



# Q&A

## STEM Magnet Program Information

The following are commonly asked questions regarding the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet program at Marietta City Schools and housed at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics, Marietta Sixth Grade Academy and Marietta Middle School.

### **What are the school hours?**

School hours are determined by the Board of Education of the City of Marietta. School hours and other pertinent school information is available online at [www.marietta-city.org](http://www.marietta-city.org).

### **What is the bus transportation plan?**

Bus routes are finalized and available at all school Open House events held prior to the start of the school year. Open House dates and times are also posted on each individual school's Web site.

### **Who can attend the STEM magnet program at MCAA, MSGA and/or MMS?**

The STEM magnet program at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics is open to students in grades 3–5 that reside BOTH within and outside the Marietta City School district. (Students outside the district are accepted on a tuition paying basis if space is available.) Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA on their most recent report card, ITBS or other Nationally Normed Standardized test scores in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on **both** reading and mathematics, parental commitment to the program and a willingness to wear the required school uniform.

The magnet program at MSGA and MMS is also open to students in grades 6-8 who reside within the Marietta City School district, as well as students from outside the district accepted on a tuition paying basis if space is available. These applicants must also have a GPA of 3.0 on their most recent report card, ITBS or other Nationally Normed Standardized test scores in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on **both** reading and mathematics, parental commitment to the program and a willingness to wear the required school uniform.

### **What if my child did not meet the ITBS requirement? Are we still able to apply for admission to the STEM magnet program at MCAA, MSGA or MMS?**

Students who took the ITBS in the fall of 2008 may be eligible for re-testing offered through Marietta City Schools in the spring of 2009; however, in order to qualify for admission to the magnet program a student must score in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or above in both reading and math on the retest. Only Marietta City administered test scores will be accepted in the retest process. Scores from outside sources will not be accepted.

## **How do I apply for admission to the STEM magnet program at MCAA, MSGA and/or MMS?**

Parents of applicants must complete a Magnet Application form. The completed application must be sent in with the full enrollment package\* to the prospective school site.

Students are admitted to the magnet program on a first come, first served basis. After a grade level reaches maximum student capacity the students are placed on a waiting list in the order in which their applications were received.

## **When will I know if my child has been accepted to the STEM magnet program?**

Acceptance letters are mailed after ALL of the required documentation has been submitted\*, and it has been confirmed that the student meets the qualifications for admission to the STEM magnet programs at MCAA, MSGA or MMS. All required documentation must be submitted in its entirety. Your child's current school will be notified of his/her acceptance into the STEM magnet program.

## **Does my child have to reapply every year?**

Once your child has been accepted into the STEM magnet program, he or she does not have to reapply; however, in order to stay in the magnet program a student must maintain a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate behavior commensurate with high levels of learning. Students failing to meet the academic or behavioral expectations are subject to probation and/or dismissal from the magnet program.

## **How many students will each grade level have?**

There will be 84 slots available at the third grade level and 92 slots available at the fourth and fifth grade levels for eligible students. Presently the middle grades don't have an enrollment cap. All third grade classes will be limited in size to 21 students per class, while grades 4-8 will have 23 students in each class. Once a grade level has been filled, all other applicants will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which their application packet was received.

## **Are there additional costs to participate in the STEM magnet program?**

The only cost to participate in the STEM magnet programs at MCAA, MSGA or MMS is the cost of the school uniforms. Order forms and other uniform information are included in the application packet, and can also be obtained from the school Web site.

## **How does the curriculum in the STEM magnet program differ from other curriculum?**

The STEM magnet curriculum is an accelerated, project-based, hands-on format of instruction. Students are expected to learn at a faster pace and to work independently. Additional program information is available online at <http://marietta-city.org/curriculum/programs/magnet.asp>.

## **How much homework can STEM magnet students expect?**

Homework is assigned to support classroom instruction, but will not be excessive. Much of the instruction in the STEM magnet program is project-based so the work done at home may be more time consuming than the homework required for a conventional curriculum.

### **How will MILE be handled?**

Every child designated as gifted will receive gifted instruction. At MCAA the gifted instruction will take place through either a cluster model with a Gifted-certified teacher, a gifted resource pull-out program, and/or a combination of both. Gifted instruction at MSGA and MMS will be provided in an advanced content model. All STEM magnet program teachers, at all grade levels, are Gifted-certified or are currently pursuing their Gifted Endorsement Certification.

### **Do STEM magnet students also have art, music and PE?**

Students at MCAA will have art, music and PE instruction on a daily rotating basis. Students at MSGA and MMS will have the option to take art, music and/or PE as electives in their schedule.

### **Do STEM magnet students take the same standardized tests as other MCS students?**

Yes, all Marietta City school students will take the ITBS tests in the fall and the CRCT in the spring.

### **Do the students work in small groups on various tasks or spend most of their time in large group instruction?**

The instructional methods vary depending upon the content being covered. Philosophically, we are committed to creative, hands-on projects and scientific investigations and therefore expect smaller proportions of time to be spent in large group instruction.

### **Will the STEM magnet program teach reading and writing if the focus is on math, science and technology?**

The STEM magnet curriculum involves extensive time being spent on expository reading and writing instruction on a daily basis. Students are encouraged to read all genres of literature which are infused throughout the general reading curriculum. Our program also participates in our system wide reading program, Marietta Reads!, which utilizes the Accelerated Reader program to track the progress of students. The MCAA Reads initiative also supports thematic reading that ties into classroom instruction and project based learning.

### **Will the sixth and seventh grade STEM magnet students have any elective classes with the MSGA and MMS students?**

Yes, STEM magnet students will have elective classes with other MSGA and MMS students as scheduling permits. Students in band, as well as high level courses, are usually limited to certain periods when these subjects are taught.

### **What is the STEM magnet program's approach to student discipline and safety?**

The STEM magnet program at MCAA, MSGA and MMS all follow the disciplinary guidelines and safety procedures of the Marietta City Schools system with the addition of the uniform policy. In addition, as previously stated in this document, in order to stay in the magnet program a student must maintain a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate behavior commensurate with higher levels of learning. Students failing to meet the academic or behavioral expectations are subject to probation and/or dismissal from the magnet program.

## **FULL ENROLLMENT PACKAGE\***

\*As part of the application process for admission to the STEM Magnet program, all students MUST submit the following documentation:

1. Magnet Application Form
2. Registration Form
3. Copy of most recent nationally normed standardized test scores (e.g., ITBS, CAT, Stanford -9) for both reading AND math must be in the 75% or above.
4. Most recent Report Card or Transcript from last school attended. GPA must be 3.0 or higher.
5. Signed Statement of Intent
6. Parent Contract
7. Birth Certificate (copy acceptable)
8. Custody Documentation (if applicable)
9. DHR Form 3300 – Eyes, Ears, Dental (form on-line)
10. DHR Form 3231 – Immunization or signed waiver (form available from your Health Care Provider)
11. Copy of Child's Social Security number
12. Proof of Residency:
  - A. Lease, rental agreement or rent receipt consisting of written evidence that the agreement is valid and current **AND** a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, home telephone or cable TV). Records must include the name and street address of the parent/guardian.
  - B. A current residential property tax statement or deed **AND** a current utility bill (see above.)
  - C. A third person affidavit of residency signed, and notarized (valid for thirty days, if temporary) **AND (A)** lease or rental agreement consisting of written evidence that the agreement is valid and current **AND** a current utility bill **OR (B)** current residential property tax statement or deed **AND** current utility bill. Records must include the name and address of the third person signee.
  - D. Non-Resident Student Enrollment Application (if applicable)