual-credit classes at school. I’ve also had the privilege of visiting the University of Texas at MD Anderson Cancer Center to get a behind-the-scenes look at the health sciences program. The STEM program at my school has helped me create specific goals for myself and my future. Before this, I was never sure which college I wanted to go to or what career I wanted to one day pursue. After joining the program, I know exactly what I want to do with my future and how I am going to fulfill my dreams.”

– **Danna Tao**
Westside High School student

MSAP + STEM =

UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT BRIDGE GAPS

The U.S. Department of Education sponsors the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) to help bridge achievement gaps by increasing diversity in schools through funding distinctive education programs.

Six HISD schools currently sponsored by the MSAP grant offer innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs funded through a \$12 million MSAP grant awarded in 2013. They are:

- Baylor College of Medicine Academy @ Ryan
- Energy Institute High School
- The Green Institute @ Furr High School
- The Chemical & Process Technology Institute @ Kashmere High School
- The Advanced Technology Institute @ South Early College High School
- The Engineering Academy @ M.C. Williams Middle School



MSAP STEM programs feature hands-on learning. Clockwise from top: Energy Institute HS students collaborating on an aquatic, remote-operated vehicle; exploring Chemical & Process Technology at Kashmere HS; delving into the human body at the Baylor College of Medicine Academy @ Ryan.

Education. Your future. Your choice.



Celebrating cultures: Kolter ES languages and cultures magnet students perform during a district-wide celebration of the Chinese New Year at Sharpstown International School.

HISD IS RICH WITH DIVERSITY, mirroring Houston. Our specialty schools — dual language, language immersion, International Baccalaureate, and internationally focused high schools — offer students the opportunity for broader language study, multicultural explorations, and the skills to function smoothly in a shrinking global environment.

Dual language campuses promote instruction in two languages as equally important, giving English speakers the gift of bilingualism and allowing English-as-a-second-language students to retain their own language while mastering English.

The programs in 30-plus HISD schools not only prepare students for a world that increasingly requires aptitude in more than one language but also teaches the importance and value of respecting other cultures.

www.HoustonISD.org/DualLanguage

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dual language

Anderson	Emerson	Memorial
Ashford	Garden Villas	Northline
Briscoe	Gregg	Osborne
Burnet	R.P. Harris	Shearn
Coop	Herrera	Sherman
Daily	Kashmere Gardens	Twain
DeAnda	Law	Whidby
Dogan	McNamara	White

Language specialties

Helms* — Dual language
 Herod — Dual language
 Kolter* — Languages & cultures

K-8

Billy Reagan — Dual language
 Wharton* — Dual language

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Burbank — Dual language
 Johnston — Dual language
 Pin Oak* — Languages

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bellaire* — World languages
 Reagan — Dual language

* Language magnet

LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL

At HISD's **Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion Magnet School**, beginning in pre-kindergarten, all students spend half of the instructional day in a Mandarin class and the remaining half in an English class with native speakers in each language. This balanced approach employs rigorous academic standards in core subjects while providing biliteracy and bilingualism. Through rich cultural partnerships and special events, students also gain an awareness of and an appreciation for Chinese traditions and practices that enhance their global citizenship.

HISD Multilingual Programs

www.HoustonISD.org/Multilingual • 713-556-6961

SPECIALTY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Houston Academy for International Studies is a national Blue Ribbon School, honored in September 2014 by the U.S. Department of Education. HAIS is an HISD early college high school, with a small, personalized learning environment coupled with high expectations and academic rigor that lead to both a high school diploma and two-year community college degree. Global studies are integrated into all courses, with four years of language study in Chinese and Spanish, and outside learning opportunities including travel abroad and internships.

Sharpstown International School is a small 6th-12th grade international studies school whose students represent more than 130 countries and speak 90 different languages. The school emphasizes rigorous academics and offers opportunities for exposure to Houston's many cultures and for travel abroad. It also features a strong program of extracurriculars, including music, Model United Nations activities, speech/debate, and cultural activities such as competitive dragon boat racing.

**Education. Your future.
 Your choice.**

INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY SCHOOLS (continued)

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOLS offer challenging educational programs for students to help develop their intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills to learn, work, and live comfortably and productively as a citizen of the world.

The rigorous and broad IB program empowers students to become dedicated, lifelong, bilingual and biliterate learners who embrace multiculturalism and diversity.

IB schools operate through a nonprofit international foundation that authorizes IB status through an extensive process including teacher training, an IB-team visit, curriculum review, and interviews throughout the school community.

Our Choice: IB

Fondren Middle School

“Not only is Fondren our zoned school, but it has an IB program that implements great, interactive resources that support the school curriculum. The IB program has been influential in providing a learning mechanism that has strengthened my child’s performance in math and English and challenged her to think independently.”

– Tamokia Thompson
Mother of a Fondren graduate



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Durham* School at
Harvard St. George
Northline Place
River Oaks Twain
Roberts
Rodriguez

K-8

Wharton Dual Language Academy

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Fondren* Hogg
Grady Lanier

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bellaire
Lamar
Reagan

**Magnet program-IB magnet*

READY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER

Not long ago, students were identified as either/or — either on a college or a career path. Today it's recognized that the same skills required to be successful in higher education are also required in the workplace, and HISD has merged those pathways. We offer both strong academic and career programs that prepare students for college, workforce training for in-demand fields — and ultimately, success in life pursuits.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

Challenge Early College High School
East Early College High School
Houston Academy for International Studies
North Houston Early College High School
South Early College High School

CAREER MAGNETS

Austin — Maritime, Teaching professions
Barbara Jordan — Careers
Davis — Media, Culinary arts, Hotel management
DeBakey — Health professions
High School for Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice — Legal studies, Law enforcement, and Fire technology
Lamar — Business administration
Yates — Communications, Maritime

FUTURES ACADEMY

Furr — Academy of Petroleum Engineering Technology
Jones — Allied Health, Construction Technology
Kashmere — Process Technology
Long — Pharmacy Technology
Scarborough — Network & Computer Administration
Sterling — Logistics & Global Supply
Washington — Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Westside — Health Science

My Choice: College and Career Readiness

East Early College High School

"I chose to attend East Early College High School because I thought it would offer me the best opportunities to prepare for college. I also like that the school is small, and that I'm able to form close relationships with my classmates and teachers. I've been able to take AP-level courses and college classes at HCC. These classes have taught me to be more independent, take responsibility for my own work, and manage my time wisely. Before I came here, English was one of my weakest subjects, but my honors debate class has helped me improve my writing, speaking and presentation skills. The school's environment has helped me realize my future goals and that I want to go to a small college and study medicine one day."

— Alexia Rodríguez
East Early College High School student



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SAME-GENDER COLLEGE PREPARATORY



Sixth- through 12th-grade boys experience rigorous academics and strong personal development skills at the Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men.

HISD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY AND MICKEY LELAND COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY FOR YOUNG MEN prepare students in grades 6-12 for higher education and life with rigorous academics and opportunities to develop leadership, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. With a focus on pre-AP and AP courses and exposure to the demands of college and career, academy students have a strong foundation for future success throughout the school community.

www.HoustonISD.org/LelandPrep

www.HoustonISD.org/YWCPA

Our Choice: Same-gender College Preparatory



Young Women's College Preparatory Academy

"From the time my daughter entered Young Women's College Prep, she was taught she is a future leader of tomorrow. The school's environment has really strengthened my daughter's desire to want to know more about what's going on in the world from a broader perspective and what will be her service to humanity. She can tell you what college she wants to attend and what career she'd like to pursue. Being at a college prep academy, the girls understand that the finish line is no longer the 12th grade of high school, and that completing high school is just a transitional mark in their lives to prepare them for post graduate work and beyond."

– **Michael & Tammy Harris**
Parents of a Young Women's student



HISD's urban students discover nature, away from the hustle-bustle of the big city, in a hands-on learning environment at HISD's Outdoor Education Centers.

FORMING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

HISD's Outdoor Education Centers (OEC) allow our urban students to discover and explore nature away from the lights and noise of their big city environment. We provide two unique outdoor lab settings with lakes, forests, streams, farms, and quiet, starry East Texas nights to provide hands-on, experiential, multidisciplinary activities.

Since 1977, as part of the magnet program, the district has operated the OEC program at Camp Olympia, and since 2010, at Camp Forest Glen.

Each year, about 8,000 fifth-graders go through the four-day, three-night outdoor education experience and depart with a new environmental consciousness.

Students enjoy inquiry-based science lessons and language arts, math, and social studies concepts that support HISD's fifth-grade curriculum and state standards.

Most importantly, the OEC program extends the reach of classroom learning and creates awareness that leads to our students becoming stewards of their environment.



www.HoustonISD.org/Outdoor

Education. Your future. Your choice.



Students with an interest in STEM subjects explore through project-based, collaborative learning with a headstart on higher education and in-demand careers at the Energy Institute HS.

THE MATCH GAME: LINKING LEARNING AND CAREER INTERESTS TO THE BEST CHOICES

The search for the best school for your child begins with understanding what academic programs get your child the most excited about learning. Whether it is science, math, or fine arts, knowing your child's interests and aspirations will help you set remarkable goals for their education and help to clearly define what you should look for in a school.

Before you can decide on which school, you should ask yourself — and be able to answer:

WHY THIS SCHOOL?

Don't rule out your *zoned school*. Very often your best choice is right in your neighborhood.

The district's *magnet programs* offer an integrated and enriched curriculum designed around a variety of specialized themes to meet students' interests, talents, and the demands of our regional and global economies.

When students find the right specialized programs, they discover peers who share similar academic interests and abilities, creating a community learning environment that motivates students to take pride in their work through focused and effective learning and to see their future from a fresh perspective.

HOW DO WE START THE PROCESS OF FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL?

Each school year during the fall, HISD magnet coordinators visit elementary and middle school

campuses to talk with fifth-grade and eighth-grade students about middle and high school magnet options to determine which programs align with their interests. Information sessions are also held to provide parents an overview of magnet programs and the application process.

HOMEWORK: 'RESEARCH' YOUR STUDENT AND THEIR BEST OPTIONS

Before you choose a school for your child, be sure to consider their favorite classes, extracurricular activities, hobbies, and ideal career. Plan to attend a school choice parent information session and be ready to ask questions. Schedule a visit at a school to get an up-close look at the programs that interest your child. Once you're able to identify schools with unique programs that meet your child's aspirations, you're well on your way to selecting a school that is certain to be the best fit for your child and your family.

KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

Remember: there's not one "perfect" school for your child. The application process in HISD does not guarantee admission to any school, and some schools routinely have long waiting lists. Always have a back-up plan and know that wherever your child is matched, that choice will be a solid and engaging educational opportunity!

EDUCATION. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICE

GET ACQUAINTED WITH OUR MAGNETS THROUGH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

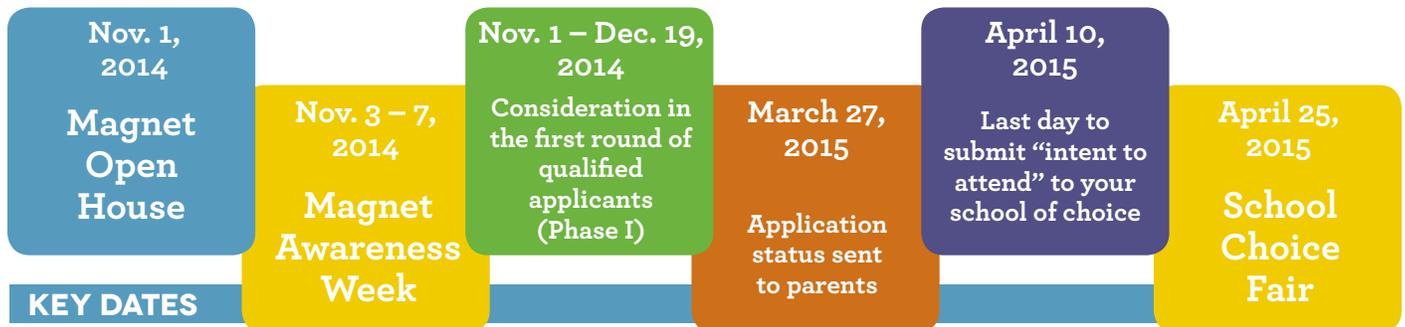
HISD's Magnet Awareness Week gives you and your child the opportunity to tour each of the district's magnet campuses and see what magnet programs look like up close — all with representatives standing by to guide you through every step of the school choice process.

The week kicks off with a district Magnet Open House on the first Saturday in November, where representatives from the more than 100 HISD magnet programs assist you in learning more about your options and making the best school choice for your budding scholar.

After attending the open house, you are encouraged to learn more about the schools you are interested in by participating in campus tours throughout Magnet Awareness Week. Each magnet campus conducts daily tours at 1 p.m., allowing you to visit the facilities and gain firsthand knowledge of the curriculum. Many schools offer additional opportunities to visit. Check

out their websites, or call them. Campus tours are a great way to observe the classrooms, additional learning environments, and campus staff. It's also a great time to follow up on any questions you may have, such as:

- What distinguishes your school from others?
- How do you support children with different learning styles and needs?
- How do you connect the core academics to real-world application?
- What are the school's expectations for its students?
- What after-school activities are available?
- Is there help with the college application process? (for high school magnets)



For more information, visit the Houston ISD School Choice website at www.HoustonISD.org/Magnet

Suggested plan for Magnet Awareness Week

1. Attend Magnet Open House on Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Northwest Mall.
2. Prepare questions in advance of school tours during Magnet Awareness Week (Nov. 3 - 7).
3. Tour schools where you are interested in applying.
4. Discuss and refine school choice options with family.
5. Apply to magnet programs by the Phase I deadline. You can apply online or with a paper application. (Note: After the Phase I deadline, applications are processed and accepted on a space available basis. It is important to submit your application by the Phase I deadline.)
6. Choose a school based on letters of acceptance.
7. Select and notify one school of your child's "intent to attend" to secure a space in the program.
8. Complete registration materials and follow enrollment procedures as provided by the school.



HOW TO APPLY TO A MAGNET PROGRAM

The 2015–2016 HISD magnet application will be offered online for the second consecutive year or through a paper application. Each takes about five to 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed by visiting HoustonISD.org/Magnet. Before starting, gather documents and information, such as your child's HISD student I.D. number, for reference.

ONLINE APPLICATION TIPS

- Go to HISDChoice.com to start an online application.
- Parents can log back in to their account to complete the application later.
- Monitor the status of your application online by viewing application updates through your log-in account and the email address provided when you created your account.

PAPER APPLICATION TIPS

- Download the paper application by visiting HoustonISD.org/Magnet.
- Hand-deliver or mail a completed paper application and required documents to *each* magnet program to which you apply.
- Monitor the status of the application by contacting the schools to which you applied to see if any additional steps are required.

MAGNET APPLICATION TIMELINE

NOV.
2014

- Review your student's likes and dislikes.
- Research programs, considering academics, sports, extracurriculars, location, travel required — and anything else important to your family.
- Get an overview of schools at the district Magnet Open House Nov. 1.
- Visit schools you think might be a match, and speak to staff and other parents, if possible.

NOV. 1, 2014: 2015-2016 HISD magnet application is available online. Paper applications can be downloaded at HoustonISD.org/Magnet.

DEC.
2014

DEC. 19, 2014: Magnet application deadline for first round: To be considered in the first round, online or paper applications must be submitted by this date. Applications submitted after this date will only be considered if space is available.

MARCH
2015

MARCH 27, 2015: Parents will learn the outcome of their children's applications. Families will have **two weeks** to accept or decline an offered seat in a magnet program — and only one offer may be accepted. Once a seat has been accepted, all other seats offered will be automatically declined. You will not be removed from the waitlist of other schools.

APRIL
2015

APRIL 10, 2015: Last day for parents to notify the magnet school of their one choice, to confirm their student's "intent to attend."

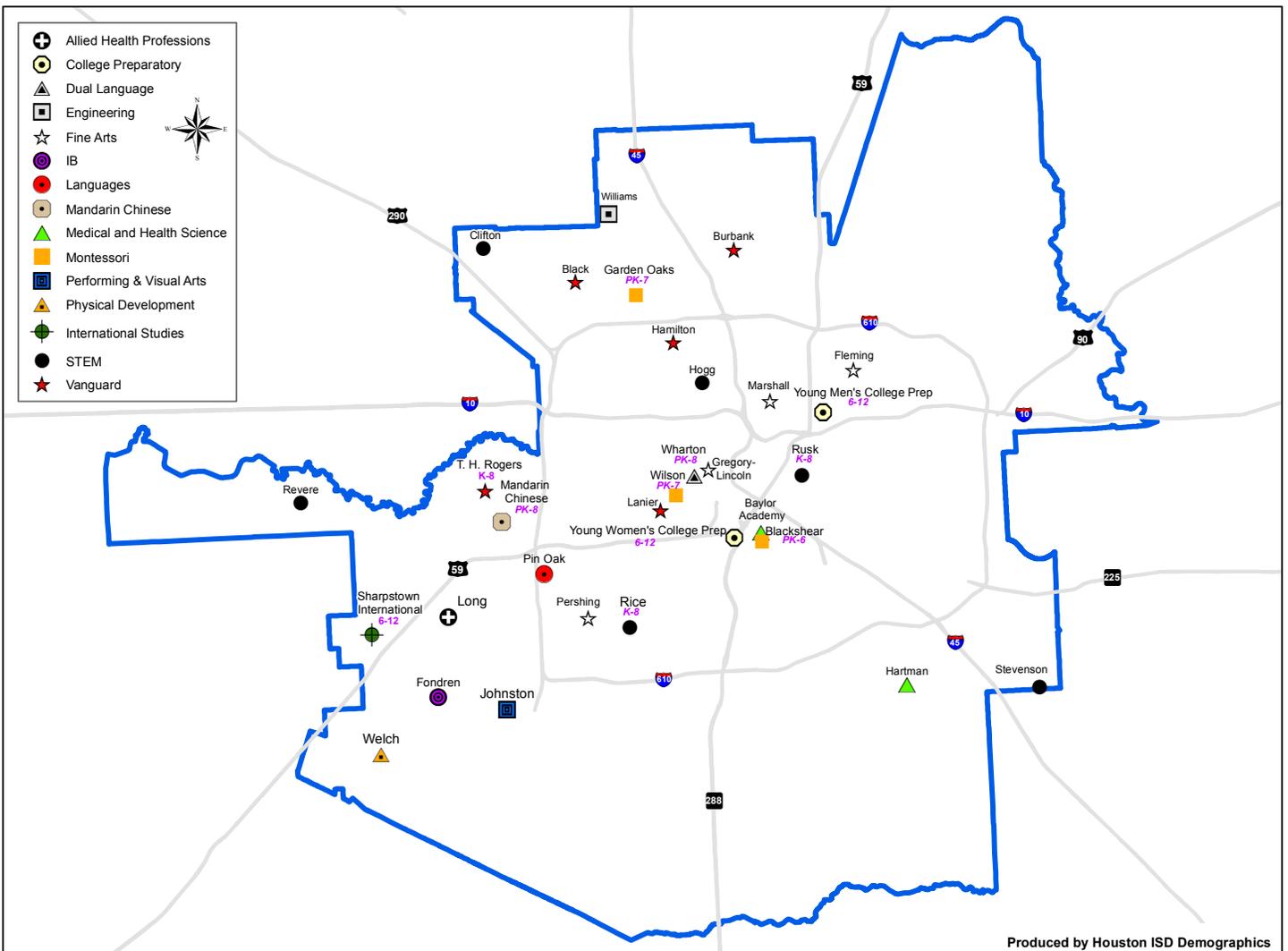
MAY
2015

MAY 29, 2015: Final deadline for preference for in-district magnet applications. After June 1, applications — whether from in-district or out-of-district — are considered depending on space availability. Restrictions may apply.

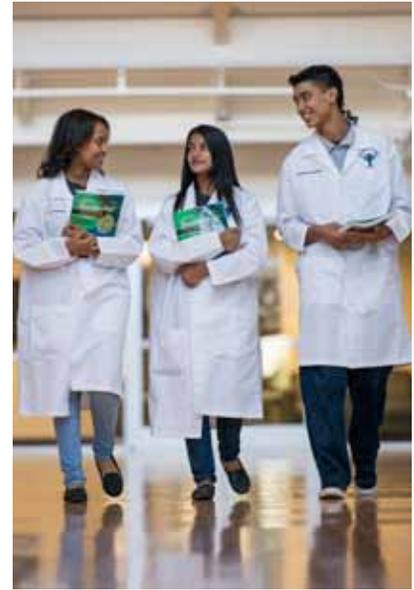
MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS



Black is one of four HISD Vanguard middle schools for students identified as gifted-and-talented. Individual rigor and collaborative learning are stressed, as exemplified by these students working together in a science class.



MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL FOCUS



HISD high school students can pursue their interests and get a jump on college and career. From left, physics students collaborate at Reagan HS; a student intern assists another student with a transaction at the Smart Financial Credit Union branch on the Lamar HS campus; and Jane Long Futures Academy for Pharmacy Technology students head for class at the Houston Community College Coleman College for Health Sciences labs.

