



# Marine Science/ Pre-Advanced Placement

Booker T. Washington Middle School

3700 Chestnut Ave. • Newport News, VA 23607



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## What is the Marine Science/Pre-Advanced Placement Magnet Program?

Magnet students will learn in a small, personalized setting where, in addition to a solid foundation in English, math, social studies, science and physical education, they will focus on marine science. Students focus on various aspects of the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and its watershed, while also learning the core science curricula. Sixth grade marine science students are introduced to life in the bay. In seventh grade, students study anatomy, life histories, conservation, invasive species and the interconnectedness of nature while focusing on submerged aquatic vegetation, blue crabs, oysters, fish, marine mammals and more. Eighth grade topics include properties of water, tides, currents, bathymetry, wetlands and global climate change. Students are introduced to essential academic skills associated with Advanced Placement courses, including vocabulary, writing and communication skills. All core curriculum areas as well as world languages, fine arts and other related arts classes are integrated within the marine science focus.



## What is distinctive about the magnet program?

- The magnet program allows middle school students to explore Virginia's coastal habitats with an emphasis on appreciation of the environment and conservation of the coastal ecosystem. It incorporates hands-on field and laboratory experiences that focus on marine science.
- The aquatics laboratory is a unique classroom setting, housing more than 20 saltwater and freshwater tanks, including a 450-gallon tank. These tanks are home to various species of fish and invertebrates native to the Chesapeake Bay, many of which are collected on the previously mentioned field trips. Students assume responsibility for feeding the animals and caring for their tanks.
- The magnet program partners with science museums, colleges and universities, environmental agencies and local businesses and is involved in several action and community service projects:
  - The school grows oysters and plants them on a sanctuary reef and also grows underwater grasses to plant in the James River.
  - As a part of the Trout in the Classroom program, Trout Unlimited helps our seventh grade science classroom raise brook trout from eggs to fingerlings.
  - The school also takes part in area cleanups in association with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the City of Newport News Recycling Department.

## Who is eligible?

All rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to apply. This magnet program allows students interested in marine science to pursue their interest in a rigorous academic environment using the immediate surroundings as an extension of the school building.

Students are selected by computer lottery. Siblings of current B.T. Washington Middle School sixth and seventh grade magnet students will receive priority admission for the following school year.



## 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](http://www.nnschools.org/magnet). For additional assistance, please contact the NNPS Magnet Office at 757-283-7850 ext. #10206.

## Where do students go after the magnet program?

Students from the Marine Science/Pre-Advanced Placement magnet program are prepared for any high school program and entrance into Advanced Placement classes.

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

## How can I find additional information?

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