



DUVAL COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of School Choice

**PROPOSAL TO  
CHANGE, ADD OR MODIFY A MAGNET  
PROGRAM**

**Magnet School: John N.C. Stockton Elementary School**

**Current Magnet Program: Math, Science, and Technology**

**Date Submitted: 10/26/17 (this document was provided to principal on 10/10/17)**

**Convene a small planning team.**

A Design Team should include key staff members who are the decision makers for the school. This team should include staff representing all grades, subjects and disciplines (including a member of the resource team and staff).

**Proposed Design Team Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>What skills does this person bring to the team?</b>
<b>Stephanie Brannan</b>	Principal	Current leader of a GATE school/Gifted hub and pursuing Gifted Endorsement
<b>Bethany Patel</b>	Gifted Teacher (K-5th grades)	Math/Science teacher, initiated Robotics after-school programs, GATE teacher, pursuing Gifted Endorsement, parent of a gifted DCPS student
<b>Shelley Johnston</b>	Reading Coach (K-5th grades; gifted and general education)	Previous magnet lead teacher at 2 different schools, former Assistant Principal of Gifted hub school, parent of 2 gifted former DCPS students
<b>Johanna Willingham</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher	Lead Science teacher, STC, pursuing Gifted Endorsement, parent of a gifted former DCPS student, GATE teacher
<b>Amanda Buckley</b>	Office Assistant	Served on magnet committee at former school, primary contact for parents entering school, DCPS parent
<b>Jennifer Norton</b>	Gifted Teacher	Gifted Endorsed, GATE lead teacher, parent of 3 gifted DCPS students
<b>Elizabeth Starkweather</b>	Assistant Principal	Leader of a GATE school/Gifted hub, pursuing Gifted Endorsement
<b>Jennifer Watkins</b>	Third Grade Teacher Duval County Teachers Union Representative	Ms. Watkins teaches third grade and has been at Stockton for 14 years. She represents the teachers on the School Advisory Council. Ms. Watkins has a wealth of knowledge concerning Stockton's history and the needs of its students. She is also Gifted Endorsed.

<b>Bobbie Brewer</b>	Parent PTA President	Ms. Brewer serves as the school's PTA President. She is also a parent of 2nd and 4th grade students at Stockton and a child who attends Paxon School for Advanced Studies. She lives in the Stockton neighborhood and understands the needs of the community. She is an involved parent.
<b>Katie Dearing</b>	Parent School Advisory Council	Ms. Dearing serves as the chair of the School Advisory Council. She is also a parent of 1st and 4th grade students at Stockton. She lives in the Stockton neighborhood and understands the needs of that community. She is an involved parent.
<b>Molly Rattigan</b>	Parent Magnet Parent Representative Vice President of Friends of Stockton	Ms. Rattigan serves as the Vice President of Friends of Stockton, a non-profit serving the needs of Stockton's teachers and students through community and parent involvement and fundraising efforts. She is also a parent of magnet (non-neighborhood) 1st and 3rd grade students at Stockton and is an involved parent. She knows the concerns and wishes of the non-neighborhood magnet community and the broader business and area communities.

**Goals of Magnet:**

Duval County magnet schools have four basic goals:

1. To promote or maintain diversity;
2. To provide a unique or specialized curriculum or approach;
3. To improve academic achievement for all students participating in the magnet school or program; and
4. To stabilize student assignment.

Which one(s) of the magnet goals will the proposed magnet program support? (Check those that apply).

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promote or maintain diversity.</li> <li>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide a unique or specialized curriculum or approach.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve achievement for all students participating in the magnet school or program.</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stabilize student assignment.</li> </ol> |
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#### Why this goal?

A Gifted and Academically Talented magnet theme will satisfy all four of DCPS's basic goals.

By offering a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet theme, Stockton will attract a diverse student body from a broader geographic region, including students from the Mandarin and Westside areas – for whom there is not a closer Gifted and Academically Talented magnet school, or one with Stockton's culture of success stemming from its teachers and involved parents. Many Westside and other parents have inquired about their children attending a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet. However, the location of other successful magnet schools makes transportation an issue for some families. As a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet school, Stockton Elementary would attract a diverse group of students from the Westside, Mandarin and beyond, who would reflect a variety of cultures and who are interested in this type of program. Given Stockton's location, rich history and reputation among area parents, a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet theme would also attract parents who currently send their children to private elementary schools.

As DCPS recognized when it chose Stockton to implement the GATE pilot program, Stockton is uniquely positioned to offer a specialized curriculum that benefits all students. Currently, the west side of Jacksonville needs a strong elementary gifted and academically talented magnet school. John Stockton already has 3 full dedicated Gifted and Academically Talented Education (GATE) classes in grades 3-5 served by 7 teachers who will be gifted endorsed by the spring of 2018. Many teachers use gifted strategies and resources for the enrichment of all learners (GATE and general education students alike) through encouraging deeper understanding in all subject areas. These recent changes in the delivery of gifted services through Stockton's implementation of the GATE program reveals that all Stockton students are currently benefitting more from gifted and academically talented instruction methods than from the offerings provided by virtue of its Science, Technology and Mathematics magnet theme. In addition, Stockton provides gifted services as the gifted hub for 11 DCPS surrounding charter and private schools. As a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet, Stockton could attract those students more permanently, offering a gifted curriculum to those students more than one day per week. As a gifted hub and a GATE school, Stockton is well-positioned to expand its specialized application of best practices to the differentiated instruction of all students. Additionally, changing Stockton's magnet status ensures curriculum continuity for students to the parent-preferred gifted and academically talented magnet middle schools, preventing students from exiting DCPS in fifth grade.

A Gifted and Academically Talented theme at Stockton will also improve achievement for all students, and help DCPS achieve its goal of meeting the needs of "Every School. Every Classroom. Every Student. Every Day." by providing an enriching and challenging education where all children are taught to seek, explore, discover, and develop their minds to the fullest potential. Stockton teachers will not only continue to meet the needs of the children staffed gifted, but they would be better equipped to further employ gifted strategies to meet the needs of both academically talented children and those who need more differentiated assistance. Additionally, Stockton will continue to implement its science and technology offerings, which benefit all children and are currently provided primarily by PTA, teacher volunteers and Stockton's affiliated non-profit.

What will the school do to recruit students to obtain this goal?

Stockton Elementary staff members will work collaboratively with the School Choice office in order to market and recruit students to our magnet program. In January, our staff members will set up an informational booth at the School Choice Expo in order to attract prospective students from diverse geographic, racial, cultural and socio-economic areas. Although Stockton's reputation and neighborhood has always attracted students, a Gifted and Academically Talented theme will enable retention in intermediate grades prior to students transitioning to middle school. Currently, we lose students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to charter and private schools as Stockton parents and students prefer specific middle schools within DCPS. If we changed our magnet status, the possibility of the preferred schools could be used as a recruitment strategy in order to retain DCPS students, and attract students who would otherwise attend private elementary schools from the beginning. We would also continue our "Middle School Magnet Night" where our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents are invited to Stockton so that they can visit rooms with speakers from various middle schools around DCPS. This is an opportunity for parents to hear about the great things going on in Duval County's middle schools prior to School Choice Expo.

**What new magnet theme is the school proposing?**

**Gifted and Academically Talented**

How did you select this theme? Describe how you will acquire sufficient information about the magnet theme in order to implement it effectively at your school site.

This theme was selected in order to meet the needs of the current student population, to ensure more continuity in the middle school transition given the middle school choices Stockton parents and students make, and to retain students who leave Stockton early for reasons related to middle school. In addition, this theme will attract incoming students from a broader geographic area for available seats, and students from area private schools.

Because Stockton was selected to be an initial GATE pilot school, educators have already been immersed in best practices for gifted and academically talented learners and have already begun to implement instruction consistent with a gifted and academically talented magnet theme. Stockton teachers and administrators visited Jacksonville Beach Elementary School last school year to gain a better understanding into the implementation of the GATE program. Stockton staff will continue to visit with other gifted and academically talented elementary schools to gain a better understanding of school-wide offerings and theme implementation options, and with gifted and academically talented middle schools to ensure that our programming will provide continuity to their programs. Stockton will work closely with DCPS regarding instructional programming for gifted students, and will research elementary Gifted and Academically Talented programs in Duval County and around the nation to explore what has worked for other schools that might be implemented at Stockton.

**Components of proposed magnet:**

Describe the components of the proposed magnet program. What are the characteristics that will make it unique and set it apart from the education/program available in a traditional school setting?

Classrooms will incorporate group work to develop leadership and communication skills; project based learning for depth and breadth of understanding; choice boards to foster engagement and ownership; critical thinking to hone problem solving skills; and research projects to better prepare students for middle school. These are all current strategies that are being implemented at Stockton within the GATE classes and in some general education classes. Stockton would continue professional development in these areas so that all of the teachers are immersing the students in these best practices. Programming for all students will be designed to provide appropriate differentiated challenges and opportunities for growth. For those students staffed gifted, programming will also foster optimal social-emotional interactions and growth.

How will the program enhance academic achievement?

Through the use of the best practices referenced above, all students (GATE and general education students) will benefit academically, as evidenced by district and state assessments. These best practice strategies will foster more well-rounded students who are better prepared for middle school, and will help students develop the skills needed to be responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

How will the proposed theme be implemented throughout the school?

With the adoption of the GATE pilot program, Stockton has implemented several aspects of the proposed theme already. Last year Stockton adopted an inclusionary academic setting for students staffed gifted in third through fifth grades. This model allows students to pursue topics in greater depth, to find a deeper level of cognitive challenge, and advance through activities at a faster pace. As a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet school, Stockton will continue to offer this model of GATE services and strategies to students staffed gifted in these grades.

For students in grades K-2 (at Stockton or a hub school) who are staffed gifted, Stockton will continue to serve those students through an enrichment class in a pull-out setting. However, the best practices and strategies employed throughout the school by more gifted endorsed teachers in all grades will provide these students with opportunities for growth and development more than one day a week.

For students in all grades who are not staffed gifted, teachers will continue to use the best practices detailed above to ensure differentiated enrichment services are offered in each classroom so that each student reaches his or her potential, develops a sense of self, and sets and achieves personal and academic goals.

Additionally, Stockton has applied for a PITSCO science lab, which, if awarded, will provide teachers with an additional tool for differentiated instruction, and students with opportunities to think creatively, to explore, discover, and develop their minds to the fullest potential.

What staff will you need to hire to implement the magnet theme at your school? How will you fund this staff?

By spring 2018, one third of the John Stockton faculty will be gifted endorsed. Other staff members are also pursuing gifted endorsement or have shown interest. However, due to limited seats within the Gifted Endorsement classes, not all interested parties have been able to participate. The only funding necessary would be for DCPS to allow additional teachers to participate in the Gifted Endorsement classes. There would be no additional staff or funding needed from the school's perspective.

List the anticipated cost of implementing the new magnet program. How will the school fund the program?

There will be no additional costs associated with implementing this new magnet program at John Stockton.

How will you integrate your proposed theme into the regular curriculum?

Classrooms will incorporate group work to develop leadership and communication skills; project based learning for depth and breadth of understanding; choice boards to foster engagement and ownership; critical thinking to hone problem solving skills; and research projects to better prepare students for middle school.

Describe the activities (including training) that you will implement to ensure faculty, staff and community support and buy-in for the new magnet theme.

The Design Team has already worked hard to secure buy-in for a theme change to a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet. This proposal was first discussed by the School Advisory Council (SAC) in May 2017, and approved by SAC in September 2017. The proposed theme change has been considered by, and is supported by, Stockton's affiliated non-profit, Friends of Stockton. A community meeting was held on October 19, 2017, where all stakeholders were invited to learn more about this proposal. A vote of the full PTA after that meeting resulted in overwhelming support for the proposed theme change. Faculty (some of whom had considered this change years ago) and staff were involved with the Design Team and support this proposal. Teachers and administrators are in the process of becoming gifted endorsed, with additional professional development opportunities provided through school, district, and state conferences. In the event the proposal is accepted, teachers would continue to pursue Gifted Endorsement classes until the majority are fully endorsed. Stockton's Design Team will continue whatever work is necessary to ensure the support of Stockton's stakeholders.

List schools/programs that you plan to visit in order to observe the magnet program theme in operation.

Stockton teachers and administrators visited Jacksonville Beach Elementary School last school year to gain a better understanding into the implementation of the GATE program and school-wide offerings at a Gifted and Academically Talented magnet. If this proposal is accepted, additional faculty members will visit Jacksonville Beach Elementary School and Holiday Hill Elementary School. Administration and staff will also visit schools in nearby counties that offer gifted and academically talented services so that Stockton can gain a larger perspective on ways to fully implement this program effectively and efficiently.

Describe how the condition of your facility will support the magnet program.

No special conditions are required to implement this magnet program change.

Unless otherwise stated by the District, all magnet programs are “whole school” programs. How will the school differentiate the proposed theme to meet the needs of all students?

Each child’s abilities require differentiated learning experiences and opportunities to maximize potential. Given the diverse socio-economic and academic makeup of the Stockton student body, Stockton teachers are already adept at developing the depth and quality of their students’ experiences while adjusting the pace to meet individual needs. Teachers will continue to use best practices to challenge and support the needs of all learners. Gifted strategies and best practices will be incorporated into all classrooms so that all students can be academically challenged, while teachers continue to meet students’ individual needs.



## Signature Page

Name	Signature
Principal	
School Advisory Council Chair	
Shared Decision Making Chair	
Parent/Teacher Association President	
School Union Representative	
Community Leader	
Magnet Parent Representative (Only required for current magnets)	
Region Superintendent	

Date of Faculty Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Shared Decision Making Team Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of PTA Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of School Advisory Team Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit completed packet to:**

**Gary Bryan, Supervisor – School Choice  
Office of School Choice  
#3001 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**FAX: 390-2070**