

U46

Magnet Accademies





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Dear U-46 families,

Academic success for all motivates our work in U-46. We strive to give graduates skills and experiences that will lead them to success in whatever comes after high school. This mission drives U-46 to offer students innovative programs that challenge them and prepare them to compete and collaborate in a global economy.

For more than 20 years, School District U-46 has offered academy programs at each of our high schools. These programs are designed to take high school students to new levels of creative, interdisciplinary learning and give them a head start on a higher education.

As the District builds Educational Pathways in each high school, our traditional high school academies are being differentiated as magnet academies. Our magnet academies will continue to offer innovative programs that provide students with a specialized focus and unique curriculum to support their academic, social, and emotional growth.

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The focus areas for the magnet academies are:

- Gifted and Talented – Elgin High School
- Media and Digital Arts – South Elgin High School
- Science, Engineering, and Technology – Bartlett High School
- Visual and Performing Arts – Larkin High School
- World Language and International Studies – Streamwood High School

Designed as a school-within-a-school, each magnet academy meets the needs of academically gifted students in School District U-46. Students in the magnet academies tackle rigorous curriculum with relevant learning materials and up-to-date tools and equipment that complement each program's focus. Importantly, each program provides opportunities for students to not only master new information but to apply their knowledge, making it more likely they will learn and better understand their many talents and interests.

As partners in your child's education, we will work alongside you to provide the best educational opportunities and strive to ensure School District U-46 remains at the forefront of innovative, forward-thinking, and equitable opportunities for each student.

Sincerely,
Mr. Tony Sanders
Chief Executive Officer



Magnet Academies

Magnet Academy Application Process

Students are admitted to our high school magnet academies through an application and review process. Students in 7th and 8th 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.



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. Eighth graders can submit completed magnet academy applications online in the fall. Each magnet academy has a unique application based on its content area and may require students to submit essays or a portfolio of work or to take tests specific to the academy. Selections are announced in mid-February.

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 the diversity amongst students, staff, and community members. U-46 High School Magnet Programs will recruit and support students of diverse backgrounds, intentionally 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.

Eighth graders can apply for admission to one of the five magnet academy programs.



Bartlett High School – Science, Engineering and Technology Magnet Academy



Elgin High School – Gifted and Talented Magnet Academy



Larkin High School – Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Academy



South Elgin High School – BEACON Magnet Academy of Media and Digital Arts



Streamwood High School –
World Languages and International Studies Magnet Academy

Promote

a culturally linguistic, inclusive and safe environment for all to focus on teaching and learning.

Deliver

a highly-engaging and rigorous innovative curriculum.

Work

collaboratively with business and community to enrich student experience.

Sustain

high levels of achievement for students enrolled in magnet programs.

Provide

exemplary service that supports students' academic and social emotional growth.

U-46 Magnet Programs Goals



Bartlett High School – Science, Engineering, and

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

The academy encourages all creative, high-achieving 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 in the community with equipment, work methods, and technology used in the field.

While science and math 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 curriculum from Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a leading provider in STEM coursework for students PreK – 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 must complete a job shadow experience of at least four hours in any STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) field. These career exploration experiences offer academy students the opportunity to dive deeper into their STEM field of choice and explore potential career paths.

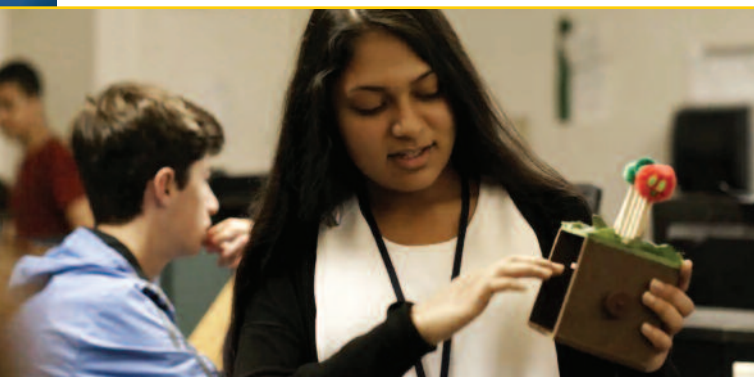
Senior Year Internship

The summer before their senior year, academy students must 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, students 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. Academy students are expected to make their own arrangements for their internship prior to the end of junior year. Reaching out to local and family professional contacts gives students important networking experience 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.



Technology Magnet Academy

Courses

Freshman Year

Academy Advanced Honors Biology

Academy Honors Integrated Mathematics I

Honors PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design

Integrated Technology

Sophomore Year

Academy Honors Integrated Mathematics II

Academy Honors Physics

Honors PLTW Principles of Engineering

Honors PLTW Digital Electronics

Junior Year

Academy Honors Chemistry

Honors Trigonometry/Analysis/Calculus

PLTW Engineering Design and Development

Senior Year

AP Calculus BC

Honors Design and Technology

Alumni Spotlight

**Lissette Beltran,
2013 Bartlett High School
Magnet Academy Graduate**

Lissette Beltran decided some time ago that when it came to her future, she should aim for the stars. Now she's reached that goal. After graduating from the Illinois Institute of Technology with an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering, she received a full-time job with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA. Beltran credits her time in the academy at Bartlett High with paving the way for her perseverance and success.

"Yes, it's rigorous," she allows, "but it's also beneficial. Just to have that solid foundation was essential to everything that followed. Getting that support in the academy, they actually ensured that we excelled academically. Certain teachers, they pushed me toward things I wouldn't have done on my own."





Elgin High School – Gifted and Talented

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 to challenge 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 Advanced Placement classes, providing a path to an accelerated college degree. Upon admission to the academy, students must maintain a C or higher 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 the trip tie in to 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.

Magnet Academy

Courses

Freshman Year

Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra $\frac{3}{4}$

Gifted Scientific Inquiry

AP World History

Gifted World Literature

Sophomore Year

Gifted/Honors Algebra $\frac{3}{4}$ or AP Statistics or Gifted/Honors Pre Calculus

AP Biology

AP United States History

Gifted American Literature

Junior Year

AP Statistics or Gifted/Honors PreCalculus or AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC

AP Chemistry or AP Physics 1

AP European History

AP Language and Composition

Senior Year

AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC

AP Environmental Science or AP Physics C or AP Chemistry or AP Physics 1

AP Government and Politics: United States and AP Macroeconomics

AP English Literature and Composition

Alumni Spotlight

**Dr. Sandra Carnahan,
2005 Elgin High School
Magnet Academy Graduate**

To reach her professional dreams, Dr. Sandra Carnahan had to push herself beyond her limits. Toward that end, the graduate of Elgin High School's Gifted and Talented Academy pursued her dream to become a doctor and studied medicine at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri. Her dreams are now a reality and Dr. Carnahan works as an osteopathic doctor in North Carolina.

"The best thing about Elgin's Gifted and Talented Academy is how it constantly challenged us and pushed us to make a difference in the world. My classmates have careers in medicine, teaching, music, and the arts. And I think we have all done pretty well for ourselves. It was a very collaborative environment. Looking back, I was lucky to spend my formative years in a place that encouraged critical thinking, and where the other students became like family."





Larkin High School – Visual and Performing

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 are invited to apply and audition for selection into this four-year performance-based 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 arts 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 a variety of 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.



Arts Magnet Academy

Courses

Freshman Year

Freshman Academy Honors Dance

Freshman Academy Honors Drama

Freshman Academy Honors Art

Music Theory 1

Sophomore Year

Sophomore Academy Honors Dance

Sophomore Academy Honors Drama

Sophomore Academy Honors Art

Piano

Junior Year

Junior Academy Honors Dance

Junior Academy Honors Drama

Junior Academy Honors Art

Music Theory 2

Senior Year

Senior Academy Honors Dance

Senior Academy Honors Drama

AP Studio Art

AP Music Theory

Alumni Spotlight

Courtney Reed, 2002 Larkin High School Magnet Academy Graduate

Courtney Reed began performing in plays at age 6 and knew that the stage was where she was meant to be. With a dream of being a professional actress, this Larkin High School graduate went on to earn a degree in musical theater from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. From there, Reed made her way to Broadway and quickly began securing roles. Her big break was playing Princess Jasmine in the musical *Aladdin*, which opened on Broadway in 2014. The popular musical regularly plays to sold-out crowds and was nominated for five Tony Awards, including best musical. Reed is grateful for her education at U-46 and said it helped her on her journey to Broadway. Her time at the Visual and Performing Arts Academy had a massive influence on her, she said, and especially Mrs. Holly McNeill, who was her drama teacher and a mentor to her.

"I will never forget how much she guided me with her expertise and warmth. I looked up to her so much," she said. The two are still in touch, and McNeill and her family even saw Reed on Broadway before she left for London to perform in the West End production of *Aladdin*.





South Elgin High School – BEACON Magnet Academy

The BEACON Magnet Academy of Media and Digital Arts at South Elgin High School 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 opportunity for continual growth. The program provides students with lessons in both theory and hands-on experience.

Coursework for this 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 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*).



of Media and Digital Arts

Courses

Freshman Year

Media and Digital Arts Technology

Sophomore Year

Media and Digital Arts Technology II

Junior Year

Media and Digital Arts Production

Advanced Placement Capstone: AP Seminar

Senior Year

Advanced Media and Digital Arts Production

Advanced Placement Capstone: AP Research

Alumni Spotlight

Ryan Jenkins, 2014 South Elgin High School Magnet Academy Graduate

As a reporter and fill-in anchor for ABC-TV affiliate WQAD in Moline, Ryan Jenkins doesn't distinguish between good news and bad news. To him, it's all just news. Jenkins is grateful for his teachers at the BEACON Academy and the ways they prepared him for his career as a news anchor.

"Through my experiences in the academy," says Jenkins. "I learned technical skills that helped me better understand what a career in the media industry could look like. However, more importantly I learned the importance of intentional work. Through each project, I learned the importance of building a team, taking care of equipment, learning from my peers, and developing networks. It was those skills that helped me land internships during my freshman year of college, build teams and lead dozens of groups and organizations while in college, and eventually land my dream job as an anchor and reporter."





Streamwood High School – World Languages and

The World Languages 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 75-minute 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 have the opportunity 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 Learning 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 opportunity to travel across the globe to a country that speaks the language they are learning. Students and teachers travel to China, Japan, or 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 give students the opportunity to tour their company and learn more about its inside workings. Students also have the opportunity to complete internships with these businesses. Businesses the academy has partnered with include Accenture and Omron.



International Studies Magnet Academy

Courses

Freshman Year

World Language (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish)

Academy Honors Global Studies

Academy Honors English

Sophomore Year

World Language (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish)

Academy Honors English

Academy Honors Global Studies 3-4

Academy Global Marketing

Academy Keyboarding and Computer Applications

Junior Year

World Language (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish)
or AP World Language

Academy Global Business

AP English Language and Composition

AP United States History

Senior Year

AP World Language (Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish)

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP English Literature and Composition

AP Government and Politics: United States

AP Macroeconomics

Alumni Spotlight

Joceline Jimenez,
2011 Streamwood High School
Magnet Academy Graduate

Joceline Jimenez credits her time in the World Languages and International Studies Academy with pointing her in the right professional direction. The academy introduced her to the business world and opportunities within that community. After graduating from Northern Illinois University with a degree in information systems, she was accepted into the IT development program at AbbVie, a leading pharmaceutical company in the northern Chicago suburbs. After finishing the program, Jimenez was promoted to become a user experience designer for the company. In this role, she is responsible for developing clean and functional IT applications, such as R&D applications that help scientists analyze clinical trial data.

Now, Jimenez's work takes her to places across the globe, and the World Languages and International Studies Academy equipped her with the skills to be successful. Over the past several years, she has worked in Ludwigshafen in Germany, Rome, and Campoverde in Italy. "It was so much fun. I learned endless things about myself, about what it truly takes to be independent, and about the many different cultures and opportunities available worldwide."



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are these academies now called magnet academies?

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

Q: How are the magnet academies different from Educational Pathways?

A: While both are school choice options, U-46 magnet academies are structured as specialized four-year programs with admission criteria. Additionally, magnet academy themes guide the instruction of the programs, offering unique enrichment opportunities and educational philosophies. 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 magnet academies?

A: Eighth graders who reside in U-46 may apply during the fall semester for placement in their freshman year of high school (9th 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 8th grade may apply during the application period in the early fall. The application period is extended for those students not currently enrolled in U-46 and who may not have been aware of the academies. These include new residents to the District and private school or home-schooled students who have transferred to the District.

Q: How do students apply?

A: The application is an online process. Students complete the application, select first and second choices, and upload materials and the requested references. Those applying to Bartlett High School or Elgin High School also select a testing date. Those applying to South Elgin High School and Streamwood High School also select an interview date.

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: Students should apply to their first choice. They may indicate a second choice on the application. Students will be considered for their second choice only if they have not been accepted into their first choice.

Q: The academy I want to attend is not at 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 school.

Q: Can a student be enrolled in both a magnet academy and the Dual Language program?

A: Due to the rigorous curriculum of both the magnet academies and the dual language program, students are currently unable to enroll in both programs.

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 and honors and AP classes outside their area of concentration in the academy. Students may also participate in extracurricular activities offered at each high school.

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 their student's interests. Families should talk with their student about their future goals and interests to best determine what academy will best engage the student and prepare them for their 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 their 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 their student.

Step Three: Apply

Once they know which academy to apply to, families should assist their student as they fill out the online magnet academy application. Make sure students submit all required documentation before the application window closes, as each academy requires unique application documents. Families will receive a notification regarding acceptance into the magnet academy your student applied for in mid-February.

Have questions?

Visit www.u-46.org/magnetacademies
Call 847-888-5000, Ext. 5315, or
Email magnetacademies@u-46.org

Apply to the U-46 Magnet Academies online at
<https://apply.u-46.org>

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We strive to give graduates skills and experiences that will lead them to success in whatever comes after high school.

