



Odyssey/Magellan Magnet School Guidebook

Vision

Provide programming and services to students with highly gifted learning needs in the area of general intellect.

Mission

Odyssey/Magellan is designed to meet the needs of students in grades 3 through 8 who are highly gifted. Highly gifted learners are best served through fast-paced instruction, a more rigorous curriculum, and social-emotional considerations to help attain the goal of producing well-educated, self-confident, productive, lifelong learners.

Educational Goals

- In order to provide a supportive and responsive environment that will appropriately challenge each student's abilities and creativity through a fast-paced, in-depth and rigorous curriculum, Odyssey/Magellan staff will engage in a continuous school improvement planning process;
- To provide students support in identifying and developing their unique talents and abilities;
- To provide students an opportunity to learn with intellectual peers – both independently and in partnership;
- To motivate students to meet high standards of achievement and persist through difficulties and challenges, resulting in the development of self-esteem;
- To provide students a learning environment that fosters integrity, personal responsibility, citizenship, an appreciation of diversity, and respect for others;
- To give students access to teachers who have higher level expertise in subject areas and specialized training in meeting the needs of highly gifted learners;
- To involve parents in the learning process and provide opportunities for understanding and nurturing the unique talents of their children;
- To provide social-emotional support that enables students to better understand and embrace their gifts.

Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction

- Odyssey/Magellan Magnet School will participate in the statewide assessment program and may choose to participate in district-wide assessments as appropriate.
- The curriculum is designed to meet the specific needs of the highly gifted population. Students have the opportunity to move at a faster pace, go into more detail and complexity in order to reach their fullest potential. Curriculum generally follows the AASD curriculum, but allows for staff to make necessary changes to meet the needs of a highly gifted learner. Students will have access to specific strategies and best practice

for their unique learning styles including but not limited to acceleration, rigor, depth, projects, world language, technology, social-emotional supports, and positive behavior education.

- High impact instructional practices will be employed within Odyssey/Magellan learning environments to support the continuous growth of our highly gifted learners.

Identification and Enrollment

- Students must be identified as highly gifted in general intellectual ability and must meet specific criteria as outlined by the AASD Identification Process: *Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners*
- Eligible students will be invited to submit the *Intent to Enroll* form before the last Friday in February in order to fill the third grade class. A lottery system will be used, after the students are selected through the lottery, any remaining students will be put on a waiting list. Enrollment after the last Friday in February date is allowed. If students qualify they will either be able to enroll immediately or will be put on the waiting list in the order they submitted the *Intent to Enroll*. If administration determines that seats are available, students will be invited to attend. If a student declines, the administration will call the next student on the waiting list. All students who are enrolled can continue to attend Odyssey-Magellan as the need for their learning remains a good fit.
- Odyssey-Magellan is a service provided by AASD to meet the needs of our highly gifted learners. Therefore, Odyssey-Magellan will reserve the majority of the seats for AASD students and preference will be given to students who attend AASD schools. If a student from outside of the AASD is enrolled, they can remain with Odyssey-Magellan throughout the program. A separate waiting list will be created for students who enroll from outside the district. Decisions on availability will be at the discretion of the administration.
- Class sizes will remain at an optimal level to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of highly gifted learners.

Budget/Funding

Odyssey/Magellan is funded in the same manner as other AASD schools.

Professional Development

As Odyssey/Magellan aspires to produce lifelong learners, it highly values educators who have that same passion for learning. Odyssey/Magellan staff will be engaged in professional development to support continuous improvement responsive to the needs of our highly gifted learners.

Evaluation Plans

Odyssey/Magellan staff are AASD employees and will be evaluated as such.

Advisory Council

As Odyssey/Magellan desires to involve families in the learning process, it maintains an Advisory Council that includes both staff and family members. The Advisory Council is a vehicle for parents/guardians to let their voices be heard and assist in decision-making for the school. The Advisory Council will consist of three to five parents/guardians, Odyssey/Magellan staff and administration.

Administration

The Talented and Gifted Coordinator will work collaboratively with the assigned principals to oversee and lead Odyssey/Magellan Magnet School.

Transportation

Students attending Odyssey have the opportunity to utilize existing school bus routes.

Areas not specifically addressed in this document will be subject to district policy and guidelines.