

**Jodi Bongard, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education**

January 2019

TO: Families of Issaquah School District 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

FROM: Page Perey, Director of Elementary Special Programs  
Susan Mundell, Executive Director of Elementary Education

RE: Science Technology Magnet Program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

This letter is to inform families of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students about the Issaquah School District Science Technology Magnet Program choice options for grades 4 and 5. This letter contains information about the programs, required informational meeting dates and application procedures.

The Science and Technology Magnet Programs are located at Briarwood, Cascade Ridge and Clark Elementary Schools and provide the standard district curriculum for those grades with a stronger emphasis on science and technology. The mission of the program is to engage students through collaborative innovative problem solving that applies to real world situations. The program educates students through the intentional integration of science and technology, empowers students by fostering curiosity and discovery, and supports students to persevere through challenges.

The Science and Technology Magnet Programs serve approximately 25 students per grade in a multi-age classroom. Fourth grade students continue in the program the following year as 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Both boys and girls are welcome and thrive in the classes. Typically, successful students are independent learners, enjoy inquiry learning and work well in a team situation.

Due to very high demand for these choice programs families are asked to select and apply to only one school's program. **Transportation to each program is the responsibility of the families.**

Applications for enrollment are currently being offered to district 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade openings next year in all programs. Students will be selected through a lottery from all district elementary schools with an attempt to balance the enrollment between schools. Spaces will be assigned by the boundary school in the attendance area your student resides for each program location separately. After classroom lists are selected, a wait list will be formed, and students will be admitted as spaces occur until school starts. Spaces for 5<sup>th</sup> grade at all locations are limited and families currently on the established wait lists will be contacted to fill any available spots. All siblings, including twins, will be considered individually in the lottery.

Families who intend to enroll their student must attend one of the informational meetings and pick up application forms at that time. Application forms **are only available** at the informational meetings. (For those families who have had a student previously enrolled in the program, attendance at the informational meeting is not required. Forms may be obtained at your school's office.) Application forms must be returned no later than **Monday, April 15, 2019**, to the District office. All application requests received by April 15<sup>th</sup> will be treated equally in the lottery. Forms received after the deadline will be dated in the order received and placed on the wait list following students placed initially from the original lottery. The Science and Technology Magnet Program lottery is scheduled for April 17, 2019 at 2:30 PM at the King County Library building located at 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah 98027.

**Placement letters will be sent home in May. Please do not contact the schools, teachers or the District office for lottery results. This information will be sent by mail only.**

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE REQUIRED INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

## Program Offerings

The Issaquah School District offers three Science and Technology Magnet Programs, serving 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in unique multi-age classrooms. Each magnet serves 50+ students in a two-year program. Each program covers all standard 4/5 district adopted curriculum, with an added emphasis on science and technology. Grade specific math instruction is provided.

Magnet programs are located at Briarwood, Clark, and Cascade Ridge Elementary schools, with each program fully integrated into the home school. Each school offers expanded science – technology learning opportunities.

## Teaching Approaches and Student Learning

Magnet programs are housed in joined classrooms and instructed using a team teaching approach. This setting builds collaboration skills and promotes a strong sense of community. At the same time, the larger classroom setting necessitates organizational strategies that help develop student independence. Additionally, the larger class size allows for large whole group discussions offering unique opportunities to develop listening, critical thinking and oral presentation skills.

Learning stations are used to target specific curricular goals. Students often work in small groups to provide focused, individualized instruction; this practice is supported by numerous parent volunteers.

Coverage of curriculum is rigorous. Project-based learning, with a variety of product options, is a key component of the magnet philosophy. Projects are designed to incorporate many subject areas (including language arts, social studies, math and the arts) and involve the use of technology to increase student involvement and engagement. A variety of formats are used to promote literacy and writing skills across the curriculum, (such as Writer's Workshop, Reader's Workshop, and current events reporting). The district science curriculum, which includes engineering design, is expanded through the use of simulations, field trips, guest speakers and experiences focused on scientific process and investigation. All of these approaches are designed to encourage creativity and draw personal connections to real-world application of the concepts under study.

### Science Technology Magnet Program at Cascade Ridge Elementary

<https://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/cascade/staff/science-tech-ca/>

Parents interested in having their student attend the Cascade Ridge program should attend the informational meeting in the multipurpose room on **Tuesday, March 5** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to bring your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student (no siblings please) to this presentation. Current students will be present to answer questions as well.

### Science Technology Magnet Program at Clark Elementary

<https://clkscitech.weebly.com/>

Parents interested in having their student attend the Clark program should attend the informational meeting in the multipurpose room at Clark on **Thursday, March 14** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. You may bring your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student (no siblings please) to this presentation.

### Science Technology Magnet Program at Briarwood Elementary

<https://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/briarwood/staff/niemic/>

Parents interested in having their student attend the Briarwood program should come to our informational meeting on **Thursday, March 21st**. The presentation will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the commons. You are encouraged to bring your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student (no siblings please) to this presentation. Current students will be present to answer questions as well.

If you have additional questions, please call Betsy Gorman at 425-837-7120