

What is an Environmental Science magnet program?

Deer Park Elementary is the 2016 National Blue Ribbon School recognized in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category. 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. 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.

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 taught to them 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.



How can I find additional information?

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Environmental Science MAGNET PROGRAM



Deer Park Elementary School

Discover, Protect, Explore, Share
Planting the Seeds of Success!



Environmental Science Magnet Program

Deer Park Elementary School

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.

Who is eligible?



All students are eligible to apply for the Environmental Science magnet program, which serves kindergarten through fifth grade. Students are selected by computer lottery. Students currently enrolled and their siblings will have priority.

What does the program require of parents?

Parents are expected to:

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

What is distinctive about the magnet program?

- Deer Park has a partnership with the Virginia Living Museum (VLM). Classes take monthly walking field experiences and participate in educational programs the museum offers at no cost to the school.
- Deer Park has been a Model Level school for the Elizabeth River Project since 2012 by implementing conservation (recycling, litter clean-ups, energy conservation) projects and restoration (erosion, growing and planting specific plants on the Elizabeth River banks) projects. Students also participate in habitat enhancement projects such as raising/tagging Monarch butterflies, growing a butterfly garden, making bat houses to provide environmental friendly insect control and growing food for our school's animals.
- Another unique feature is that each classroom houses "fin, feather, fur or scale" animals. There are over fifty exhibits/habitats within the school. Students research and create informational posters to display beside each one. Students learn about compassion and responsibility by caring for classroom pets and animal habitats.
- The outdoor courtyard is an extension of the classroom and a key component of our ongoing environmental learning. It provides 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 various community organizations.

Where do students go after the magnet program?

Students from Deer Park are prepared for any middle school and will have priority admission to Crittenden Middle School's STEM magnet program. However, students may also apply to B. T. Washington or Huntington Middle Schools' magnet programs during the magnet application timeline.

How do I apply for the program?

All students who wish to attend magnet programs must submit a Magnet School Application by the January deadline. Applications are available at any Newport News school, the Administration Building and on the Newport News Public Schools website at www.nnschools.org/magnet.

Transportation is provided to all magnet programs.



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