



Press Release

DATE: Nov. 10, 2009
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Magnet, Fundamental and Career Academy Programs Application Period Scheduled for January

Saturday, January 9, 2010, kicks off the application period for magnet, fundamental and career academy programs for the 2010-2011 school year. The application period will begin with the district's annual **Information Fair at Northeast High School, 5500 16th St. N, St. Petersburg, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan. 9.** The Information Fair allows families the opportunity to gather information and ask questions about individual programs in an easy "one-stop shopping" experience.

Each magnet, fundamental and career academy program also will host a Discovery Night between Jan. 6-28. Discovery Nights give parents and students a chance to see the program up close and in action. Often times students currently enrolled in these programs are on hand to answer questions along with instructors. For a complete list of Discovery Nights, visit the district website, www.pcsb.org.

New this year for the Jan. 9-29 application period is an online application process using the Student Reservation System (SRS), replacing the phone application system used in previous years. Parents will need a ParentCONNECTxp User ID and Password to log into the SRS located on the district website, www.pcsb.org. If a family already has a User ID and password, they don't need to request another one – the user ID and password can be used for any student in the family. Parents who do not have a User ID or Password may bring a photo ID to any nearby school to request one. The SRS also is available in Spanish.

The district has 22 magnet programs (six elementary, five middle and eleven high school), plus four elementary area magnet schools. Magnet programs are housed at traditional schools and provide a wide range of educational opportunities with very specialized curriculum themes such as arts, communication, science and technology, and gifted studies. Some magnet programs have entrance criteria.

Most all of the district's magnet programs accept applications from families living anywhere in the county, except the four elementary area magnet schools that only accept applications from families who live in the southern portion of the county. The district, under the Magnet Schools

Assistance Program, received federal grant dollars to design and develop these four specialized programs. The high school International Baccalaureate (IB) and Center for Wellness and Medical Professions magnet programs have application guidelines based on student address.

Elementary Area Magnets

- Lakewood – Center for Medical Science and Wellness
- Campbell Park – Marine Science Center
- Maximo -- MicroSociety® and Visual Arts
- Gulfport – Montessori Academy

Elementary Magnet Programs

- Bay Point – Center for Advancement of the Sciences and Technology
- Perkins – Center for the Arts and International Studies
- Melrose – Center for Journalism and Multimedia
- Ridgecrest – Center for Gifted Studies
- Jamerson – Center for Mathematics and Engineering
- Sanderlin – International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School

Middle School Magnet Programs

- Bay Point – Center for Advancement of the Sciences and Technology
- John Hopkins – Center for the Arts and Communication Studies
- Dunedin Highland – Center for Gifted Studies
- Morgan Fitzgerald – Center for Gifted Studies
- Thurgood Marshall – Center for Gifted Studies

High School Magnet Programs

- Gibbs – Business Economics Technology Academy (BETA)
- Gibbs – Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA)
- Lakewood – Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT)
- Boca Ciega – Center for Wellness and Medical Professions
- Palm Harbor University – Center for Wellness and Medical Professions
- Pinellas Park – Criminal Justice Academy
- Pinellas Park – First Responders: National Guard Center for Emergency Management
- Largo – Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership (ExCEL)
- St. Petersburg – International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Palm Harbor University – International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Tarpon Springs – Leadership Conservator for the Arts

Fundamental schools are family-oriented schools with a structured environment, a “back to basics” approach and a joint parent-teacher-student commitment to quality education for all students. Important features include a focus on student self-responsibility and discipline, daily homework, a dress code which exceeds that of the school district and required attendance at conferences and monthly parent meetings. Parents must provide their own transportation for their children (exceptions: Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle and Osceola Fundamental High).

Fundamental Elementary Schools

- Bay Vista
- Curtis

- Lakeview
- Madeira Beach
- Pasadena
- Tarpon Springs

Fundamental Middle Schools

- Clearwater
- Madeira Beach
- Thurgood Marshall

Fundamental High School

- Osceola

Career Academies are four-year programs designed to blend a student's required academic courses with the career technical program of the academy. Career academy programs prepare students for national/industry certifications, a technical school or college or entry into a chosen career.

High School Career Academies

- Dunedin – Academy of Architectural Design and Building Technologies
- East Lake – Academy of Engineering
- Northeast – Academy of Finance
- Northeast – Academy of Information Technology
- Northeast – Automotive Academy
- Lakewood – Academy for Marine Science and Environmental Technology
- Clearwater – Career Academy for International Culture and Commerce
- Dixie Hollins – Graphic Arts Academy
- Tarpon Springs – Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy
- Tarpon Springs – Veterinary Science Academy

Key Dates

- Jan. 6-28 – Discovery Nights at schools.
- Jan. 9 – Information Fair at Northeast High School, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Jan. 9-29 – Application Period – parents apply online.
- March 1-8 – Acceptance Period – program invitations must be accepted online.