

Bridgeport Board of Education

High School Magnet Entrance & Performance Expectations Policy

The magnet schools (Central Magnet, Fairchild Wheeler, and Bridgeport Military Academy) encourage students to pursue academic excellence. Instruction is centered on specific themes: project-based learning, language arts, world languages, and science (themes are listed by school as stated in the prior sentence). The magnet programs are rigorous and intended to groom students for college. We expect our students to excel in academic study and demonstrate personal conduct appropriate to an academic learning environment.

Bridgeport Public Magnet Schools are open to all students on an equal basis, including students with disabilities. A student with a disability retains all rights under IDEA in each of these schools. School personnel must ensure that a student's IEP and 504 Plan is implemented, and all services are delivered.

The high school magnet programs expect all students to be successful. However, to maintain academically high standards, high school students who do not meet our minimum academic, attendance and/or behavioral requirements will be supported through a series of interventions. If after the implementation, documentation, and evaluation of intervention practices prove to be unsuccessful the students may be, at a time deemed appropriate, reassigned from the magnet school to their neighborhood schools.

High School Entrance Requirements for Central Magnet, Fairchild Wheeler, and Bridgeport Military Academy

All magnet lotteries will be held in a public setting and all parents of applicants will be notified of the location, date and time.

Central Magnet:

The Central Magnet Component of Central High School is a highly rigorous, college preparatory program for students desiring a serious academic challenge. Central Magnet students will excel in academic study, demonstrate personal conduct appropriate to a learning environment, and enroll in college level classes while still in high school.

In order to maintain academically high standards, for students who do not meet Central Magnet High School's minimum academic and behavioral requirements, an academic plan and interventions will be put in place to support that student's effort to succeed. If after the implementation, documentation and evaluation of the practices prove to be unsuccessful the student may at a time deemed appropriate, be reassigned from the Central Magnet Component and returned to their neighborhood school.

Entrance Requirements for Eighth Grade Students to Central Magnet:

- Be a Bridgeport resident.
- Selection by lottery for non-feeder and TAG students.
- Final grade of C or better in core academic subjects on grade 8 report cards.
- Conduct/effort grade of 1.7 or less on the report card.
- Student school attendance must be aligned with the Bridgeport Public School Attendance Policy.
- SBA total score of 4 or average score above the 25th percentile in reading and math on the district benchmark assessment administered in grade 8.

Please note:

- All grade 8 students in TAG and in BPS magnet elementary schools may automatically enter Central Magnet if they have met the minimum entrance requirements stated above.

All other eighth grade public, parochial and private elementary students must apply for entrance through the lottery. As part of the lottery screening process, the applicant must meet the minimum entrance requirements. The lottery places the qualified applicants in numbered positions on a wait list for entry. Admittance to Central Magnet is determined by the number of available seats and the next position of qualified applicants on the wait list. Students on the waiting list must apply each year to gain access the Central Magnet program.

Requirements for Continuing Enrollment in Central Magnet:

When students are not meeting our minimum academic, attendance and behavioral standards during the academic year, all reasonable efforts are made to support student's efforts to succeed.

- All ninth and tenth grade students must enroll in seven courses, which include five core academic courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and a World Language) inclusive of 4 years each of English, Math, Science, History and 3 years of the same World Language.
- For the class of 2020 and beyond, all Central Magnet students must successfully complete 1 Advanced Placement or an ECE/dual enrollment course to earn a Central Magnet Diploma.
- A minimum of 60 points must be carried in both the 11th and 12th grades which include five core academic courses.
- Students must adhere to the Bridgeport Public Schools Attendance Policy.
- Students who fail one core academic subject for the year must make up that course in summer school.

- Students who fail two core academic subjects for the year will be reassigned to their district school.
- To maintain enrollment, all students are expected to maintain a C average in core academic courses (Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies). When students are not meeting minimum academic, attendance and or behavioral standards during the academic year, an academic plan and interventions will be put in place to support that student's effort to succeed.
- Students will have one marking period to improve grades.
- The reassignment to the district school, will be determined on a case by case basis at a final conference with the student, parent, and administrator in which the parent(s) will be provided with a copy of the Magnet School Policy. The timing of the reassignment will coincide with the end of a marking period to assist the student's transition.
- For a Type 3 violation of the Code of Conduct, reassignment will coincide with the end of a marking period to assist the student's transition.

Appeal Process:

- After receiving final notification of reassignment, the parent/guardian may file an appeal with the Assistant Superintendent within ten (10) business days. The Assistant Superintendent must approve or reject the appeal, in writing, within ten (10) business days.
- If the parent/guardian(s) is not in agreement, they may appeal to the Superintendent within ten (10) business days. The Superintendent must approve or reject the appeal in writing within ten (10) business days.
- If the parent/guardian is not in agreement with the Superintendent's decision, the parent/guardian can request in writing, a meeting with the BOE.
- The BOE will schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian to review their appeal and a final decision regarding the appeal will be rendered by the BOE within ten business days after the meeting date.
- The student will be allowed to remain in the designated magnet school pending the completion of the appeal process.
- In the event that the appeal process timelines are not adhered to by administration at the school or district levels, the appeal will be upheld.
- The student will be allowed to remain in the designated magnet school pending the completion of the appeal process.

Waiting List

- Every effort will be made to fill empty lottery seats by October 1st.
- If empty seats remain after October 15, the district will assist in ensuring all seats are filled.
- Students on the lottery waiting list must apply each year to gain access to a magnet school.
- Once a student accepts a seat at a magnet program, their name will be removed from all other magnet school waiting lists for the current school year.

Fairchild Wheeler

- All grade 8 Inter-district Discovery Magnet School students may automatically qualify for acceptance to Fairchild Wheeler. An on-line application must be completed.
- All remaining seats not filled by Discovery will be filled by a blind lottery.
- There is no other criterion for entrance or reassignment.

Bridgeport Military Academy

- Bridgeport Military Academy is an open-choice school and entrance is determined by a blind lottery.
- Upon acceptance, all cadets are expected to complete boot camp.
- There is no other criterion for entrance or reassignment.

Revised: 11.26.2018

BOE Approved: 11.26.2018