

What is an Environmental Science Magnet Program?

The Environmental Science Magnet Program will give children a comprehensive and well-balanced academic program built around the integrating themes of land, water and air. The program will expose children to an environment that emphasizes discovery and exploration through collaborative study, scientific research and use of scientific tools and technology.

As an Environmental Magnet School, our goal is to educate children to become responsible citizens who take an active part in protecting and caring for the world around us. Our mission is to provide a strong educational program through hands-on learning and critical thinking. Our school's success is due to a team effort involving students, parents, teachers, staff members and the community.

This school, like all Newport News elementary schools is built around the same core curriculum and meets all state standards of learning. In addition to a curriculum designed around environmental science, children in the magnet program will receive a solid foundation in reading and writing, math, science, social studies, music, art, health and physical education.

Students from Deer Park will be well prepared for any middle school. They have priority for admissions to Crittenden Middle School if they choose or can apply to Booker T. Washington or Huntington Magnet Middle school. Crittenden Magnet students, in turn, have priority for admission to the Engineering and Technology Magnet at Heritage High School.



What are the main themes of the magnet program?

Deer Park has three major themes that alternate from year to year: Air, Land, and Water. Within each theme, habitats and ecosystems will be emphasized. A student that enters Deer Park in kindergarten and remains through fifth grade, will have the opportunity to study the themes twice.



Environmental Science
Magnet Program

Deer Park Elementary

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Who is eligible?

All children are welcome to apply for the Environmental Science Magnet Program. Students will be selected by computer lottery. Siblings of students already enrolled in the magnet program have priority.

What does the program require of parents?

Parents are expected to:

- Sign and adhere to a parent/student/school contract
- Uphold the magnet program's standards and expectations
- Communicate regularly with teachers and provide daily study time at home
- Be involved in their children's education and school activities

What is distinctive about the magnet program?

- Deer Park has a partnership with Virginia Living Museum and various environmental agencies.
- Deer Park is recognized as 2011 River Stars School that is involved with the Elizabeth River watershed, ecosystem, stewardship, and restoration efforts.
- Deer Park received the Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award for exceeding the Commonwealth's rigorous Standards of Learning program and the federal accountability requirements for the last two consecutive years. In addition this recognition measured the progress of students toward advanced proficiency and excellence in reading, mathematics, science, history and social studies.
- Classroom pets and animal habitats are cared for by students. Parents have certain obligations in taking home animals and caring for them during the holidays and summer break.
- Deer Park Staff provides a strong environmental education program necessary for students to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum taught to them through Environmental Projects. Various simulated ecosystems (vivariums) are exhibited throughout the school.
- Each grade level is assigned a certain section of the courtyard to maintain. Examples: 2nd grade-the butterfly garden; 1st and 3rd grade alternate and grow winter vegetables in raised beds for the rabbits, guinea pigs, and reptiles; 5th grade has a pond whereby the life cycle of the frog can be seen so that they compare real life experiences vs. what they read in books.
- Various herbs are also grown inside under grow lights by the 4th and 5th graders.
- Deer Park teachers have a fin, fur or reptile in their classrooms. Some have all three!

How do I apply for the program?

All students who wish to attend magnet programs must apply by submitting a Magnet School Application Form. Application forms are available from any Newport News school, from the Administration Building, 12465 Warwick Boulevard, or from Newport News Public Schools website at www.nnschools.org/magnet

Transportation is provided to all magnet programs.

How can I get more information?

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