

What is the Environmental Science magnet program?

The Environmental Science magnet is a comprehensive and balanced academic program built around the integrated themes of land, water, and air. As an Environmental Science magnet school, the goal is to educate students to become responsible citizens who take an active part in protecting and caring for our global environment. The magnet program's mission is to provide a strong educational program through hands-on learning and critical thinking. The program exposes students to a learning community that emphasizes discovery and exploration through collaborative study, scientific research and use of scientific tools and technology.

Deer Park Elementary received the 2019 and 2020 Virginia Board of Education Exemplar Performance Highest Achievement Award and has received the VIP Board of Excellence Award for the past twelve years. Deer Park is a Virginia Naturally recognized school. We are also proud to be named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School recognized in the category for Exemplary High Performing Schools. Our "Culture of Excellence" is a team effort involving staff, students, parents and the community. We challenge our students to achieve their fullest potential by setting high standards for behavior and academic excellence, providing meaningful learning, and reflecting on data-driven decisions.

Air, Land & Water

Deer Park has three major themes that alternate from year to year: air, land and water. Within each theme, habitats and ecosystems are emphasized.

Our faculty creates opportunities for our students to acquire skills needed to be *college, career and citizen-ready*. The teachers at Deer Park provide an environmental education program for students to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum through meaningful environmental projects. We take pride in providing a compassionate learning environment that offers students a wide range of opportunities for success both in and out of the classroom.



What is distinctive about the magnet program?

- Deer Park has been a Model Level school for the Elizabeth River Project since 2012, implementing conservation and restoration projects, including recycling and litter pickups, energy conservation and erosion control projects and growing and planting wetland plants along the river banks. Students also participate in habitat enhancement projects, such as raising and tagging Monarch butterflies and growing a butterfly garden, building bat houses for environmentally friendly insect control and growing food for the school's animals.
- Each Deer Park classroom houses "fin, feather, fur or scale" animals, with more than 50 exhibits/habitats throughout the school. Students research and create informational posters displayed beside each habitat and learn compassion and responsibility by caring for classroom pets and their habitats.
- The outdoor courtyard is an extension of the classroom and a key component of ongoing environmental learning, providing opportunities for meaningful hands-on lessons in responsibility, hard work, cooperation, commitment and a love for the environment. The courtyard is maintained by students, faculty, parents and community partners.
- Deer Park has a partnership with The Virginia Living Museum. Students and chaperones are admitted at no charge when classes attend self-guided tours with their teachers.



How do I apply for the magnet program?

All students who wish to attend magnet programs must submit a Magnet School Application by the December deadline. Magnet applications must be submitted electronically. Links to magnet applications are available on the Newport News Public Schools website at www.nnschools.org/magnet. For additional assistance, please contact the NNPS Magnet Office at 757-283-7850 ext. #10206.

Transportation is provided to all magnet program students who reside in Newport News.



How can I find additional information?

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What does the program require of parents?

Parents are expected to:

- Adhere to a parent/student/school magnet contract
- Uphold the magnet's standards and expectations in student academics, behavior, attendance and work study skills
- Communicate regularly with teachers and provide study time at home for nightly reading and homework

Who is eligible?

All NNPS students are eligible to apply for the Environmental Science magnet program, which serves kindergarten through fifth grade. Students are selected by computer lottery. Kindergarten through 4th grade siblings of current year Environmental Science magnet students receive priority admission for the following school year.

