



OCPS magnets receive national recognition

National Certification, plus one Excellence and six Distinction ratings

Jan. 30, 2019 – Recognizing Orange County Public Schools’ outstanding magnet programs, the [Magnet Schools of America](#) honors eight schools for their superiority.

Howard Middle School became the first OCPS magnet to earn a four-year national certification, which is “designed to recognize the hard work of the best magnet schools in the nation.” They are one of 22 schools nationwide to earn this honor for the 2018 school year.

The certification process required Howard MS to provide evidences of its commitment to excellence and fulfillment of the [five pillars of magnet schools](#) over a two-year period. The MSA certification ensures the standards are consistent across all recipients.

“We are extremely proud to have Howard Middle School’s Academy of Arts recognized as a nationally certified magnet school. This is another example of what happens when our schools work with families and the community to lead our students to success,” Barbara Jenkins, superintendent, said.

Additionally, each year, MSA National Merit Awards recognize magnet schools that “demonstrate commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation and diversity efforts, and consistent delivery of high-quality educational services to all stakeholders.”

There are two levels of merit: Magnet School of Excellence Awards and Magnet School of Distinction Awards.

Lakeview Middle School earned an Excellence rating. This is the top award given to a select group of magnet programs that demonstrate the highest level of excellence in all areas of the application.

“We are thrilled that our World Language Academy has earned this incredible distinction. This shows the commitment that our students, parents and staff have to our magnet program,” Gracemarie Howland, principal, said. “Our teachers have a great rapport with their students and parents and are committed to making sure our students are successful. Earning this award showcases that commitment and we are honored to receive it.”

Hunter's Creek Elementary, Jackson Middle and Boone, Dr. Phillips, Oak Ridge and University high schools earned the Distinction award for fulfilling all of the scoring rubric requirements.

On April 13, MSA will recognize the prestigious national certification and the Excellence and Distinction programs at their national convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

(For more information, please contact Media Promotions at 407.317.3458)

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