

Magnet Accademies

U46



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Magnet Academy Application Process

Students are admitted to our high school magnet academies, Magnet Academies, through an application and lottery process. Students in the seventh and eighth grades, and their parents, are invited to attend open houses each fall to learn more about the District's Magnet Academy programs. The open houses aim to help students and parents learn how the academies can enrich students' high school experience and prepare them for success after high school. You can find the application, which is available in English and Spanish, at <https://apply.u-46.org/>. For support in languages other than English and Spanish, please contact your student's middle school counselor or send us an email at magnetacademies@u-46.org.

Any student in good academic standing who has the interest and ability to perform the academic and specialized work of the program is eligible to apply for admission to any of the five Magnet Academies. Many of the academy courses are Advanced Placement (AP) or honors courses, which are more rigorous than typical high school courses. Eighth graders can submit completed Magnet Academy applications online in the fall. Selections are announced in November.

Eighth graders can apply for admission to one of the five Magnet Academy programs.

Bartlett High School—Science, Engineering, and High Technology Academy

Elgin High School—Gifted and Talented Academy (Transitioning to the International Baccalaureate Candidate Academy pending approval)

Larkin High School—Visual and Performing Arts Academy

South Elgin High School—BEACON Academy of Media and Digital Arts

Streamwood High School—World Languages and International Studies Academy (Transitioning to the Leadership Entrepreneurship Action and Design (LEAD) Academy Pending approval)

Diversity Statement

In alignment with the Equity Policy of School District U-46, the District's Strategic Plan, and in support of democratic ideals, the U-46 High School Magnet Programs are committed to providing an empathetic and progressive educational environment that embraces diversity among students, staff, and community members. The U-46 High School Magnet Programs will recruit and support students of diverse backgrounds, intentionally construct and maintain a culturally competent curriculum, and value the unique perspectives and life experiences of all community members so that our students will become leaders capable of engaging in a diverse, global society.

U-46 Magnet Program Goals:

- A. Promote a culturally linguistic, inclusive, and safe environment for all to focus on teaching and learning.
- B. Deliver a highly engaging and rigorous innovative curriculum.
- C. Work collaboratively with business and community to enrich the student experience.
- D. Sustain high levels of achievement for students enrolled in Magnet programs.
- E. Provide exemplary service that supports students' academic and social-emotional growth.

Understanding the Lottery

The School District U-46 High School Academies went through a review process, which resulted in a plan and process for updating each academy. The updates align with plans to strengthen our high school programming and ensure every student is prepared to succeed in college and career. The Magnet Schools of America (MSA) Certification is an opportunity to demonstrate that our programs meet high standards of excellence.

The MSA Certification emphasizes five pillars:

1. Diversity,
2. Innovative curriculum and professional development,
3. Academic excellence,
4. High-quality instructional systems, and
5. Family and community partnerships.

The MSA certification process defines and ensures these standards as consistent, essential elements, and characteristics of high-quality Magnet programs. All five academies are applying for the MSA certification with BEACON Academy achieving certification in August 2021.

Our recent review of our academies as well as our preparation to become certified with the MSA revealed that we needed to update our admissions process to:

1. Consistently apply universal acceptance criteria across all five high school academies, and
2. Ensure that we offer a systematic approach to ensuring all students have access to the academy program in line with the MSA guidelines and our [District's Equity Plan](#).

Requirements

To this end, we have implemented a lottery system. A lottery will allow us to broaden our admissions criteria to include students of all backgrounds and experiences. We have eliminated the requirements for testing, auditions, and specific classes to be considered for our academies. The requirements for all academies are a grade point average of 2.0 or higher, and two letters of recommendation.

Preferences and Priorities

Preferences are factors that allow for automatic admission to an academy if a student meets the requirements.

Preferences include:

1. Students who qualify for [Project ACCESS](#), and
2. Students who have a sibling in grades 9 through 11 in the same academy they are seeking admission to.

Priorities are factors that allow for an additional entry into the lottery system. A maximum of four priorities are allowed.

Priorities include:

1. Living within the residential boundaries of the academy school (one entry)
2. Participation in programming through elective courses, community programs, extracurricular activities related to the theme of the academy (one entry), and
3. Qualifying for free or reduced lunch (two entries).

You can find the presentation to the School Board on the Magnet Academies Admissions Process at <https://www.u-46.org/Page/17280> and a letter from Superintendent Sanders about the Magnet Academy Selection Process at <http://bit.ly/Sanders-Magnet>.

Program Participation

Site

Site	Theme	Examples of U-46 Course Participation (middle school courses)	Examples of Community Participation Programs
Bartlett High School	Current: science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) Future: Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biometrical Engineering (MABE)	Successful completion of any of the following middle school course work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algebra ● Honors Geometry ● STEM: Design and Engineering ● STEM: Automation and Robotics ● Essential Technology: Introduction to Computers ● Essential Technology: Interactive Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEX Robotics ● First LEGO League ● First Tech Challenge ● Science Olympiad ● Math Club ● Engineering Summer Camp ● Technology Student Association club
Elgin High School	Current: Gifted and Talented Academy Future: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Academy (IB)	Successful completion of any of the following middle school course work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algebra ● Honors Geometry ● Speech ● Debate ● STEM: Design and Engineering ● STEM: Automation and Robotics Extracurricular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● STEM Club ● Science Nerd ● Robotics Club ● Computers and Video Gaming Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boys and Girls Club of Elgin ● TRiO Talent Search Program with Elgin Community College ● LEAD Mentoring Program (Living Elegantly Ambitiously and Dauntlessly) ● Elgin History Museum

Site	Theme	Approved U-46 Participation (middle school courses)	Approved Community Participation
Larkin High School	Visual and Performing Arts	Successful completion of any of the following middle course work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 1 • Art 2 • Art 3 • Art 4 • Band • Chorus • Debate • Orchestra • Speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imago Art Studio (Visual Art Gallery) • Integrity Dance Studio, Hemmens Theater, Children's Youth Theater • Schaumburg on Stage • Northern Illinois University: Performances by the NIU Brass Ensemble and Arcomusical • Masterclasses by NIU Woodwind Faculty • KAIA String Quartet: Performances and Masterclass Elgin Youth Symphony: Performances by EYSO Honors Ensembles, including the Maud Powell String Quartet & the Earl Clemmons Woodwind Quintet • Music on the Fox: Performances and Masterclasses: Heartland Marimba Quartet

Site	Theme	Approved U-46 Participation (middle school courses)	Approved Community Participation
South Elgin High School	BEACON: Media and Digital Arts	Successful completion of any of the following middle school coursework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech • Debate • Essential Technology: Introduction to Computers • Essential Technology: Interactive Media Extracurriculars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media • Radio • Broadcasting • Editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boy/Girl Scouts of America (Animation, Communication, Digital Technology, Graphic Arts, Journalism, Moviemaking, Radio & Theater Merit Badges, Media Cadette Journey Badges) • Live Church Service Production iD Tech Camp, Judson University • Boys and Girls Club of Elgin Academic Success Program • DeMolay International (Elgin)–Journalism Merit Bar • Side Street Studio Arts, Elgin–Camera Basics
Streamwood High School	LEAD Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Action, Design (Pending Approval) / World Language, and International Studies Academy (WLISA)	Successful completion of any of the following middle school course work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra • Honors Geometry • Essential Technology: Introduction to Computers • Essential Technology: Interactive Media • Speech • Debate • STEM: Design and Engineering • STEM: Automation and Robotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids United (Elgin program supported by EPD) • Brothers Rise Up (program for kids 3–16 through Midwest Sports Academy) • Boys and Girls Club of Streamwood

On-Boarding Experience

Students invited to an academy will be contacted by the administrator that oversees the Magnet Academy and invited to events before high school begins. The purpose of this outreach is to welcome the students to the Magnet Academy, get to know students, and begin building the Magnet Academy community that students will be entering.

Dual Language and the Academies

Starting with the 2021–2022 school year, students in the dual language program will be able to continue their bilingual studies in the BEACON Academy of Media and Digital Arts at South Elgin and in the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Larkin. At this time, we are not able to support the dual language program for students currently enrolled in the Science Engineering, and High Technology Academy at Bartlett, the Gifted & Talented Academy at Elgin, or the World Language and International Studies Academy at Streamwood. Upon approval, students in the dual language program entering the revised Magnet Academy programs at Bartlett (MABE), Elgin (IB), and Streamwood (LEAD) High Schools will also be able to continue their bilingual studies.

The Appeals Process

All lottery results are final and no appeals will be heard except for:

1. An error in the application verification process made by a U-46 staff member.
2. The student had a significant life event that prevented him/her from completing an application during the application window or from accepting his/her placement by the deadline.
3. A student from outside of U-46 (new students, home-schooled students, private school students), who missed the application deadline, will be allowed to complete an application, and if qualified, will be placed on the waitlist (if one exists).

In case of application verification error or significant life event, please contact us at magnetacademies@u-46.org with the student's name, U-46 ID number, and a description of the issue. An appointed committee of U-46 District Administrators will determine the decision based on input from all stakeholders.

For students from outside U-46, please contact us at magnetacademies@u-46.org or 847.888.5000, extension 5315. We will arrange a time to complete the application over the phone or through email.

Q: Why are these academies now called Magnet Academies?

A: While the academy concept is not new to U-46, it was not until 2017 that U-46 adopted the MSA framework for consistency in rigor and standards across all five academies.

Q: How are the Magnet Academies different from the academies that are part of the Educational Pathways?

A: While both are school choice options, the U-46 Magnet Academies are structured as specialized four-year programs with admissions criteria. Additionally, the Magnet Academy themes guide the instruction of the programs, offering unique opportunities and educational philosophies. The academies offered through Educational Pathways are sequential courses for high school students to explore career opportunities and receive professional and technical training that prepares them for college and careers.

Q: Who can apply to the academies?

A: Eighth graders who reside in U-46 may apply during the fall semester for placement in their freshman year of high school (ninth grade). Only the Larkin High School Academy will consider students entering their sophomore year.

Q: When are applications accepted?

A: Current U-46 students in the eighth grade may apply during the application window in the early fall. New residents to the district and private school or home-schooled students who have transferred to the district will be permitted to complete the application. They will be added to the waitlist should there be one.

Q: How do students apply?

A: The application is an online process that can be found at <https://apply.u-46.org/>. Students complete the application, make academy selections, and upload the materials and requested references. Students can apply to up to five academies. However, we recommend applying only to academies that the student is interested in attending.

Q: Are there any prerequisites?

A: Any student may apply. The criteria for all the academies are a 2.0 GPA and two letters of recommendation.

Q: How should I decide which academy is best for me?

A: High interest and post-high school plans should play the biggest part in this decision. Students should consult their parents, teachers, and other trusted mentors to make their decision.

Q: Can I apply to more than one academy?

A: While most students only apply to one or two academies, all students have the option to apply to up to five academies in their application. However, students will be considered for their second choice only if they are not accepted into their first choice.

Q: The academy that I want to attend is not my home high school. How will I get there?

A: If accepted, the academy school becomes the student's regular attendance school. Busing is provided for those students who are attending an academy that is not at their home high school.

Q: Do students have the opportunity to take classes outside of their Magnet Academy?

A: Students take academy classes alongside their other high school courses to meet high school graduation requirements. In most cases, classes not related to the academy concentration are integrated with the rest of the high school. Academy students can take electives, honors, and AP classes outside their area of concentration in the academy. Students may also participate in extracurricular activities offered at each high school.

Q: May students be removed from a Magnet Academy Program?

A: Yes. Although it is rare, it is sometimes necessary for a student to be reassigned to a different academic placement. See Academy Exit Procedure on page 21 for more information.

Q: How is Academy student behavior governed?

A: All Academy students are expected to follow the U-46 Code of Conduct and are subject to the provisions within.

Magnet Academies and the IHSA

Students are eligible to participate in IHSA Activities and Athletics at the high school they attend for their academy. If a student leaves the academy, they need to enroll in their attendance-area high school. This may have implications on IHSA eligibility.

Bartlett High School—Science, Engineering, and High Technology Academy

The Science, Engineering, and High Technology Magnet Academy at Bartlett High School integrates technology with accelerated math and science coursework.

The academy encourages all creative students with an interest in the fields of engineering, math, and science to apply. The academy prepares students to succeed in using current and future technologies such as 3D printing, precision manufacturing, and computer-aided design. Students are given hands-on experiences in the classroom and the community with equipment, work methods, and technology used in the field.

While math and science are the focal points, classes in graphic arts, computer-aided drafting, and electronics are included in the curriculum, often enhanced through cooperation with area businesses. Several classes in the academy follow the curriculum from Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a leading provider in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) coursework for students in Pre-K–12th grade.

In their courses, students explore mechanical, aerospace, and biomedical engineering. The academy coordinates science and math content with engineering coursework to prepare students for postsecondary opportunities in related fields. Students learn how to become critical thinkers by looking at challenges through the eyes of an engineer. Problem-based learning is blended into students' coursework and aligned with a professional mentorship program.

Student Learning Experiences

Sophomore/Junior Job Shadow

During the summer before their sophomore and junior years, academy students have the opportunity to complete a job shadow experience of at least four hours in any STEM field. These career exploration experiences allow academy students to dive deeper into their STEM field of choice and explore potential career paths.

Senior Year Internship

The summer before their senior year, academy students have the opportunity to complete an internship of at least 40 hours. This may be a 40-hour internship at a business, or split evenly between two businesses, in any STEM field. By senior year, the student will have completed multiple job shadows, and have a better sense of what career path aligns with their interests.

The internship offers academy students the opportunity to continue exploring their STEM field of choice and may be completed with a previous job shadow host. Reaching out to the local community and professional contacts gives students important networking experiences that they can build on throughout their careers. Students are also given assistance with locating internships through a partnership with the Alignment Collaborative for Education.

Academy Showcase

In their senior year, students work on a long-term collaborative project within an area of STEM. This project requires students to synthesize what they have learned from all their academy courses. Students showcase their work to the community and business partners over two days in the spring and receive industry-level feedback on their projects.

Courses

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Academy Honors Integrated Mathematics 1	Academy Honors Integrated Mathematics 2	Academy Honors Trigonometry/Analysis/Calculus	AP Calculus BC
Academy Honors Biology	AP Physics1	Academy Honors Chemistry	Honors Design and Technology
PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design Honors	PLTW Principles of Engineering Honors	PLTW Engineering Design and Development Honors	
Academy Integrated Technology	PLTW Digital Electronics Honors		

Elgin High School—Gifted and Talented Academy (International Baccalaureate Candidate Academy Pending Authorization)

The Gifted and Talented Magnet Academy at Elgin High School welcomes students who challenge assumptions, raise questions, take risks, and dare to try something new. The program identifies a student's special talents and nurtures skills through problem-solving situations. Students in the academy will be prepared to become innovative thinkers in the 21st century. The Gifted and Talented Magnet Academy provides a rigorous, innovative, meaningful academic environment that challenges both the intellectual and creative abilities of students. Students learn in a supportive community that prepares them to face the complex challenges of today's world.

The program connects learning across multiple subjects and students will take up to 14 AP classes, providing a path to an accelerated college degree. Upon admission to the academy, students must maintain a C or higher grade in each academy class to remain in the program.

Student Learning Experiences

Field Trips during the School Year

Throughout the school year, academy students will take field trips to various locations around the Chicago area to dive into what they are learning in the classroom. Students can expect to go to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Poetry Foundation, and other locations for academic and cultural experiences.

Summer Enrichment Activities

Each summer, the academy takes students on a variety of enrichment trips that provide hands-on learning experiences as well as team-building exercises that help students bond with each other and their teachers.

International Field Trip to Europe

Students travel to Europe for a field trip during the summer before their junior or senior year. On this trip, what students have been learning in the classroom comes to life before their eyes. The destinations students explore during their trip tie into what they have been learning in their literature and history classes.

Senior Year Project

During their senior year, academy students will work on a yearlong project. Similar to a college thesis, students will conduct a self-directed study in a field of their choice. This project must be research-based and align to their intended area of study in college. During the project, students produce a product such as a lab experiment, prototype, or demonstration of knowledge. Students also write a research paper related to their topic.

Courses

	8th Grade	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Math	Algebra 1 or Honors Geometry are encouraged	Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra 2	Gifted/Honors Algebra 2 or AP Statistics or Gifted/Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Statistics or Gifted/Honors Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC	AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC
Science		Gifted Scientific Inquiries	AP Biology	AP Chemistry or AP Physics 1	AP Environmental or AP Physics C or AP Chemistry or AP Physics 1
Social Studies		AP World History	AP US History	AP European History	AP Government & Politics: US and AP Macroeconomics
Language Arts		Gifted World Literature	Gifted American Literature	AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition

Larkin High School—Visual and Performing Arts Academy

Larkin High School hosts the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Academy, which has been named a Grammy Signature School for Music Education. Students with talent and special interests in dance, music, visual art, or drama flourish in this program. While the program concentrates on the arts, it centers on educating the whole student. Students apply for selection into this four-year college preparatory program in the focus areas of dance, drama, visual art, and music.

The academy provides artistically talented students with a comprehensive arts education. This academy offers an interdisciplinary approach to education with a fine art focus that enhances problem-solving

skills, creativity, and imagination. The academy allows students to explore a variety of arts while also concentrating on one in-depth area of their choice. Teachers create a supportive, nurturing environment and work with students to develop and express their talents through performance and presentation. The program emphasizes the connection between art and the world.

Student Learning Experiences

Field Trips

Students travel to locations such as Walt Disney World, New York City, and the Art Institute of Chicago for field trips. Students also visit festivals and workshops at universities and colleges throughout Illinois.

Public Performances and Exhibitions

Each year, students present pieces from their body of work in showcase events open to the public, such as art exhibitions, musical performances, and theater shows. They may also perform at state festivals and competitions.

Dual Credit College Courses

Music students earn dual credit through our partnership with Elgin Community College, where they also receive free music lessons.

Courses

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Academy Honors Dance 1	Academy Honors Dance 2	Academy Honors Dance 3	Academy Honors Dance 4
Academy Honors Drama 1	Academy Honors Drama 2	Academy Honors Drama 3	Academy Honors Drama 4
Academy Honors Art 1	Academy Honors Art 2	Academy Honors Art 3	AP Studio Art
Academy Honors Vocal 1	Academy Honors Vocal 2	Academy Honors Vocal 3	AP Music Theory
Academy Honors Instrumental 1	Academy Honors Instrumental 2	Academy Honors Instrumental 3	AP Music Theory

South Elgin High School—BEACON Academy of Media and Digital Arts

The BEACON Magnet Academy of Media and Digital Arts at South Elgin High School, a *Magnet School of America Program of Distinction (2021)*, prepares students to become skillful and successful media makers covering the areas of audio and video production, broadcast journalism, webcasting, and web design. Students also gain a critical awareness of the social and cultural impact their work will have on society. Working with electronic media applications, television, film, and radio equipment, students combine creativity and technical skill to gain knowledge in a project-based learning environment.

The BEACON curriculum provides an extensive and intensive educational experience for those who want to use digital communication to serve the artistic, cultural, educational, informational, and social needs of society. Students develop and refine skills through a combination of independent and collaborative learning. Teachers and peers provide feedback in a workshop environment that allows opportunities for continual growth. The program provides students with lessons in both theory and hands-on experience.

Coursework for the academy focuses on five areas: theoretical foundation, career awareness and preparation, technology, production and broadcasting, and specialized techniques.

Student Learning Experiences

Job Shadowing, Internships, and Field Trips

Media is continually evolving, and new opportunities present themselves every year. Experiences may include shadowing industry professionals, internships, college visits, field trips to local production studios, guest speakers, and more. In recent years, freshmen have shadowed the production crew for the Windy City Bulls, sophomores have appeared on the WGN Halloween morning show and toured the studio, juniors have produced commercials for local businesses, and seniors have created magazine shows that appeared on Elgin's public access station Channel 17.

National Organizations

Annually, BEACON students can compete at the Student Television Network convention, which is attended by thousands of students from across the nation and hosted in a different city each year. Students may also participate in the Midwest Media Educators Association.

BEACON Academy Awards

Every May, the BEACON Academy Awards celebrates students' hard work by offering class awards, showcasing student work, bestowing cords to graduating seniors, and featuring a renowned guest speaker. Past guest speakers have included John Ratzenberger (actor in *Cheers* and Pixar movies), Tommy O'Haver (director of *Ella Enchanted*), and Angelo Pizzo (writer of *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*).

Courses

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Media and Digital Arts Technology 1	Media and Digital Arts Technology 2	Media and Digital Arts Production	Advanced Media and Digital Arts Production
		Advanced Placement Capstone: AP Seminar	Advanced Placement Capstone: Research

Streamwood High School—LEAD Academy (Pending Approval)/World Languages and International Studies Academy

Freshman Class 2022 (pending approval)

The LEAD Academy at Streamwood High School offers an innovative program where students in a collaborative environment learn to be problem solvers and innovators. In response to the needs of domestic and global economies, students will learn how to incorporate innovation, design thinking, and lean startup practices into their skills portfolio to launch them into success as they complete the program in preparation for individualized post-secondary plans.

To introduce students to the tenants of LEAD, freshman students will complete the LEAD Launch course. Students will gain a foundational understanding of what it means to be a leader, explore entrepreneurial mindsets, be introduced to design thinking, and understand how our actions impact the world around us. By the end of the year, students will be ready for the sophomore level LEAD Discover course where they will take their learning to a deeper level. By engaging in the design thinking Model, students will learn to identify problems in society through empathic ideation and create and test solutions in authentic environments with feedback from school and community partners.

The LEAD Academy offers a unique approach to math by offering our Applied Integrated Mathematics (AIM) paired with Business courses over the course of three years. Students will master and apply concepts from Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra in their business courses. They will have the opportunity to engage in creating projects that are meaningful to them, the school, and the community.

During Junior year, students put their learning into action in INCubatoredu™ by preparing to become true entrepreneurs. Students will create and develop their own products or service. This course affords students the experience of working with business experts as coaches and mentors. By the end of the course, students will go through the process of ideation, market research, and business plan development using the business model canvas approach. Throughout the course, students learn about all aspects of running a business including marketing, accounting, human resources, and the legal aspects of the business. This work culminates in a final Pitch Night where students seek potential investors by presenting to a panel of judges.

Following INCubatoredu™, senior students will continue to grow their business through ACCEleratoredu™. This class supports students as they transition businesses founded in INCubatoredu into functioning ventures. Students gain a deeper understanding of the workings of running a business with topics such as legal and banking, customer acquisition, business process, and product development. Students complete this course having gained traction to successfully launch their company.

Senior year students will take their learning to the next level through a Senior Experience course. Students will choose the path that best aligns with their post-secondary goals. Examples of experiential learning might include internships, mentorship, or a student-designed Community Impact Project.

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
LEAD Launch	LEAD Discover	INCubatoredu™	ACCEleratoredu™
AIM-1 (Academy Integrated Mathematics)	AIM-2 (Academy Integrated Mathematics)	AIM-3 (Academy Integrated Mathematics)	Senior Math–Choice (AP, Dual Credit, etc.)
Business for Innovators	Business Principles/Management	Business for Entrepreneurs	Senior Experience
Academy English 1	Academy English 2	Academy English 3	Senior English–Choice (AP, Dual Credit, etc.)

Students currently enrolled (graduating class 2025):

The World Language and International Studies Magnet Academy at Streamwood High School prepares graduates for further studies and successful employment in a global economy. The program is designed for students interested in rigorous academic learning coupled with real-world learning, including international travel opportunities and cultural experiences.

A daily world language class serves as the cornerstone to this academy and provides students the equivalent of six years of foreign language instruction before graduation. By their senior year, students get to travel to a foreign country for the ultimate field trip. Students will have multiple opportunities to practice the foreign language they are learning as they immerse themselves in a new culture.

Other academy courses focus on the connections between the development of civilizations and their art, language, literature, culture, trade, governments, and economics. Students also enroll in business courses that provide opportunities to investigate international job market trends and explore international careers. Staff continually supports students by providing them with the tools they need to be ready for college and their careers.

Student Experiences

Cultural Experience Field Trips

Students take field trips each year to nearby cultural centers where they can practice the languages they are learning and experience aspects of the cultures they are learning about in the classroom. Past field trips have included Chicago’s Chinatown, the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Field Museum.

International Field Trip

During the summer before their junior or senior year, students have the option of traveling across the globe to a country that speaks the language they are learning. Students and teachers travel to China, Japan, and Spain, where they immerse themselves in another culture and put into practice the language skills they have been learning in the classroom.

Local Business Partnerships and Internships

The academy has partnered with local businesses to allow students to tour their company and learn more about its workings. Students can also complete internships with these businesses. Businesses the academy has partnered with include Accenture and Omron.

Courses

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Academy Honors (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish) 1	Academy Honors (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish) 2	Academy Honors (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish) 3 or AP World Language	AP (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish) Language & Culture
Academy Honors English Language Arts 1	Academy Honors English Language Arts 2	AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition
Academy Honors Global Studies 1	Academy Honors Global Studies 2	Academy Global Business Topics	AP Comparative Government & Politics
	Academy Marketing in the Global World	AP United States History	AP Government & Politics: US
	Academy Beginning Keyboarding & Computer Applications		AP Macroeconomics

Academy Exit Procedure

The process used to consider this choice should be as careful and deliberate as was the decision to enter. Before a student is reassigned at the request of a parent, or the instigation of the school, the following steps should be taken, and the student service team should be involved in these steps, if appropriate:

A conference should be held between the parents, student, Magnet Academy assistant principal, and others at the discretion of the assistant principal. The challenges or issues should be identified and each of the parties, parent(s), student, and staff should agree to what each will do to resolve the challenges or issues. A single conference or multiple conferences may be planned. During each conference, an evaluation of progress will occur and objectives for each party will be established to resolve the challenges or issues. The school principal and the Director of Educational Pathways should be notified of the results of the conferences and be invited to attend when needed. Conference outcome options may include:

- Academic intervention
- Behavior intervention
- Goal setting agreement
- Dismissal from program

If all parties are not satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and the parties agree reassignment would be in the student's best interest, arrangements should be made for that transition. If progress is being made, the process can be repeated with lengthier periods of time between conferences.

Attention is called to the expectation that both the parents and staff will follow these steps if a student needs to be reassigned to the home school. If the student may be returning to the home school, the Magnet Academy building principal/office should notify the home school of this possibility prior to action being taken.



Magnet Academy Withdrawal/Drop Form

Student First Name: _____

Student Last Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Graduation Year _____

YIS: 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ Magnet Academy Program: _____

Reason: Academic _____ Lack of Interest _____ Other: _____

What supports were offered the student, when were they offered (dates), and what was the result? Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Effective Date of the Drop: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Academy Assistant Principal Signature: _____ Date _____

High School Principal Signature: _____ Date _____

Director of Educational Pathways Signature: _____ Date _____

Please send the completed form to magnetacademies@u-46.org.

Contact Us²

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² For the most current information about the Magnet Academy leadership, check out our website <https://www.u-46.org/Page/17229>

Quick Start Guide for Magnet Academies

Step One: Choose a Magnet Academy

With five options to choose from, families should focus on determining which academy's content best aligns with the student's interests. Families should talk with the student about his/her future goals and interests to determine what academy will best engage the student and prepare him/her for his/her plans after high school. Families should not focus on the school they want their student to attend, but instead, focus on the content of the academy.

Step Two: Learn the Details

After families determine which academy aligns with the student's interests, it is recommended to research the academy's focus, student learning experiences, and courses offered to decide if the academy is a good fit for the student.

Step Three: Apply

Once they know which academy to apply to, families should assist the student as he/she fills out the online Magnet Academy application. Make sure students submit all the required documentation before the application window closes. Families will receive notification regarding acceptance into the Magnet Academy the students applied for in November.

Have questions? Email us at magnetacademies@u-46.org, visit <https://www.u-46.org/magnetacademies> or call 847-888-5000, Ext. 5315.