



The ExCEL Magnet Program is a college preparatory innovative school model in which the best practices in education are modeled by teachers. In addition to the typical methods of instruction such as lectures, reading, writing, and homework; students use the knowledge they have acquired to demonstrate mastery of higher-level thinking and problem solving skills. They do this in a variety of interdisciplinary projects and presentations. Students are also involved in workshops on continuous quality improvement, team building, and career preparation. Our students gain first-hand knowledge of possible career choices by shadowing in a business or professional office setting twice a year. Please contact our office if you are interested in learning more about the program.

Magnet Office staff & contact information:

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| Joshua Wolfenden, Magnet Coordinator & Assistant Principal | wolfendenj@pcsb.org |
| Magnet Guidance Counselor | 588-3758 ext.2177 |
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| Magnet Web Page | www.excel.pcsb.org |
| Magnet Office Telephone | 727-588-4622 |
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The ExCEL program accepts ninth and tenth grade students who meet the following criteria:

- 2.5 or greater GPA in grades 6-8 or in grade 9
- FCAT Developmental Scale Scores or standardized testing scores equivalent to a 4 stanine in reading and mathematics (this translates to being a high level 2 or above FCAT score)
- Positive discipline history
- Regular attendance at school as determined by the student’s attendance history

Students in the ExCEL program take their core academic classes (math, science, English, and social studies) with ExCEL magnet teachers, in addition to the required magnet elective classes outlined in the following table.

| Course Title | Credit | Required Y/N | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--|
| Peer Counseling I | ½ | Yes Grade 9 | Provides students with an understanding of the elements of communications and group processes through the study of questioning skills, listening skills, feedback and paraphrasing skills, non-verbal communication, non-judgmental responses, and group cohesiveness. This course also provides an opportunity for the students to become familiar with the requirements of the ExCEL Program and the school while getting to know their peers. |
| Leadership Skills Development | ½ | Yes Grade 10 | Students study and practice positive leadership skills, problem solving/decision making, group dynamics, public speaking, ethics, time and stress management, , team building and other group processes. As part of this course, students complete a student chosen Community Service Project that allows them to demonstrate their leadership skills within their community. |
| Career Research & Decision Making | ½ | Yes Grade 11 | This course offers an depth study of the student’s personal career choices and the schooling required to enter that career field, as well as college and scholarship information. Students will have an opportunity to narrow the scope of their post-secondary plans and to obtain instruction on writing college essays, resumes, and other documents that they will need knowledge of to maximize their future opportunities. |

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| Research in SAT Preparation | ½ | No Grade 11 | Instruction and practice in preparation for the reading, writing, and mathematics sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is offered in this course. While it is not required of our students, it is strongly recommended. Students who take this course show significant improvements in the SAT scores from the beginning to the end of the course. |
| Leadership Techniques | ½ | Yes Grade 12 | This provides an in-depth study of positive leadership techniques, including decision making, problem solving, meeting skills, communication, group conflict resolution, time and stress management, group dynamics, motivational strategy, and the role of leadership in a democratic society. Students will work within the ExCEL program to demonstrate their skills that have developed over their four years in the program. |
| Peer Mediation | ½ - 1½ | No Grades 10-12 | These students serve their school and act as role models among their peers by applying their mediation skills while they serve as Peer Mediators for Largo High School's Mediation Program. The Peer Mediators are supported by an adult who acts as a resource and supporter to the program. |
| Exploratory Teaching* | 1-2 | No Grade 12 | Students learn effective teaching skills and teacher responsibilities in a variety of areas by experiencing the profession first hand, working in a real classroom setting with a certified teacher. Students coordinate with a classroom teacher outside of Largo High School to spend two periods a day with that teacher in the classroom. Students are responsible for taking an active role during their time in the classroom. This experience culminates with the creation of a personal portfolio outlining the experience and demonstrating the experiences the student has in the classroom. |
| Internship* | 1-2 | No Grade 12 | Students assess personal, academic, and career goals; enhance effective study skills; demonstrate job readiness skills; and use effective communication skills on site at an internship of their choosing, with approval from their instructor. This culminates with a portfolio that demonstrates what has been learned through the experience as well as the timeline of how the internship was obtained and what was accomplished while the student was there. |
| Research I – IV* | Multi | No Grade 12 | Provides students with an opportunity to complete a research project of their choosing, with approval from their instructor. While some students will design their own project ideas, others will coordinate and produce major events for their classmates such as the Senior Celebration (an annual dinner celebration which serves as the final event where all of the ExCEL Seniors are together), the ExCEL Senior Video (which is a collection of pictures and video clips set to music that is shown at the Senior Celebration), and the ExCEL Talent Show (an annual event that involves all ExCEL students from grades 9-12) |
| Voluntary School/Community Service | ½ | No Grade 12 | Students are engaged in activities which help them develop an appreciation for the concept of service to the school or community. The content includes, but is not limited to the following: identification of a social problem in the community; preparation of an action plan for personal involvement to help solve the problem; implementation of the plan by completing a minimum of 75 volunteer hours; reflection activities; presentation of the results. Students who enroll in this course will earn social studies elective credit. |

*ExCEL magnet students are required to complete a senior project. This requirement can be satisfied by successful completion of any of these experiences. The requirement can also be met by successfully completing a Dual Enrollment or AP course during their senior year.