



East Baton Rouge Parish School System
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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 20, 2008

EBRPSS MAGNET, GIFTED PROGRAMS HOLDING OPEN HOUSES

Baton Rouge, La. – Transforming learning. That’s what the **Gifted and Talented and the Magnet programs are doing in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS)**. Now parents, guardians and students have a chance to get more information about the programs first hand thanks to **a series of open houses at the school sites**. Enrollment for the programs is now underway.

From October 20 through October 26, various EBRPSS schools where the programs are offered are holding open houses. They are open to the public and generally held during the school day on different dates, depending on the site. **A complete schedule for both programs’ open houses is attached, and they also are listed on www.ebrschools.org (right-hand side of the home page).**

The Gifted Program is an educational program for students identified as gifted in grades Pre-K through 12 who are enrolled in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Classes provide a high degree of complexity and extend beyond the prescribed curriculum offered in regular classes. All classes are taught by teachers certified in Gifted Education and have a reduced class size in order to individualize each student’s educational program.

The Talented Arts Program is an educational program for students identified as talented in visual arts, music or theater in grades K through 12 and enrolled in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Classes provided in these disciplines are designed to provide experiences that enable the talented student to further develop demonstrated skills, increase discipline knowledge and grow as an artist.

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The **School System's Pupil Appraisal Services Department** conducts screenings and evaluations for gifted and talented students. This is offered through the child's current school or by calling **the department at (225) 929-8600. For more information, contact Supervisor Sherry Scardina at (225) 929-8642 or visit www.ebrschools.org.**

Magnet programs are high-achieving programs for the student in grades K-12. They offer advanced study, extended day services (elementary), expanded elective offerings, and educational choice. Magnet programs offered are Academic, Business & Law, Foreign Language Immersion, Math, Science & Emerging Technologies, Montessori and Visual & Performing Arts. Magnet Programs have no tuition fees and offer advanced courses of study, expanded elective offerings, lower student-teacher ratios and educational choice, among other things.

Middle and high school applicants must meet the following criteria: a 2.5 grade point average for the last four consecutive semesters, proficient or above in English-Language Arts (ELA) and Math on the iLEAP (criterion-referenced) Test and proficient scores in English-Language Arts (ELA) and Math on the LEAP (criterion-referenced) Test. Additional requirements may be necessary to complete the application process.

Centers for Excellence are highly-specialized programs operating within-a-school featuring a voluntary, open-admissions policy. These programs will provide a challenging atmosphere and unique opportunity for all students in an accelerated learning environment with specialized theme offerings. Students who complete these programs enable themselves to pursue further studies in higher education or proceed directly into the workforce.

For a list of Magnet schools and their programs, visit www.ebrschools.org or call Carlos Sam, director of Innovative and Special Programs, at (225) 922-5443 or Theresa Porter, recruiter for Magnet Programs, at (225) 922-5443.

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