



Magnet Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the hours of supervision?

The school day is from 9:30 A.M. – 3:50 P.M. Supervision is provided from 8:45 A.M. – 4:20 P.M. On early release days, students will be released at 1:20 P.M.

2. Does Cobb offer before & after school options for students?

Yes, Cobb offers before & after school options for students:

- Cobb offers a fee based before school program from 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
- Cobb offers a fee based after school program from 3:50 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
- The media center is open beginning at 8:45 a.m. for student use.
- Students in the Symphonic Band may practice in the band room Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Students in Jazz band may practice Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Computer labs are open to those students who have a pass from a teacher.
- Various clubs meet after school as well, please see the activities tab on the Cobb website.

3. Are magnet students in classes with non-magnet students?

Yes, magnet students may be in classes with non-magnet students. All elective courses, with the exception of the 6th Grade Research Science class are open to all students. Additionally, because placement in courses is based upon individual student needs, they may be in courses with non-magnet students.

4. Does the district provide transportation to students in the magnet program?

Transportation is only provided to students who are regularly zoned to attend Cobb and live in the qualifying transportation areas.

5. Are students required to take physical education?

No, per Florida Statute 1003.455 Physical Education the equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year is required for grades 6-8. The requirement will be waived for a student who is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial class; or if a parent indicates in writing (through selection of other elective courses) that the student enroll in another course; or if the student is participating in physical activity outside the school day which is equivalent to or in excess of the mandated requirement of one period. When a parent chooses electives other than physical education, the physical education requirement is waived.

6. How many high school credits can my student potentially earn while enrolled at Cobb?

Students can earn up to 8 credits through traditional face-to-face course offerings to include 1 credit for successful completion in each of the following courses:



- Algebra I or Honors Algebra I
- Honors Geometry
- Honors Earth Space Science
- Honors Biology or Honors Physical Science
- Latin I, French I or Spanish I (students may choose to take one foreign language course beginning in 7th grade)
- Latin II, French II or Spanish II
- Theatre
- Students may also choose to take Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE), a high school graduation requirement, through Virtual School during their 8th grade year.

7. Why should my child take foreign language in middle school?

While taking a foreign language in high school is not a requirement for a general high school diploma, Section 1007.261(1)(a), Florida Statutes, requires two credits of sequential foreign language instruction at the secondary level as a prerequisite for admission to all Florida state colleges and universities. A minimum of three years of one language or two years of two languages is required for many highly selective colleges. The most competitive colleges are looking for applicants with four years of foreign language, in the same language. Additionally, two years of foreign language (in the same language) is currently a requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with people from other countries and backgrounds, other benefits include improved overall school performance and superior problem-solving skills (e.g., Bamford & Mizokawa, 1991; see discussion in Hakuta, 1986. Students of foreign language tend to score higher on standardized tests. Results from the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) show that students who had studied a foreign language for 4 or more years outscored other students on the verbal and math portions of the test (The College Board SAT, 2003).

8. If my child does not follow the Magnet Track, will they be removed from the Magnet Program?

Yes, they will be removed from the Magnet Program. If Cobb is not the student's zoned school and they remain in good standing with their behavior and attendance, they may stay enrolled at Cobb. Expectations are: at least one high school core class in 7th grade & two in 8th grade.

9. Does my child have to know how to play an instrument before they take band?

No, a student does not have to have any prior experience playing a musical instrument before they take band.

10. What clubs and sports does Cobb offer?

Realizing that socialization plays an important role in growth and development, students are encouraged to join an adult sponsored group of their choice:

- Clubs: Junior BETA, Student Government Association, Green Team, Garden



Club, FIRST Lego League, Glee Club, Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), Mu Alpha Theta, Brain Bowl, Robotics, Drama Club, Chess, Space & Rocket and Black History Brain Bowl

• Sports: Girls'/Boys' Cross Country, /Girls'/Boys' Track, Girls'/Boys' Basketball, Girls'/Boys' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Fast Pitch Softball, and Tackle Football

11. What is the criteria for staying in the program?

Discipline

All students are expected to adhere to the school code of conduct. Failure to adhere to the following rules will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the Magnet Program and may result in immediate revocation of reassignment.

1. Magnet students may not receive more than two (2) Class I/Class II discipline referrals per nine weeks.
2. Magnet students may not receive any Class III referrals.
3. Magnet students are expected to earn 3's and 4's for citizenship.

Attendance

As per Administrative Procedure D-21A, Florida law requires all children from six to sixteen years of age to attend school regularly during the entire school term. Public school students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment is filed with the district school board by the student or parent/legal guardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age. Attendance is taken each period. Each student must be in his/her classroom at the time designated for the beginning of each class.

Requests for pre-excused absences must be submitted for approval three days in advance of the absence and must be for an excusable reason. The request must be in writing and with the understanding that the student bears the responsibility for getting and completing assignments. Pre-excused absences must be approved by all teachers and the principal. Pre-excused absence forms may be picked up in the main office.

If a student is absent due to illness for more than one week, the parent may wish to pick up assignments. This can be done by calling the school office at 488-3364. Upon return to school, the student must contact his/her teachers to finalize work missed. If there is a particular concern, the teacher should be contacted by the parent.

The Attendance Office will determine the status of the absence based on the Leon County Attendance Policy and issue the student a pass. Students who return to school after an absence and are not in possession of a note from the parent/guardian, are to report directly to their first period class. The written note must be presented to the Attendance Office no later than the second day of the student's return to school. Any questions in regard to attendance on the report card must be handled within one week of each nine-week grading period.



A student who is absent for illness more than ten days during a semester may be required to furnish medical verification for the absences to be excused.

Students who accumulate 5 or more unexcused absences per nine weeks will be placed on an Attendance Warning for the subsequent grading period. If at the end of the second grading period attendance has not improved, the student will be dismissed from the Magnet Program, possibly resulting in immediate revocation of reassignment.

Academics

All Magnet students are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA in all math, language arts, science and social studies classes and in all high school credit classes at all times. Student's academic progress will be monitored each nine weeks. Students who fall short of the 3.0 GPA minimum will be placed on Probation for the subsequent grading period. In addition they will be required to work with teachers to get back on track. Possible requests are:

- a. Have their agenda book signed each day by all core content teachers.
- b. Attend at least 4 help sessions in the 9-week period for all core classes in which they earned a grade of C, D or F.
- c. A parent/teacher conference may be required.

Students who still fall short of the 3.0 GPA in all math, language arts, science, and social studies classes and in all high school credit classes for the subsequent grading period may be dismissed from the Magnet Program and placed in more academically appropriate classes for the remainder of the school year and students not zoned for Cobb Middle School may have their reassignment revoked at the end of the school year. Students who do not maintain at least a B in high school level classes will be removed from the course prior to the end of the first semester.

References:

- Bamford, K.W., & Mizokawa, D.T. (1991). Additive-bilingual (immersion) education: Cognitive and Language Development. *Language Learning*, pp 41, 413-429.
- The SAT College Board, (2003). College-bound seniors: A profile of SAT program test takers. College Entrance Examination Board. Retrieved October 16, 2003, from <http://www.collegeboard.com>

