

# The Magnet Program

For Academically  
Talented Elementary Students

## WHAT IS THE MAGNET PROGRAM?

- A self-contained program to meet the needs of those students with outstanding academic talent or who show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels when compared to others of their age or experience
- Servicing students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade in two combination classrooms: third/fourth and fourth/fifth
- Whole-child focus addressing academic and socio-emotional needs of children
- Students become valued members of the Pearson Elementary School community
- Magnet is a part of a cohesive program for academically talented students district wide.
  - \* Middle School Plus Program for language arts and math
  - \* High School advanced placement classes, honors classes, dual enrollment in high school and college coursework
- Comprehensive differentiated programming

## WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE MAGNET PROGRAM?

- Above-grade-level academic challenge and rigor
- Opportunities to explore multiple interests
- Professional staff who meet the unique needs of academically talented youth
- A safe and supportive environment

## HOW IS THE CURRICULUM OF THE MAGNET PROGRAM DIFFERENT THAN THE STANDARD GRADE LEVEL CURRICULUM?

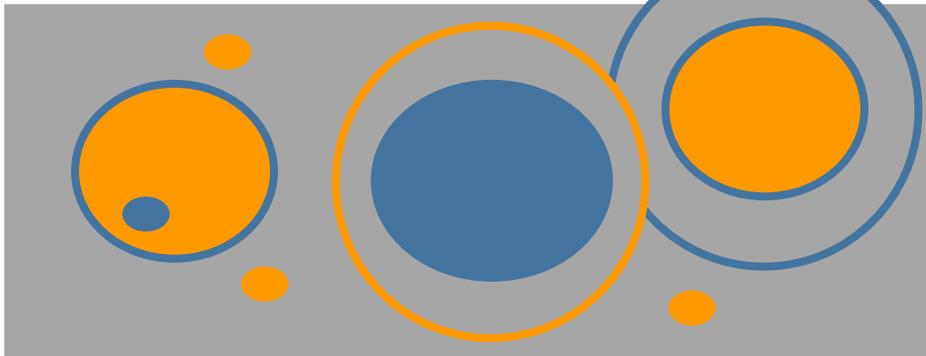
At the elementary level, our self-contained program allows...

### Teachers to:

- Flexibly pace curriculum through acceleration, enrichment, and compacting
- Match curriculum and instruction with the students' abilities, learning styles, and interests
- Address social and emotional needs of gifted children

### Students to:

- Be challenged with more elaborate, complex, and in-depth study of major ideas within and across disciplines
- Develop higher-level thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills
- Engage in higher level conversations and discussions
- Interact socially and academically with their emotional and intellectual peers



## SCREENING PROCESS

- > Students in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades can be nominated for screening for the Magnet Program by their teachers or parents, or both. Parents who are interested in nominating their child should confer with the child's teacher by November to determine if their child is functioning **above grade level** and may have a need for the program. Parent nomination forms are emailed to all 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade families beginning in November.
- > NWEA data, district assessment data, and M-STEP results should be considered before students are nominated; generally, students should be at least at the 90th percentile or in the Advanced category.
- > All students who are parent and/or teacher nominated will be given above grade-level achievement and ability tests between the months of January and March. Parents are not notified of exact testing dates. All testing is done during the normal school day. Final placement decisions are made by May for the following school year. Students who qualify for the Magnet Program are performing at least one year above grade-level in both math and reading and show an academic need for advanced programming.
- > Students who move into South Lyon Community Schools from another district, and are interested in being screened for the Magnet Program should contact the school office.

## QUESTIONS?

**Magnet Program:** Kim Dancer, Pearson Principal,  
dancerk@slcs.us 248-573-8750

**Screening Process:** Kelly Bell, Academically Talented Testing  
Facilitator, bellk2@slcs.us 248-573-8200 x 2385

Further information regarding the screening process can be found on the district website.