2016 - 2017
Magnet School Guide
Preschool-6th Grade

Explore Your Choices

Prepared for Life.
Dear Parents,

Since the 1970s, Cincinnati Public Schools’ nationally recognized magnet elementary schools have offered parents excellent choices for their children’s education.

Now, we are making it easier to apply to our magnet schools — by moving the application process online. The CPS Board of Education temporarily suspended for one year CPS’ long-standing first-come magnet school process that used paper applications.

This new online process for magnet schools begins in October 2015, with parents submitting applications online for magnet school seats in the 2016-17 school year. It will be fairer and more convenient than the old system of taking paper applications at the school on a first-come basis. An added bonus is that parents will be able to select up to five choices and rank them according to preference.

Our nine magnet program choices are the teaching methods of Montessori and Paideia, and the content focuses of foreign language, the arts, elementary college preparatory, the fundamentals, gifted, online and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

Our magnet elementary schools are part of CPS’ strong portfolio of educational choices. We set high academic standards for all our students, aimed at preparing them for success in high school, college and the careers they choose.

This Magnet School Guide will help you make well-informed choices about whether a magnet elementary school is right for your child. Inside are descriptions of all our magnet programs and details about the new online application process.

Warmest Regards,

Mary A. Ronan
Superintendent
Introducing CPS’ New Online Magnet School Application Process

For the first time, applications to Cincinnati Public Schools’ magnet schools will be submitted online, starting with applications for entry into magnet schools for the 2016-17 school year. The CPS Board of Education temporarily suspended for one year CPS’ long-standing first-come magnet school process that used paper applications.

Each online application submitted will be assigned a computer-generated random number. The process is modeled after CPS’ successful online system for applying to high schools, in use since 2009.

Advantages to this online application system:

• Parents may fill out magnet school applications from any computer or tablet with Internet access, or by using the CPS smartphone App. (If needed, parents may use computers in CPS schools and at the CPS Customer Help Center inside the Education Center, 2651 Burnet Avenue, 45219, Corryville.

• Parents may apply to up to five magnet schools with one online application. (The old system, with time-stamped paper applications, typically prevented applying to more than one school.)

• Parents may submit online applications any time during a five-week period — October 24 through November 29, 2015. There is no need to be “first in line” anymore.

CPS’ Magnet Schools Offer Choices For All Students

CPS’ magnet elementary schools offer programs aimed at students’ different interests and learning styles.

There are nine magnet programs offered at elementary schools located around the district.

Inside are descriptions of all of CPS’ magnet programs. (See pages 9-17.)

For sign-up dates, please see page 3.

For information on the Targeted Neighborhood Lottery, see page 5.
Magnet School Online Application

Here’s how it works:

• Parents living within the Cincinnati Public School District will access the online application system from the CPS website’s home page (www.cps-k12.org) between October 24 and November 29, 2015.

Parents create an account, enter requested student information and select up to five magnet schools, in order of preference.

• Starting November 30, CPS begins processing applications, assigning a computer-generated random number to each application. The computer also checks eligibility for the Targeted Neighborhood Lottery, which is based on home addresses. (See Page 5.)

• Magnet seats are assigned until spaces fill up, starting with the lowest numbers.

**Targeted Neighborhood Lottery** seats — 30 percent of open seats at high-demand magnet schools — are assigned first. Then, the remaining 70 percent of open seats at high-demand magnet schools are assigned, and all open seats at other magnet schools are assigned.

Eligible applications (based on home addresses) processed through the Targeted Neighborhood Lottery that are not assigned a seat within the 30-percent set-aside automatically will be processed with all other applications for remaining magnet school seats. Parents eligible for the 30-percent set-aside do not submit two separate online applications.

• Parents are notified by mail in December of each student’s status (accepted or on waiting list).

• Waiting lists are created as schools fill up. Applicants to magnet programs with entrance requirements also are placed on waiting lists, pending confirmation.

• Changes to a student’s magnet school placement, based on assigned number and parental choices, will be updated monthly from January through May 2016, and parents will be notified by mail.

(For example, a child placed in a second-choice magnet school could move up into a first-choice magnet school as spaces open up for various reasons.)

• If CPS cannot contact parents based on telephone and address information provided, the student could lose the magnet school seat.

• Change your mind or want to correct information?

Parents may re-enter the online system any time during the five-week period to make changes to the original magnet school application.
Sign-up Dates for 2016-17 School Year

Early Application Period - Siblings — Oct. 5-16, 2015

Early Application is not part of CPS’ new online application process; paper applications will continue to be used for Early Application. Paper applications (available on the CPS website – www.cps-k12.org – or from the school) must be turned in at the magnet schools where applying during the application dates.

Details: Students will be given priority over other students to enter a sibling’s magnet school. The sibling must live within the CPS district and must currently attend the magnet school in grades preschool to 5 (or, at AMIS, AWL, Roberts or Roselawn Condon, to grade 7), and the sibling must live at the same address as the entering student.

Regular Application Period - Online Applications (In-Area and Citywide Magnet Schools)

6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 — 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015

This application period is for:

- In-district students who live within the areas (East or West) of the magnet elementary schools they want to attend.
- In-district students who want to apply to citywide magnet schools.


Sign-up begins for in-district students who live outside the East or West area of a chosen magnet elementary school. A magnet school may accept out-of-area applications only if the school has no waiting list. Parents must provide transportation to out-of-area magnet schools.

Out-of-Area Application is not part of CPS’ new online application process; paper applications will continue to be used for out-of-area applications. Paper applications (available on the CPS website – www.cps-k12.org – or from the school) must be turned in at the magnet schools where applying.
Important Information

• Cincinnati Public Schools no longer considers a student’s race or gender for acceptance into magnet schools, in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

• Students not accepted into magnet programs attend their neighborhood elementary schools.

• **Student Services:** All magnet elementary schools are open to students with disabilities.
  — **Student Services Department:** (513) 363-0357

• CPS divides the 90-square-mile district into two areas called **East** and **West** to simplify the application process and to allow for easier routing of bus transportation. (See page 8 for details.)

  Interstate 75 serves roughly as the East/West dividing line, based on a student’s home address.

• **Bus Transportation:** A student enrolled in the assigned area (East or West) magnet school or a citywide magnet school is eligible for bus transportation if the student lives one mile or more from the school.

  If a student enrolls outside the assigned East or West area, parents must provide transportation to and from school.
  — **Transportation Department:** (513) 363-0330

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**Open Enrollment:** Information and sign-up dates in this 2016-17 Magnet School Guide apply only to in-district students (living within the Cincinnati Public School District’s boundaries). **Students who live outside CPS may apply to CPS schools ONLY during the Open Enrollment online application period, April 1-30, 2016.**

Students accepted via Open Enrollment are not eligible for bus transportation.

Students accepted via Open Enrollment do not have to reapply for acceptance in future school years unless the Open Enrollment student is changing to a new school building or program.

There is no sibling priority offered to Open Enrollment applicants.

**Preschool:** Out-of-district students applying for preschool spaces under the Open Enrollment program must apply at the school they want to attend, not through the online process.

**Looking for more information on Open Enrollment into Cincinnati Public Schools? [www.cps-k12.org](http://www.cps-k12.org).**
Targeted Neighborhood Lottery

Formerly called, Magnet Kindergarten Lottery — 30% Set-Aside

Cincinnati Public Schools uses a limited lottery to set aside 30 percent of kindergarten seats (after sibling enrollment) for families living in the attendance areas of specific neighborhood schools. This limited lottery is designed to allow more equitable access into the district’s high-demand magnet schools.

This limited lottery will assign seats only into magnet schools that have waiting lists.

Students must live in the attendance boundaries of specific neighborhood schools to be eligible for the Targeted Neighborhood Lottery. The neighborhood schools (listed below) are identified based on their Performance Index Scores on the most recent Ohio Report Card, determined by the Ohio Department of Education:

**Eligible neighborhood schools for 2016-17:**
- Frederick Douglass School
- Hays-Porter School
- Rees E. Price Academy
- Rockdale Academy
- Roselawn Condon School
- W. H. Taft School

Applications to this limited kindergarten lottery are submitted via the new Online Magnet School Application Process. The computer automatically will screen to find applications that are eligible for this limited lottery, based on the student’s home address.

If an eligible student is not given a kindergarten seat within the 30 percent set-aside, the application automatically will be eligible for remaining open seats at the magnet schools selected by the parent on the application. Parents do not submit two separate applications.
Magnet Preschool Information

Cincinnati Public Schools’ preschool programs give children a strong start as they begin their educational journey.

Preschool is not mandatory, but children who attend preschool gain valuable skills — such as how to count, to share and play with others, and to follow instructions — while also enjoying many new experiences.

Details: Applicants to magnet school preschools must be age 3 or 4 by September 30, 2016.

If a child turns 3 between the first day of school and September 30, a magnet application can be completed, but the child will not be considered for acceptance into the preschool program until five days prior to the 3rd birthday.

• Tuition is $3,500 per school year for half-day preschool and $6,800 per school year for full-day preschool.

For parents whose incomes place them at or below the 200 percent level on federal poverty guidelines, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) grant and the federal Head Start program may be available on a limited basis. These slots are offered free in some cases, or parents pay a fee based on a sliding scale.

NOTE: Parents must check a box on the application to show that they are applying for a tuition slot, or a Head Start/ECE-subsidized slot (only available for 4-year-olds).

• A child accepted into a magnet preschool who lives within CPS’ boundaries may stay in that magnet school for higher grades without reapplying. Families who live outside CPS’ boundaries (Open Enrollment students) must reapply for kindergarten.

• Bus transportation is not provided for preschoolers.

• Parents must turn in a current medical and dental form for each child to secure a child’s place on a class list.

• Parents must pay required deposits when the child is accepted into preschool.

• Magnet programs, and all CPS schools, offer all-day kindergarten. Children must be age 5 by September 30, 2016, to enter kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year.

— Early Childhood Education Department: 363-0240
Magnet Preschools:

**West —**

- **Dater Montessori School** (preschool to grade 6)
  2840 Boudinot Avenue, 45238  Phone: 363-0900

- **Roberts Paideia Academy** (preschool to grade 8)
  1702 Grand Avenue, 45214  Phone: 363-4600

- **Parker Woods Montessori School** (preschool to grade 6)
  4370 Beech Hill Lane, 45223  Phone: 363-6200

**East —**

- **Bond Hill Academy** (preschool to grade 6)
  1510 California Avenue, 45237  Phone: 363-7900

- **North Avondale Montessori School** (preschool to grade 6)
  615 Clinton Springs Avenue, 45229  Phone: 363-3900

- **Sands Montessori School** (preschool to grade 6)
  6421 Corbly Street, 45230  Phone: 363-5000

- **Silverton Paideia Academy** (preschool to grade 6)
  7451 Montgomery Road, 45236  Phone: 363-5400

- **Woodford Paideia Academy** (preschool to grade 6)
  3716 Woodford Road, 45213  Phone: 363-6400

**Citywide —**

- **Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies (AMIS)**
  (preschool to grade 8) (English is spoken in preschool.)
  1908 Seymour Avenue, 45237  Phone: 363-1800

- **Academy of World Languages (AWL)**
  (preschool to grade 8)
  2030 Fairfax Avenue, 45207  Phone: 363-7800

- **Fairview-Clifton German Language School**
  (preschool to grade 6)
  3689 Clifton Avenue, 45220  Phone: 363-2100

- **W. H. Taft School** (preschool to grade 6)
  270 Southern Avenue, 45219  Phone: 363-5600
Magnet Area (East/West) Information 2016-17

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If you do not know your child’s assigned elementary school (assigned based on a student’s home address), call CPS’ Customer Help Center, 363-0123, or visit the CPS website, www.cps-k12.org.
Magnet Programs and Schools 2016-17

Arts

The School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) is nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in arts training — creative writing, dance, drama, instrumental music, technical theater, visual arts and vocal music. Coupled with a strong academic program, SCPA develops both the artistic and academic talents of its students.

School:

Citywide —

School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA)
(grades K-6 magnet) (7-12 high school)
108 W. Central Parkway, 45202 Phone: 363-8000

Details: Applications to SCPA for in-district students in grades K-6 (magnet grades) are submitted via the new Online Magnet School Application Process.

- Additional information about SCPA’s admission procedures will be posted on the school’s website – www.scpaK12.org

New students entering SCPA at grades 7-12 (high school) apply online during the High School Application Period, February 22 – March 4, 2016.

Students who live outside CPS’ district boundaries and want to attend SCPA apply online during the Open Enrollment Period, April 1-30, 2016.
Elementary College Preparatory

The Elementary College-Preparatory Program helps students who score above average on standardized tests to build solid academic skills to prepare for high school and beyond. It aims to increase comprehension abilities and broaden reading, study and leadership skills. Students explore the scientific method and must complete research papers in each grade.

Schools:

West —

**Covedale** (grades 4-6 magnet)
5130 Sidney Road, 45238  Phone: 363-1700

**Pleasant Hill** (grades 4-6 magnet)
1350 W. North Bend Road, 45224  Phone: 363-4300

East —

**Mt. Washington** (grades 4-6 magnet)
1730 Mears Avenue, 45230  Phone: 363-3800

**Parker** (grades 4-6 magnet)
5051 Anderson Place, 45227  Phone: 363-2900

**Roselawn Condon** (grades 4-8 magnet)
7735 Greenland Place, 45237  Phone: 363-4800

Details: Admission to the Elementary College Preparatory Program is based on a student’s performance in reading and math on the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) or on a standardized achievement test.

On the OAA, a student must have scored in the accelerated or advanced level in reading or math, and scored at least proficient in the other subject.

On a standardized test, a student must have scored above the 66th national percentile rank in one subject (reading or math), and scored no lower than the 50th national percentile rank in the other subject.
Foreign Language and Culture

Programs in foreign language offer students the choice of study in seven languages and cultures — Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish — plus English as a Second Language.

Schools:

Citywide —

Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies (AMIS)  
(preschool to grade 8) — Spanish and English as a Second Language  
1908 Seymour Road, 45237  Phone: 363-1800  

Details: Students without language experience in Spanish are accepted only in preschool, kindergarten and first grade. For grades 2-8, only students who are native speakers of Spanish, or who come from immersion schools, will be accepted.

Citywide —

Academy of World Languages (AWL)  
(preschool to grade 8) — Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and English as a Second Language  
2030 Fairfax Avenue, 45207  Phone: 363-7800  

Details: Students without experience in AWL’s languages are accepted only in preschool and kindergarten. For grades 1-8, an interview is required to consider a student without language experience.

Citywide —

Bond Hill Academy  
(Kindergarten to grade 6) — French  
1510 California Avenue, 45237  Phone: 363-7900  

Details: Students without language experience in French are accepted at all grades. All students take a French immersion class daily. This new French program offers a French FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) experience. The French immersion class is taught by fluent French teachers who work with grade-level teachers to reinforce academic skills in reading, math, science and social studies, and in French cultural experiences.

Foreign Language schools continued on page 12.
Foreign Language and Culture (Cont.)

Citywide —

Fairview-Clifton German Language School
(preschool to grade 6) — German
3689 Clifton Avenue, 45220 Phone: 363-2100

Details: Students without language experience in German are accepted only in preschool, kindergarten and first grade.

For grades 2-4, an interview is required to consider a student without language experience, and, if accepted, after-school tutoring in German is required.

Students in grades 5-6 are accepted based on interviews and prior German experience.

Fundamental Academy

This program fits well with children who thrive in a highly structured environment, are well-disciplined, and have good work and study habits. A main emphasis is on helping students master basic skills and develop good character. The curriculum design focuses on strengthening reading skills through teaching techniques.

School:

West —

College Hill (kindergarten to grade 6)
1625 Cedar Avenue, 45224 Phone: 363-1600

Details: After parents are notified that a student is accepted via the online application process, school staff will contact the family and schedule a placement assessment involving parents, the child, the child’s teacher and the principal.
Gifted — An Education Option for Exceptional Children

Academically gifted children have special needs that differ from those of other students. Research shows that gifted students may not be sufficiently challenged in traditional schools, and often they do not achieve their full potential there.

At the Cincinnati Gifted Academy, gifted students blossom in a rigorous environment that is flexible enough to meet the specific learning needs of academically gifted students.

Key features:

• Students are encouraged to learn both independently and as members of project-based teams.

• Students receive stimulating learning and leadership development.

• Broader community resources are used as learning labs, such as museums, natural settings and cutting-edge workplaces.

• Teachers with gifted training challenge students to reach full learning potential through innovative hands-on lessons.

• To develop the “whole child,” education is complemented with instruction in pre-Latin and arts enrichment.

• Teachers design learning experiences to meet the needs of gifted children in all areas — academic challenge, personal growth and contributions to society.

• Parent involvement in school activities and enrichment opportunities is welcomed and encouraged.

School:
Citywide —

Cincinnati Gifted Academy
(Grades 3-6)
3401 Edwards Road, 45208 Phone: 363-2800
(At Hyde Park School)

Details: There are two ways for students to qualify for entrance:
1) Score at the 95th percentile or higher on mathematics or reading, plus one additional area, of the Terra Nova or other standardized achievement tests; or
2) rank at the Superior Cognitive level on a cognitive abilities test.

(These are Ohio’s requirements to be identified as gifted and to participate in gifted programs.)

Qualification for entrance into Cincinnati Gifted Academy is based on 2nd-grade scores or higher.
Montessori

A Montessori classroom environment is designed to develop the whole child and to teach students skills for life. Students don’t always sit in desks lined up in rows, but instead, often work alone or in small groups. Montessori classes are multiage groups, where younger children and older children learn from each other.

Students develop valuable social skills by learning to work with others and through volunteer service projects. A parent’s involvement is a critical part of the Montessori program. Montessori is a teaching method modeled after the work of 20th-century Italian physician and scholar Maria Montessori, who believed in encouraging a child’s natural willingness to learn.

Schools:

West —

Dater Montessori (preschool to grade 6)
2840 Boudinot Avenue, 45238  Phone: 363-0900

Parker Woods Montessori (preschool to grade 6)
4370 Beech Hill Lane, 45223  Phone: 363-6200

East —

North Avondale Montessori (preschool to grade 6)
615 Clinton Springs Avenue, 45229  Phone: 363-3900

Sands Montessori (preschool to grade 6)
6421 Corbly Street, 45230  Phone: 363-5000

Details: Students without Montessori experience are accepted only for preschool and kindergarten.

Students entering grades 1-6 without Montessori experience must go through an interview process to be considered for acceptance.

Montessori 6th-graders apply to 7th grade online during the High School Application Period, Feb. 22 - March 4, 2016.

For high school information, grades 7-12, see the High School Guide.
Online Program

Cincinnati Digital Academy is a K-12, fully online program designed for students who need a more individualized approach to education, and who thrive when they can work at their own pace and structure classes to meet their needs.

This online program is designed for students who are homeschooled; students who are traveling or who have scheduling conflicts; or for students who are looking for an accelerated learning process.

Cincinnati Digital Academy offers a rigorous, Web-based, college-preparatory curriculum taught by highly qualified teachers dedicated to each student’s success. Students take courses at home, or wherever there is an Internet connection, and have 24-hour access to the curriculum.

K-6 students won’t miss out on extracurricular school activities. They join other Cincinnati Public Schools’ students at the elementary schools in their neighborhoods for sports, enrichment and extracurricular activities.

The Cincinnati Digital Academy program provides:

- Free high-quality desktop computers, on loan, with free Internet access
- Access to online textbooks, science labs and other supplemental materials
- French and Spanish foreign-language courses, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Many fine arts and elective courses
- Field trips, special events and other enrichment opportunities
- Quarterly report cards mailed to students’ homes

School:

Citywide —

Cincinnati Digital Academy Phone: 363-2040
(grades K-6 magnet) (7-12 high school)

Details: Students must complete the equivalent of 25 hours of instruction each week, but students do not have to log on every day. Cincinnati Digital Academy uses the Odyssey program for K-8 students.

For high school information, grades 7-12, see the High School Guide.
Paideia (py-day-uh)

Paideia comes from the Greek word for “the upbringing of a child,” meaning the process of educating children so that they attain their potential and live successful lives. The development of good habits, grounded in the values of citizenship and leadership, is a fundamental part of this philosophy.

The Paideia curriculum provides three forms of instruction:

**Didactic** instruction enables students to get the facts by introducing them to concepts from listening, reading and observing.

**Coaching** requires students to work with information learned in the didactic lessons by practicing and applying concepts under the guidance of trained teachers. Parents act as coaches when they help students with homework assignments.

**Socratic seminars** use questioning that requires students to think critically. The seminar is excellent preparation for law school or fields that draw conclusions based upon evidence.

**Schools:**

**West —**

- **Roberts** (preschool to grade 8)
  - 1702 Grand Avenue, 45214  
  - Phone: 363-4600

**East —**

- **Silverton** (kindergarten to grade 6)
  - 7451 Montgomery Rd., 45236  
  - Phone: 363-5400

- **Woodford** (preschool to grade 6)
  - 3716 Woodford Road, 45213  
  - Phone: 363-6400

**Details:** Paideia 6th-graders apply to 7th grade online during the High School Application Period, Feb. 22 - March 4, 2016. (Roberts 6th-graders may stay at Roberts or apply to a 7-12 school.)

For high school information, grades 7-12, see the High School Guide.
STEM
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

The STEM program shows students the value of learning skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students learn to become critical thinkers through hands-on academic experiences that involve innovative new technologies.

For example, students start in kindergarten learning to use digital cameras, camcorders and Promethean Boards (interactive educational software).

The elementary program prepares students for the STEM program at Hughes High School. W. H. Taft Elementary School is one of the first STEM schools in the nation to feed into a high school.

School:

Citywide —

W. H. Taft (preschool to grade 6)
270 Southern Avenue, 45219 Phone: 363-5600

Details: STEM 6th-graders apply to 7th grade online during the High School Application Period, Feb. 22 - March 4, 2016.

For high school information, grades 7-12, see the High School Guide.