



The National Association of Magnet and Theme-Based Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Magnet Schools of America Announces New Cohort of Nationally Certified Magnet Schools

Washington, DC, August 17, 2018— Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association of magnet and theme-based schools, announces a new cohort of nationally certified magnet schools for 2018. These 22 schools located in 12 states successfully completed a nine-month evaluation process and demonstrated through evidence, reflection, and strategic action that they have established the Magnet School [Standards of Excellence](#) in their schools.

The national certification process is based on the Magnet School Standards of Excellence and the [five pillars](#) of magnet schools (diversity; innovative curriculum and professional development; academic excellence; high quality instructional systems; and, family and community partnerships). These pillars and standards define the essential elements and characteristics of high-quality magnet programs.

To become nationally certified, schools submitted a detailed application and participated in a rigorous evaluation conducted by MSA. The application process required schools to submit evidence demonstrating how they met each of the multiple indicators included in the Standards of Excellence. This included providing specific examples of how the school was promoting school diversity, closing the achievement gap, integrating a theme-based curriculum throughout the school, and encouraging parent and community involvement.

Among the cohort of nationally certified schools, three were identified as **National Demonstration Schools**. These schools exceeded the criteria outlined in the Standards of Excellence and are models that should be closely observed and replicated. The Demonstration Schools will serve as innovation laboratories for others to learn best practices in theme-based education.

“The certification process recognizes the highest quality schools in public education. Nationally certified magnet schools illustrate and emulate rigorous theme-based curriculum, ensure diverse settings in which students thrive and are prepared for college and career,” said Kelly Bucherie, Director for Magnet School Leadership, Magnet Schools of America.

The newest cohort increases the total number of nationally certified magnet schools to 115 schools. Among these certified schools, 18 have been designated as National Demonstration Schools. Additional magnet schools are going through the national certification application process this school year. All newly certified magnet schools will be recognized during a ceremony held at Magnet Schools of America’s 37th National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on April 10-13, 2019.

For more information, about the Magnet Schools of America Standards of Excellence Certification Program, please visit: <http://www.magnetschools.info/certification/national-certification>

###

Media Contact: Kelly Bucherie, National Director for Magnet School Leadership
 kelly.bucherie@magnet.edu, (702) 326-5136

About MSA: Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a nonprofit education association that was founded in 1986. It represents more than 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 million students. MSA supports and serves the leaders and teachers of magnet and theme-based schools, while promoting the development of new magnet programs and public schools of choice. It also provides technical assistance through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL).

National Demonstration Schools

Coral Gables Senior High School	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Ridgecrest Elementary Center for Gifted Studies	Pinellas County Schools	FL

Nationally Certified Magnet Schools

Heard Magnet School	Dothan City Schools	AL
Bear Exploration Center for Mathematics, Science, & Technology	Montgomery Public Schools	AL
Science & Technology Magnet School of Southeastern Connecticut	New London Public Schools	CT
Wilton Manors Elementary School	Broward County Public Schools	FL
Lincoln Elementary Magnet School	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Howard Middle School Academy of Arts	Orange County Public Schools	FL
Walt Disney Magnet School	Chicago Public Schools	IL
Frederick Law Olmsted Academy South	Jefferson County Schools	KY
T.S. Cooley Elementary Magnet School	Calcasieu Parish Public School System	LA
McKinley Middle Magnet School	East Baton Rouge Parish Schools	LA
The Dufrocq School	East Baton Rouge Parish Schools	LA
Weaver Lake Elementary: A Science, Math, and Technology School	Osseo Area School District	MN
Highland Mill Montessori Elementary School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
J.M. Alexander Middle School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC

Coronado Elementary School	Albuquerque Public Schools	NM
K. O. Knudson Middle School	Clark County School District	NV
The STEAM Academy at Jim Bridger Middle School	Clark County School District	NV
Irmo High School - International School for the Arts	District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties	SC
Ball High School - Media Arts & Digital Technologies Magnet	Galveston Independent School District	TX