

Frequently Asked Questions About the High School Magnet Application Process For Kids...By Kids



1. Can I ask my teacher or parents to read over my essay to check for mistakes or to help me get started?
All writing, editing, and proofreading must be done by you. But, there's nothing wrong with talking over the questions with your parent or your teacher.

2. What are you looking for in the application essay(s)?
There are too many applicants to do individual interviews, so the answers to these application questions are how the selection committee gets to know you. Make sure that you answer the question asked, that your writing is organized and understandable, and that your own voice comes through. There is no right or wrong response to the questions. The application essays are not scored.

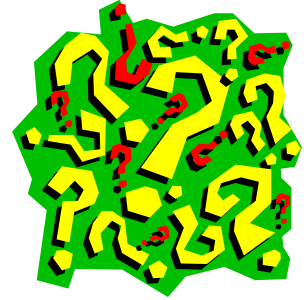
3. My essay doesn't take up all the space provided in the application. Is that okay?
Yes. The essays are not scored, and the committees are looking for quality, not quantity.

4. Do you assign different weight to different parts of the application?
No. The committee looks at all the information about you - what you and/or your parents have to say in the application, what your teachers have to say, the grades on your report cards, and the scores on the magnet tests - to try to get the most consistent idea of how good of a match a program might be for you. No one piece of information can get you into a program, and no one piece of information can keep you out of a program.



5. Can I apply to more than one magnet program?
You can apply to any/all magnet programs for which you are eligible.
6. If I apply to more than one magnet program, will it hurt my chances of getting accepted to one or the other?

No. The selection committees meet separately, make decisions independent of each other, and do not know the results of any of the selections until after all selections are complete.



7. How do I specify my first choice if I apply to more than one program?

You do not need to specify a first choice. If you receive invitation(s) to any programs, you get to decide which of them to accept.

8. I'm not 100% sure I really want to go to a magnet program. Should I still apply?

If you are invited to attend a magnet program, the choice is up to you whether to accept the invitation. If the program sounds like something that would be interesting to you, and you are eligible, there is no harm in applying.

9. Can I see what my teachers write in their recommendations?

No. Teacher recommendations are confidential. They are not used for anything but selection for the program to which you applied.

10. What if my teacher won't fill out a recommendation for me?

If you submit a teacher recommendation request form, the teacher is supposed to complete a recommendation for you. See question #12.

11. How can I be sure that my teachers submitted the recommendation on time?

If the coordinator of the program does not receive a teacher recommendation, he or she follows up personally with that teacher.

12. What is the minimum score I must get on the magnet test to get accepted?

There are no minimum scores. All applicants are considered.

13. What should I do to prepare for the test?

Take time to review the test preparation booklet available at all Montgomery County middle schools and on the Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/.



Do you still have questions? Contact your school counselor or call The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at (301) 592-2040.