

# Burlington Magnet Schools 2009



*Join us for our first year*

# **Vermont's First Magnet Schools: Our Foundation is Strong**

- **Four years of research and community conversations about equity and innovation**
- **Choice, not redistricting**
- **Our magnet school themes are the result of strong community partnerships, involved parents, and committed educators**

# The Academy for Integrated Arts at H.O. Wheeler

Inspiring young minds, nurturing the imagination,  
and engaging the whole child to achieve academic  
excellence through the arts

Your child may:

- Dance the lifecycle of a seed
- Dramatically re-enact the struggle of the civil rights movement
- Demonstrate the differences between cloud formations with collage



# The Academy for Sustainability at Lawrence Barnes

Engaging young citizens to make a difference in the community by exploring our diverse society, our local economy, and the environment through hands-on projects

## Your child may:

- Study immigration by interviewing neighbors and creating a photography exhibit
- Build and conduct research in an urban schoolyard habitat
- Learn about food cycles by surveying farmers and eating locally-grown food



# The Magnet Difference: Curriculum

**All children are different and one size does not fit all when it comes to learning styles**

- **These dynamic alternative schools were created to offer options for children and families who seek a unique learning environment**
- **All our schools offer comprehensive academic and enrichment programs from 8:10 a.m. through 5:15 p.m. Magnet themes will continue in the afterschool programs**
- **Magnet schools adhere to the same Vermont academic standards as our other elementary schools. Themes enhance, not replace, core subjects of reading, math, writing, science, etc.**



# The Magnet Difference: Teachers

- All magnet teachers have participated in intensive professional development related to the magnet theme for their school, in addition to District-wide training
- Magnet school teachers choose to teach at the magnet school, or have the option to transfer to another district school
- Professional development will continue to support new ways of teaching and learning



# The Magnet Difference: More Partnerships

## Integrated Arts:

- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
- Saint Michael's College Graduate Arts in Education Program
- Vermont Youth Orchestra
- Very Merry Theater

## Sustainability:

- Shelburne Farms
- Sustainable Schools Project
- Intervale Foundation
- Burlington Schools Food Project



# **The Magnet Difference : Socio-Economic Integration**

- **Socio-economic integration means that all schools in the District share a similar balance of students, based on free or reduced price meal status**
- **Socio-economic integration is one of the ways the Burlington School District is addressing achievement gaps between our diverse student populations**
- **We anticipate a six year time line to full integration of the Lawrence Barnes and H.O. Wheeler schools, starting with the kindergarten class entering in Fall, 2009, and adding a new integrated grade with each incoming class through Fall, 2014. No child presently enrolled will be asked to leave**

# Magnet Schools Application Process

- Families who desire a magnet school placement will complete an extra application form, and are asked to register early, between March 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Regular Kindergarten registration is March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- Applications will be available at your local school, on our websites at [www.bsdrv.org](http://www.bsdrv.org) and [www.bsdmagnet.com](http://www.bsdmagnet.com), and at BSD's main office at 150 Colchester Avenue. Return completed applications to your local school

# Magnet Schools Application Process

## Who should apply?

- **Incoming Kindergarten students from all over the city who are interested in attending one of our magnet schools and are willing to make a one-year commitment to attending the magnet school**
- **Current K – 4 students in Flynn, Champlain, Smith, and Edmunds schools who are interested in attending one of our magnet schools and are willing to make a one-year commitment to attending the magnet school**

## Who shouldn't apply?

- **Current K – 4 students city-wide who wish to stay at their current school, including students presently at Barnes and Wheeler schools**

# MAGNET SCHOOLS APPLICATION FORM

**In addition to the District's comprehensive registration packet for new students, applicants for magnet school placement will also be asked to complete the following application form:**

**To apply to attend Lawrence Barnes or H.O. Wheeler magnet schools, please complete the following:**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Which magnet school do you prefer for your student?**

**The Academy for Integrated Arts at H.O. Wheeler**

**The Academy for Sustainability at Lawrence Barnes**

- Is there any special information about your child you would like us to know?**

# Magnet Schools Application Review Process

The criteria for evaluating magnet school applications include, and are weighted in the following order:

1. Contribution to socio-economic balance
2. Sibling placement
3. Proximity
4. School and classroom capacity

Parents will be notified of decisions by mail during the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>

- If a magnet school applicant is not assigned to a magnet school, families will be asked to choose another school in the district and also will be offered the opportunity to be added to a wait list for decisions in May
- Applications received after March 13 will be considered based upon available space

# For More Information

## Visit an Open House:

Academy for Integrated Arts Open House:

H.O. Wheeler School, 6 Archibald Street

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 a.m. or 5:30-7 p.m.

Or by appointment, contact Principal Joyce Irvine: [jirvine@bsdvt.org](mailto:jirvine@bsdvt.org) 864-8475

Academy for Sustainability Open House:

Lawrence Barnes School, 123 North Street

Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 a.m. or 5:30-7 p.m.

Or by appointment, contact Principal Paula Bowen: [pbowen@bsdvt.org](mailto:pbowen@bsdvt.org) 864-8480

## Visit our websites:

[www.bsdmagnet.com](http://www.bsdmagnet.com) or [www.bsdvt.org](http://www.bsdvt.org)

For general information:

[mkalman@bsdvt.org](mailto:mkalman@bsdvt.org)

802-864-8474

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