

Bridgeport Board of Education

Elementary Magnet Entrance & Performance Expectations Policy

The magnet schools (Classical Studies, Geraldine Claytor, High Horizons, Multicultural, and Park City)-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 elementary magnet programs expect all students to be successful. However, to maintain academically high standards, elementary students in grades 1-8 who do not meet our minimum academic, attendance and/or behavioral requirements and parent commitment 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.

Elementary Entrance Requirements for Classical Studies, Geraldine Claytor, High Horizons, Multicultural, and Park City

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

- A. Any pre-k program is not a part of the magnet program and does not guarantee entrance into the magnet program.
- B. Kindergarten
 - Selection by lottery.
 - Parents of currently enrolled/accepted students must meet parent commitment requirements in order to register an incoming sibling.
 - There are no additional entry requirements.

C. Grades 1 - 8 at Classical Studies, Geraldine Claytor, High Horizons, Multicultural, and Park City must meet the following criteria:

- Selection by lottery.
- A final grade of C or better in core academic subjects (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies).
- A conduct/effort grade of 1 or 2 across the report card.
- Student school attendance must be aligned with the Bridgeport Public School Attendance Policy.
- Signed Parent Commitment.
- Teacher Recommendation Form.
- Student Interview/ Writing Prompt.

Criterion for reassignment from Classical Studies, Geraldine Claytor, High Horizons, Multicultural, and Park City:

Grades 1 -8 Reassignment Criteria:

A. A grade of “D” or below for two consecutive marking periods in a core subject (Reading, Writing, Math, Science & Social Studies).

- Academic interventions will be put in place through the SRBI process and documented prior to reassignment.

B. A behavioral grade of a 3 or higher across the report card.

- Behavioral interventions will be put in place through the SRBI process and documented prior to reassignment.

C. Failure to adhere to the Bridgeport Public School Attendance Policy. (See BPS Attendance Policy) Attendance supports will be put in place and documented prior to reassignment.

D. For a Type 3 violation of the Code of Conduct (or a violation of the digital code of conduct) reassignment will coincide with the end of a marking period to assist the student’s transition.

E. Family did not meet parent commitment requirement.

Reassignment Process:

A. A notification letter regarding possible reassignment will be issued at the time of earning a grade of D or below, a behavior grade of 3 or higher, and/or failure to adhere to the BPS Attendance Policy.

B. A parent/guardian meeting must be scheduled within 10 business days.

C. Prior to the reassignment to the neighborhood school, the principal must provide the family with written notification which shall include a copy of the Magnet School Policy.

D. The Assistant Superintendent/Executive Director must be notified of every student reassigned, identifying the school, race, ethnicity, sex, grade and reason. This information will be promptly be reported to the Superintendent, who will then report the information to the Board of Education.

Reassignment Timeline:

Students who surface for potential reassignment during the school will be provided a letter (mail, email, school messenger etc.) to the parent/guardian notifying them of possible reassignment with a signature request. A meeting with the parent/guardian will be scheduled within 10 business days. The Principal will give the parent/guardian notice prior to the beginning of the neighborhood school reassignment. The student will be referred to his/ her neighborhood school for the beginning of the new school year.

Appeal Process:

- After receiving final notification of reassignment, the parent/guardian may file an appeal with the Assistant Superintendent/Executive Director within ten (10) business days. The Assistant Superintendent/Executive Director 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.

Waiting List:

Every effort will be made to fill empty lottery seats by October 1st.

- If empty lottery 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, his/her name will be removed from all other magnet school waiting lists for the current school year.