



**NEENAH**  
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# Magnet Parent Information Meeting

November 15, 2023

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# Welcome Families

This meeting is designed to provide an overview of the NJSD Magnet Program.

The following are the magnet team members:

**Mr. Timothy Kachur:** Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

**Ms. Val Cleveland:** Gifted and Talented Facilitator

**Mrs. Stephanie DeMenter:** Gr. 4/5 Magnet Teacher

**Mrs. Michelle Robb:** Gr. 4/5 Magnet Teacher

**Mr. Casey McHugh:** Gr. 6/7 Magnet Teacher

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# Magnet Program Overview

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**The Magnet Program serves a population of students who need increased depth of concepts and intellectual complexity.**

**Program Highlights:**

- Gifted and advanced curriculum
  - Increased rigor and above grade level work
  - Innovative experiences that spark curiosity
  - Inquiry and critical thinking
  - Collaboration and communication
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# Scope and Sequence of Magnet Program

## 4th Grade

- Math acceleration to 5th grade curriculum
- All core subjects self contained with Magnet teacher

## 5th Grade

- Math acceleration to math 6/7
- ELA, Soc. & Science with Magnet teacher
- Music choice: Band, Choir, or Orchestra

## 6th Grade

- Placement/ continued Math acceleration
- Science with 6th graders
- Integrated ELA & Soc. with Magnet teacher

## 7th Grade

- Continued Math acceleration
- Science with 7th graders
- Integrated ELA & Soc. with Magnet teacher

## 8th Grade

- Continued Math acceleration
- Advanced options for Science, ELA & Social Studies

## High School

- AP courses
  - CAPP courses
  - Youth options
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# Registering for Magnet Testing

- Parents must register their children for Magnet testing on the district website.
  - Testing in January 2024 is for student class placement in Fall (September) of 2024.
  - The registration deadline is **December 1, 2023.**
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# 4th and 5th Grade Magnet Classroom

Taught by Mrs. Stephanie DeMenter

Taught by Mrs. Michelle Robb

Housed at Neenah Middle School

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# 4/5 Grade Magnet Sample Schedule

## Typical Magnet Day 2022-2023

8:00-8:15 Homeroom - SEL Activities

8:15-9:00 Problem Solving Activities

(5th graders leave for music on alternating days/4th graders leave for music once a week)

9:00-9:45 Science or Social Studies

9:45-10:00 Recess

10:05-11:35 English Language Arts

11:40-12:05 Lunch

12:05-12:35 Recess

12:45-1:30 PE

1:35-2:45 Math

2:45-3:15 ELA Work time

### Daily Schedule Rotation:

PE

Art

Music

Computer Science

Guidance

Library Check Out





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## **4/5 Grade Magnet Focus**

- Students are taught in combined 4th and 5th grade classrooms
- Building-wide PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports)
- SEL (social emotional learning)
- Navigate social interactions and personal relationships
- Growth mindset - mistakes are beneficial and necessary to learning
- Collaboration and group work
- Develop organizational skills
- Develop thinking skills and asking “why?”
- Problem solving and computational thinking

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# MAGNET 4/5

## Embedded Skills in All Subjects

- **Respectful**
    - Caring for and helping classmates
    - Communication skills
    - Collaboration
  - **Responsible**
    - Organize materials
    - Develop study skills and routines
    - Personal responsibility
    - Using class time wisely
  - **Safe**
    - Interpersonal skills for a safe classroom
    - Mistakes are valuable
    - Practicing taking risks in a low stakes environment
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# MAGNET 4/5

## Math

- Daily collaboration on problem solving activities
    - Problem of the week
    - Logic problems
    - Computational thinking skills
  - Above grade level work
    - 4th graders are accelerated and currently using 5th grade Illustrative Math curriculum materials
      - Daily mathematical discourse
      - Show proficiency of grade 4 and 5 standards by end of year
    - 5th graders are accelerated to 6th grade math currently using Illustrative Math Accelerated 6/7 curriculum
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# MAGNET 4/5

## ELA/Reading

- Two-year cyclical curriculum of books and units
  - Accelerated curriculum/content
    - Use of thematic reading/writing units from The Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary
  - Independent reading of variety of genres
  - Book clubs and group discussions
  - Various types of writing - online discussion posts, creative stories, informational, and argumentative/opinion
  - Parts of speech
  - Vocabulary building
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# MAGNET 4/5

## Science and Social Studies

- Two years of cyclical units covering 4th and 5th grade curriculums
  - Emphasis on asking “why,” inquiry, and DBQs (data based questions)
  - Accelerated gifted curriculum using The Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary interdisciplinary units
    - Indigenous People
    - Early exploration and civilizations
    - European Colonization
    - American Revolution
    - Civil War
  - Project Lead the Way units and STEM activities
  - VEX Robotics and coding
  - NJSD grade-level health curriculum (4th graders separate from 5th graders)
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# 6th and 7th Grade Magnet Classrooms

Taught by Mr. Casey McHugh  
Housed at Neenah Middle School

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# Middle School Magnet Focus

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**All grade-level targets are covered while widening and broadening grade-level curriculum for added rigor, deeper thinking, and increased pacing.**

- ELA/Soc. combined Magnet block
  - Included in grade-level teams for other subjects
  - Readiness for advanced coursework
  - Collaboration & communication
  - Owning one's learning - time/project management, assignment choice, proposing reassessments, selecting targets
  - Routine of Self-reflection
  - SEL - navigating social interactions and personal relationships
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# MAGNET 6

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## ELA

- Argumentative, narrative, and informational writing
- Advanced grammar study
- Exposure to a variety of challenging texts: poems, short stories, excerpts from novels and memoirs, and full texts.
- Independent Reading - explore more genres.
- Focus on themes of identity, perspective, and exploring a wide variety of viewpoints
- Speaking and Listening focus with Socratic Seminars

Sem 1: Archetypes and Elements of Fiction

Sem 2: Autobiography & Memoir - College of William & Mary

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# MAGNET 6

## Social Studies

- Integrated with ELA
  - Persuasive Writing
  - Narrative Writing
  - Vocabulary Building
- Covers similar content as 6th grade peers, however...
  - Accelerated pace
  - More in-depth and self-driven
  - Focus on research skills
- Data-Based Questions - looking ahead to advanced courses

### Content: World History Focus

- Early Humans
  - Ancient River Civilizations
  - Ancient Greece & Rome
  - Middle Ages
  - Renaissance
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# MAGNET 7

## ELA

- Argumentative, narrative, and informational writing
- Advanced research skills
- Exposure to a variety of challenging texts: poems, short stories, excerpts from novels and memoirs, and full texts.
- Independent Reading - explore more genres.
- Focus on themes of the ideal world, justice, and power.
- Speaking and Listening focus with Socratic Seminars

Sem 1: Utopia - College of William & Mary

Sem 2: Pursuit of Justice - College of William & Mary

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# MAGNET 7

## Social Studies

- Rigor and challenge to prepare students for AP-level courses next year.
- Opportunities for creative projects
- Research and presentation skills
- Current Events - explore multiple views and media bias.
- DBQs
  - Advanced Writing skills
  - Critical thinking
  - Analysis
  - Evidence based

### Content: U.S. Focus

- Map Skills
  - Geography
  - US Civics
  - Current Events
  - Primary Source Analysis
  - Genocide Research Project
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# Questions?

**Any questions about curriculum before  
we move to testing procedures?**

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# Magnet Testing

- Magnet testing will take place at the student's home school on their Chromebook
- Specifics about the test dates and times will be emailed to you using the email address submitted on your child's Magnet Testing Registration
- Magnet Testing will take place during regular school hours and requires two mornings of testing.

Day 1 = Iowa Assessment

Day 2 = CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)



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# Registering for Magnet Testing

Students tested at their current building during the school day in January 2024.

To have your child tested for the Magnet Program, parents must register their child using the Neenah Joint School District registration form below.

<https://forms.gle/omBDxCYAGpLYG5kLA>

The registration deadline is **December 1, 2023**. We are logistically unable to accept test registration past this date.

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# Magnet Qualifying Tier System



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Gifted and Talented Program  
Student Assessment Record

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Testing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: 3rd Grade

Ability (CogAT)		Achievement (ITBS)	
SAS		NPR	
Verbal		Reading	
Quantitative		Language	
Non-Verbal		Math	
Total		Total	

**SAS = Standard Age Score**                      **NPR = National Percentile Rank**

**CogAT** – The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) measures the development of reasoning abilities that are essential for success school. The Standard Age Score (SAS) is a normalized standard score scale for verbal, quantitative (mathematical), and non-verbal reasoning. A total score is also provided. The SAS has a mean of 100, with 150 being the highest possible score in each category. For example, students who have an SAS of 100 on the Verbal Battery have a rate and level of development of verbal reasoning skills that is typical of their age group. A student who has an SAS of 135 on the Verbal Battery has a higher level of development of verbal reasoning skills than the typical student in the same age group.

**ITBS** – Scores on the ITBS Achievement Test are National Percentile Ranks (NPR) A percentile rank indicates the percentage of students whose scores fall below the score obtained by a particular student. Since the students testing for the Magnet Class placement are tested one year above their current grade level, these scores compare your child with older students. For example, if a third-grade student obtains a NPR of 70 on the Reading Battery it means that 70 percent of fourth-grade students in the standardized sample received scores lower than the score obtained by this particular student.

**Criteria for Magnet Placement**

- Tier 1** A CogAT Total Score of 140 or higher
- Tier 2** A CogAT Total Score of 135 - 139 and a percentile rank of 80th or higher on the ITBS Total Battery
- Tier 3** A CogAT Verbal or Quantitative Reasoning Score of 130 or higher and a percentile rank of 80th or higher on ITBS Total Battery
- Tier 4** A CogAT Total Score of 130 - 134 and a percentile rank of 85th or higher on the ITBS Total Battery

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# Magnet Qualifying Criteria

**Tier 1** A CogAT **Total Score** of **140** or higher.

**Tier 2** A CogAT **Total Score** of **135 - 139** and a percentile rank of **80th** or higher on the Iowa Assessment Total Battery.

**Tier 3** A CogAT **Verbal or Quantitative Reasoning Score** of **130** or higher and a percentile rank of **80th** or higher on the Iowa Assessment Total Battery.

**Tier 4** A CogAT **Total Score** of **130 - 134** and a percentile rank of **85th** or higher on the Iowa Assessment Total Battery.

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# Questions?

Ms. Val Cleveland: [vcleveland@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:vcleveland@neenah.k12.wi.us) Gifted and Talented Facilitator

Mrs. Stephanie DeMenter: [sdementer@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:sdementer@neenah.k12.wi.us) Gr. 4/5 Magnet Teacher

Mrs. Michelle Robb: [mrobb@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:mrobb@neenah.k12.wi.us) Gr. 4/5 Magnet Teacher

Mr. Casey McHugh: [casey.mchugh@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:casey.mchugh@neenah.k12.wi.us) Gr. 6/7 Magnet Teacher

Mrs. Jackie Munoz Ellmann: [jmunozellmann@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:jmunozellmann@neenah.k12.wi.us) Principal NMS

Mr. Tim Kachur [tkachur@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:tkachur@neenah.k12.wi.us) Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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Last updated: November 15, 2023

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