

# Magnet Program

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Neenah Joint School District

# Questions?

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The Magnet Program is a program in which students extend their learning with like peers to the depth and intellectual complexity that their curiosity and ability guide them to discover, explore, and refine their talents and interests.

- EXTEND learning
- High RIGOR and DEEP intellectual complexity
- SELF-PACED and deep learning
- INNOVATIVE learners
- CONFIDENT and competent communicators

4th/5th Grade Magnet

Mrs. Tricia Retzlaff (@tmretz32 on Twitter)

Student centered classroom.

Students work with other high ability students.

We cover all District targets, go deeper and then wider.

Students learn life skills.

Students follow the “house” schedule for all other subject areas.

I am a second-year 5th-grade student in the Magnet program. I would suggest taking the test and if passing, attend the Magnet program because you get to interact with people from all over Neenah. For 5th-graders you get to do some 6th-grade classes, and you usually get a smaller class than usual. I miss my elementary school because I miss all my friends and don't get to see them often, but I like the Magnet Program because I made lots of new friends that if I wasn't in the Magnet program, I wouldn't have met. And, next year my elementary school friends will be at Horace Mann. My elementary school is different from Horace Mann because the 6th-graders are every 45 minutes, walking to their next class when at the elementary schools, the only time it was like that was when they were walking to lunch. The Magnet program is ran in a free-run way. It's not always sitting around while the teacher is talking, we get to work more than we are talked to.

I am second year, 5th-grader, in the Magnet program, and I would suggest you take the test and consider coming (if you pass) to the Magnet program because I do a lot more things and the work is more fun here than my old school. We do badges here, which is more fun than doing the work at my old school. You can also do badges with other people. Things I like about Magnet is that we get a lunch and recess period just with our class, and we get to have band, orchestra, and choir. I miss my old friends at Alliance. But, you get to have a lot of fun and make new friends here. I hope to see you in the Magnet program for the 2020-2021 school year.

I am a first year fourth grade student, and I like the Magnet program because you have so many choices. I like it much more than elementary school. We don't move around much so even in such a big school so you should not get lost. We have many interesting classes and projects, and the magnet program is for people who have excelled in elementary school. I hope you join us in the Magnet program!

I am a second-year 5th-grade student. I suggest you look at attending because I think the Magnet program is a great opportunity to make new friends and have a great time. Things I enjoy are having a challenge and making friends. In the other elementary schools, you may not be able to further grow your learning. In the Magnet program, I get to do all these things and many more.



I am a first year 4th-grade student in the Magnet program would and suggest you test and look at attending. It has nice teachers and an incredible education compared to if you stayed at your home elementary school. I enjoy lots of things about magnet including the homeroom teacher, Mrs. Retzlaff. She is always kind and if you need help, she'll always get to you. Sure I miss my friends and the playground at my old school, but Magnet gives you an opportunity to make friends. We always have lots of work time for late things and things that aren't due a month ahead. Everyone is kind and helps each other. I would gladly recommend anyone to join and love this program.

I am a second-year fifth-grade student, in the Magnet program, and I would suggest you test and look at attending because it's a lot of fun. Things I enjoy are making new friends and learning things I didn't know. Other things we do are badges which include making a musical instrument, making a game on scratch, and reading. I hope to see you in the Magnet program for the 2020-2021 school year.

I am a first year 5th grade student in the Magnet program and think you should join the Magnet program because it pushes you to learn more and the teacher makes learning fun. At my home school we learned a different way but in my opinion I think we learn a better way in Magnet. We have to do certain lists of tasks and if we complete them we get a badge. It usually takes a week or so to complete a badge. Sometimes we play fun games such as I Have Who Has game. We sometimes play a game of Jeopardy to learn things. In math class the 5th graders go into the 6th grade math class with them, and the 4th graders stay with our teacher.

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Learning Community

- Moving On In
- School Wide - PBIS Program - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Growth Mindset and Mindfulness
- Personal Goals Created, Monitored, and Measured
- Collaborative & Cooperative Lessons Integrated Into Academics
- Interpersonal and Life Skills Learned
- Badge System

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Academic Rigor

- Reading:
  - Focus Genres
    - biography, memoir, fairy tales, mythology, drama/plays, poetry, historical fiction, and non-fiction
- Writing/ELA: informational, narrative, and opinion  
grammar, vocabulary

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Academic Rigor

### Math:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking  
Numbers and Operations in Base Ten  
Number and Operations-Fractions  
Measurement & Data, Geometry  
Ratios & Proportions  
Number System  
Expressions & Equations  
Geometry  
Statistics & Probability

Grade 5: Students are integrated into grade 6 math classrooms.

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Academic Rigor

Science: Project Lead the Way (PLTW) STEM Activities, scientific method/process skills,

Energy-Collision

Energy-Conversion

Input/Output-Human Brain

Input/Output-Computer Systems

Infection Detection

VEX Robotics & Automation

Health: NJSD curriculum

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Academic Rigor

### Social Studies:

Geography & Map Skills

Wisconsin

Native American Tribes

Early Explorers

Government

Revolutionary War



# 4th/5th Grade Magnet Specials Encore

Library

Physical Education

Art

Music

Guidance

# Inner Genius Mindset -- Passion Project

Change the Mindset

Change the Emphasis

Value Mistakes

Encourage Perseverance

Praise the Process

# Work

- Classwork vs. Homework
- Read, read, read...
- Write, write, write...
- Play outside, play family games
- Practice an instrument
- Get to bed on time

# 4th/5th Grade Magnet

## Academic Expectations

- ★ Reading at home 20+ minutes per day
- ★ Instrumental practice (Gr. 5)
- ★ Finish schoolwork @ home

## Possible Extracurricular Opportunities

- ★ 3D Printing Club
- ★ Coding Club
- ★ Kindness Club
- ★ Student Council
- ★ Battle of the Books
- ★ Book Fair Student Crew
- ★ Chess Club
- ★ Math Club (Grade 5)

6th-Grade Magnet

# Middle School Program (Horace Mann)

- Literacy Based (reading and writing)
  - ELA
  - Social Studies
    - DBQ & Workshop Model
  
- Target Based Grading
- Academically rigorous (pacing, depth, breadth)
  
  
- Students are placed in math according to ability.

# Middle School Activities: Too many to name!

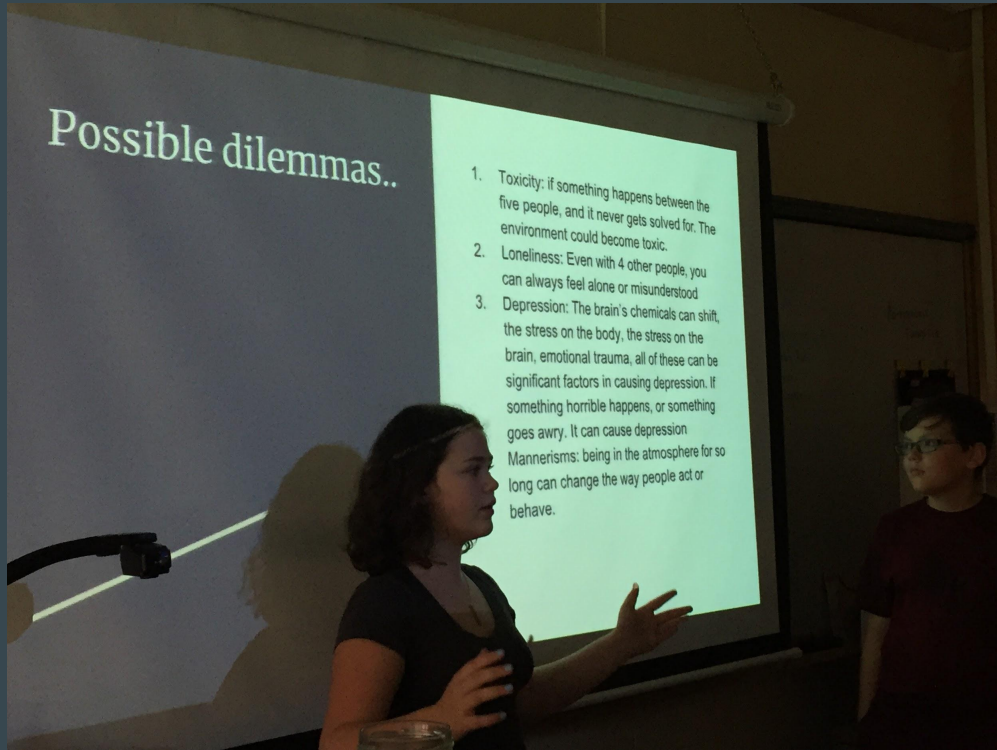
Examples:

- Sports (basketball, volleyball, track, football)
- Music
- Dance /performance team
- Musical
- Writing
- Board Game Creation
- Disc Golf
- Fishing
- Archery
- Battle of the Books
- Coding
- Jazz Band
- Middle Fiddle
- Student Council
- Painting Club
- Foods Club
- Fantasy and Fan Fiction

# Middle School Program (Shattuck)

- Literacy Based (reading and writing)
  - ELA
    - Reader's Workshop
    - Writer's Workshop
  - Social Studies: Focus on American History through value tensions using resources like the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Academically rigorous (pacing, depth, breadth)
- DBQ (Document Based Questions)
- Target Based Grading





## Magnet Classes in Middle School:

- Deep thinking
- Challenging rigor

**BUT**

- Learning how failure is part of the beauty of learning.
- Student Directed
- Social / Emotional intelligence Key

# General Overview

7<sup>th</sup> grade Magnet housed at Shattuck

- ELA/SS Block
- Most students are in one Academy
- (Science, Math, Encore, Field trips, etc.)
- Flexible seating/collaborative model
- Focus on readiness for what is next: Skills practiced include
  - Project management and negotiating deadlines
  - Best practices in research
  - Productive revision
  - Collaboration and self-regulation





# Social Studies:

- American History origins to 1800-- content
- Current Events
- Civics-- in depth look at the US Constitution, Supreme court cases
- Economics (micro and macro)

## Sample projects

- Who came First? (Argumentative)
- Setting Sail (investigative & collaborative)
- Archeological study (investigative and collaborative)
- Pre-Independent Colonial Life (Informational)
- Congressional bill & lobbying (argumentative)
- Creating a Revolutionary Escape Room (Informational & Narrative)

# English/Language Arts

Focus on:

- Advanced Writing (in conjunction with Social Studies content) DBQ's
- Grammar scaffolding for advanced language study
- Multi-genre assessments & writing for a larger audience

Study of the classics: Examples

- Greek mythology: Atalanta and the Hero's Journey
- Narrative, argumentative and informational writing
- Shakespeare
- Robert Frost and e.e.cummings
- Animal Farm

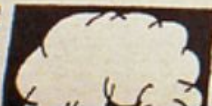


# MagNews

For all notables, Foreign and Domestic, from the Residents of W210

## Atom tests 'affected IQ'

**NUCLEAR FALLOUT** from the first atomic bomb tests in New Mexico and later, from tests in Nevada is directly responsible for a sharp decline in the intelligence of American youth, according to new research.



bomb test area, recorded a decline of 26 on the verbal test and 15 on the mathematical in 1974-5. Over the same period, Ohio - some 2,000 miles to the east of the test site and south of the fallout clouds - had a fall of just two points on the verbal

## WIFE-STEALING HORSE

By GEORGE EDWARDS  
A HUSBAND gave his wife an ultimatum: "Either your horse goes, or I will."  
The woman replied, "I'll never part with Fritie." Then she went out for

about the animal. Often she stayed all day at the stable and sometimes spent

## Pioneer heads for the unknown

AFTER 11 years in space, the American spacecraft Pioneer 10 will certainly become the first man-made object to leave the solar system. But when it will actually do so is far from certain and provides a nice

this will be the case for the next 17 years. And Pioneer will not cross Neptune's orbit until June 13.  
But will it even then be out of the solar system? It will certainly not be clear of the



Update 10/9: Ask your student about their first DBQ of the year! I am still grading them, but how did they feel?

# Words From Magnet Students...

I have been in the Magnet program for about 3 months, and if you went to do the test and get in, I would definitely tell you to go for it. The great thing about it is that when you think of advanced classes, you probably think of strict deadlines, super serious work time, and probably not playing games or stuff like that. I know I definitely did before I came here. But, in the Neenah magnet program, I would say that everyone has a lot of fun together. People understand that kids like to have fun, we like to have options, we like to do things that we're passionate about. We write a lot, and even if you don't like writing, I feel like you would still like it here, because they make it fun and they make it engaging. Being in advanced classes shouldn't be something that you get stressed out, it should be something that you enjoy, and people here definitely understand that school can be stressful, and our teachers do their best to make sure that it feels like a fun and safe environment. So, if you get into the Magnet Program, go for it because it's a really fun and unique experience.

## Words From Magnet Students...

I have been in the magnet program for 2 years and 3 months. I suggest that you test and if you qualify say, "Yes!" It is an amazing chance, celebrate. My experience with the magnet program has been amazing, awesome, inspiring. You get the idea. I have improved my curricular experience and loved it. I look forward to learning more and hopefully getting further ahead which I know I will get to do. You will likely enjoy the magnet program because you get to work at your own pace, you will get ahead in certain subjects, and you will make new, great friends.



# Words From Magnet Students...

**Hi, I'm Cooper and I have been in the Magnet Program for 2 years and 3 months. I suggest that you test For the Magnet Program and if you qualify say "Yes!" My experience here has been amazing ,we have great teachers, the food is amazing, you learn a lot, make new friends, and most important you have lots of FUN! I have done many fun projects in the Magnet Program. I have done a research project on Native Americans, wrote a book about Muskie Fishing, did a biography on Jacques Cartier, and we are currently researching anything we want to. It has been really fun. We do lots of VEX IQ. If you don't know what VEX IQ is VEX IQ, is a plastic snap together construction system that involves coding and building it is used by elementary and middle school students to encourage STEM learning.**

# Words From Magnet Students...

I have been in the magnet program for two years and three years, I advise that you test and if you you qualify accept the magnet invitation. My experience with the Horace Mann magnet program has been brilliant.

I have loved all the magnet teachers I have had so far and the way you learn is much different from most neenah elementary schools. I look forward to writing personal narratives later in the year.

You will likely look enjoy the the magnet program because of the learning pace you get to work at. You get to work at your own pace, if you finish something in a subject such as math you can continue on to the next topic at your own pace.

# Words From Magnet Students...

You should join the magnet program, or at least test because it is really fun. Take it from me. I have been in the program for 2 years now, and made better friends than ever before. I also love the fact that the learning is then a lot more interesting, because it is more my level. If you make it into the program, as much as I would encourage you to join right away, there is a day where you can go see what it would be like, so go to that and see if it would be fun. A very cool thing about the magnet program is you get to do a lot more hands-on projects, like building robots, creating giant murals, some kids last year did a play, a slideshow made by the whole class, and more! Anyway, you should join the magnet program, or at least test, because I am sure you will enjoy it.

## Words From Former Magnet Students...

I chose Magnet because I was bored in all my classes, and I needed a challenge. Magnet was also a home for me!

What Magnet means to me is being able to express myself in a way that wasn't accessible before, and showing off my talents to an amazing group of people.

## Words From Former Magnet Students...

I joined Magnet to show my abilities in a way that was never available to me before. In a way, the Magnet class has been my home and family for the past few years. I will always be grateful that this opportunity was offered to me. I would recommend the Magnet Program to anyone who enjoys a challenge and wants to manifest their abilities in a unique learning environment.

I chose Magnet because I wanted to be surrounded by people who were more at my academic level.

I chose Magnet, because all of my classes earned me an easy "A", and I was often not learning as much as I could have. In Magnet, I am reaching my full potential, and having a fun, while educating time learning in a new and advanced way, dissimilar to my previous classes.

I like Magnet because it's a challenge. Instead of breezing through my classes with ease, I am challenged in this class, which will help me in the long run.

# Words From Former Magnet Students...

Being in Magnet really allows me to work to my true potential.  
I truly feel like I fit in.

For me, the word "magnet" speaks of an amazing, talented, group of people. It speaks of a friendly environment where I am not afraid to share my thoughts. Magnet has given me a challenge in my education that I would not otherwise have, and has taught me who and what I may have to be and do when I grow up into the real world.

Being in Magnet really allows me to work to my true potential.  
I truly feel like I fit in.

I joined the magnet program to be challenged, and be with people like me. What I found was so much more. A community on its own, not just an advanced class. In addition to that, It provided a challenge. The class kept me on my toes the entire time. But it wasn't just hard worksheets and boring essays, it was fun projects and lots of debates. I would always look forward to my magnet class from the moment I woke up. I only wish there was an 8th-grade magnet class.

I remember a time when I asked the magnet teacher, if I could do a sugar cube pyramid for my project on ancient Egypt. She actually said yes! That weekend me and my mom and I went to the store, bought 1200 sugar cubes and 24 sticks of hot glue. It was the most fun school project that I had ever done. By the end of our five days of work time, I had a pyramid with corridors, halls, chambers, and even a mummy. I would do the project again just for fun. All in all it is a very flexible class.

I would tell you future magnet students to not worry at all. I knew no one in the class on the first day in fourth grade. Now some of those people are my absolute best friends. It is an opportunity you don't want to miss.



# Magnet Testing - January 2020

Grades 4, 5 and 6 - Monday, January 13 and Tuesday, January 14 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Grade 3- Wednesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 16 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Administration Bldg. 410 S. Commercial Street, top floor, at 8:00 a.m. both mornings

- Students should bring two #2 pencils and a book to read.
- After testing, about 11:15 a.m., a bus will take students back to their home schools.
- Students should bring a bag lunch or make arrangements for lunch on these dates.

# Questions?

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