

IS MAGELLAN THE RIGHT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD?

Although our population is diverse in many ways, the style of teaching and learning at Magellan is a better fit for some students more than others. Therefore, before applying to Magellan, we strongly encourage you to read the following and consider if Magellan is the right fit for your child.

Magellan is a school for: “Motivated Learners”:

Students who adapt quickly here are those who have mastered the material at their previous school at or above grade level. Students who are self-motivated and eager to explore new ideas will find many opportunities here. Students need to work well in groups and independently. The high expectations of Magellan may not be suitable for those who lack self-discipline, the appropriate maturity level, or are struggling academically. *Is your child motivated to learn and eager to explore new content? Can your child be self-directed and work collaboratively with others when necessary?*

At Magellan, ACADEMICS COME FIRST. The entire school day is devoted to learning the core subjects (mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science):

While we cover the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, our teachers use every opportunity to enrich the learning experience for the students. Knowledge is often imparted by a combination of seeing, hearing, and doing. Textbooks are used in moderation, if at all. The emphasis is not as much on memorization, but in taking the information presented and analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and, finally, applying it in a new way. A typical classroom size is 16-18 students. The school day at Magellan is divided equally into the core subject areas: math, science, language arts and social studies. Language arts and social studies and math and science are taught in integrated blocks in the third grade. In the fourth grade, students change classes for math, science, and a social studies/language arts combined block. Students in grades five through eight change classes for all four core subjects. Homework will vary from teacher to teacher, and the amount of time required will vary. Homework is often time consuming and thought provoking. Our expectations may be different from those your child is currently experiencing. *Are academics a priority for you and your child? Can your child remain focused on a project from beginning to completion?*

Students at Magellan are grouped by ability in math.

Students of varying abilities work together in each classroom, except math. Students at Magellan are grouped by ability in math. Math placement decisions are based on your child’s performance and are made at the discretion of the school’s math committee. *Will this system of math grouping work for your child?*

Experiential learning is a core value at Magellan. Students would benefit from having the maturity to participate in the many educational excursions, especially overnight trips. Magellan students take an average of one field trip (voyage) per month. Most grade levels plan two major overnight trips per year, one in the fall and one at the end of the school year. These trips are from 2-3 days each. Students also routinely participate in hands-on experiences like projects, debates, discussions, and simulations. To participate, self control is a prerequisite. *Can your child exercise self-control during voyages and other hands-on activities?*

At Magellan, parent volunteers are an integral part of our day to day

operations: Magellan parents are required to volunteer a minimum of one recess/lunch duty per month. Parents are also needed to accompany students on both day and overnight field trips. Periodically, the classes will need parents to volunteer for an activity or send something in from home. Every Wednesday, parent volunteers are needed to set up and serve pizza as a fundraiser for grade level field trips. *As a parent, are you prepared to dedicate your time on a regular basis as a volunteer, either during the school day or to after-school projects?*

Magellan parents help to ensure the success of their student:

Magellan parents have many responsibilities which help ensure the success of their student and the smooth functioning of the school. First, we ask for your support, especially at home. Many students (especially third and fourth graders) are unable to organize their materials, structure their time, and use that time wisely. Occasionally, long-term projects are assigned that must be completed at home. Parents are asked to guide their child in planning and implementing that plan. Setting aside a quiet time and place for homework is essential. Studying for quizzes and tests is something that you can also do to help your child prepare. We also ask parents to plan ahead when scheduling trips and vacations so that your child does not miss school. Since our lessons cannot be duplicated from a book or on worksheets, it is sometimes impossible to supply make-up work for those who take time off during the academic calendar. We ask parents to schedule trips during teacher workdays or holidays. *As a Magellan parent, would you be willing to help take responsibility for the success of your child?*

At Magellan, “specials” and technology instruction are integrated into the

curriculum. We believe art, music, and physical education are very important. These subjects are integrated into the curriculum regularly. After school tuition-based classes in these areas are also available. We have computers in each classroom and access to two computer labs in the school. Technology skills are taught in conjunction with assignments in curriculum areas. Magellan employs a full-time instructional technology specialist to assist classroom teachers in planning and skill acquisition. *Does this method of integrating specials and technology suit the instructional needs of your child?*

Magellan is a small, familial environment in which respect for others is

paramount. *Can your child treat teachers, parents and fellow classmates with courtesy and respect?*