

**Parent Information**  
**Kindergarten Magnet Testing**  
**2012-2013 School Year**

**General Test Information**

All children applying to kindergarten in Caddo Parish Magnet Schools (all campuses) are tested. Nationally normed standardized tests which measure skills most children have learned or are learning by ages four through six years will be administered. Caddo Parish will select a different standardized assessment instrument each testing year. All elementary magnet schools will use the same standardized testing instrument(s) selected by the district. A child will test only once during the application year. Assessments will be administered only by the Caddo Parish School Board testing teams. All test scores will be reviewed and checked by more than one team member, as well as the Supervisor of Magnet Schools Testing.

Since children competing for kindergarten admission each year may be as much as 14 months apart in age, the test is scored according to the child's age on the date he/she is tested. Thus, older children are expected to know more than younger children.

Tests are administered one-on-one with the children rotating to several different stations and test administrators. The assessment process should take about one hour to complete. ALL test administrators will be experienced educators who are experienced in working with young children and trained in test security and test administration.

**Concepts Covered on the Tests**

The concepts tested are encountered in daily life, in preschool and in kindergarten. A child's understanding of these concepts sets the foundation for learning, and is necessary to succeed in a classroom setting. The concepts covered include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying colors
- Identifying alphabet and their sounds
- Identifying numbers and counting
- Identifying shapes
- Listening to and retelling stories
- Making comparisons
- Matching patterns
- Pretend writing letters, lists, or descriptions of their art
- Speaking
- Time and sequence
- Understanding terms describing size and quantity
- Understanding directional and positional words
- Writing and copying words of interest

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**Test Preparation**

Educational research shows that the child best prepared for testing has usually attended a preschool which offers a balance of age-appropriate academic learning and social skills development.

At home, a child who has been read to daily since infancy, allowed to participate in family discussions, taken on excursions and provided with hands-on experiences and opportunities for exploration and discovery will also have a significant advantage. Examples include: trips to museums, the zoo and the aquarium, or working on arts and crafts projects at home.

Children develop at their own rates. Parents can provide children with the opportunities and tools to develop the skills and concepts assessed on the test. Eventually all children will master the skills. However, while some will have mastered most of these skills by test-time, others will not.

To help children prepare for testing, they should get plenty of sleep the night before the test and have a good breakfast that morning. Avoid rushing on the day of testing. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Children should be dressed neatly, but comfortably. Athletic shoes are recommended, and children may need to bring a jacket because the testing room is air conditioned. Testing takes about one hour. Please do not put pressure on your child. The visit to the school should be a pleasant experience.

**Test Scheduling**

Kindergarten testing begins on Monday, January 30 and should be completed by Thursday, February 9. To accomplish this we have established the following guidelines for scheduling testing:

**K5 February Testing:**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Day</i></b>	<b><i>School</i></b>
January 30	Monday	Eden Gardens
January 31	Tuesday	South Highlands
February 1	Wednesday	Eden Gardens
February 2	Thursday	South Highlands
February 3	Friday	South Highlands
February 6	Monday	Fairfield
February 7	Tuesday	Judson
February 8	Wednesday	Herndon
February 9	Thursday	Claiborne

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**Magnet Schools:**

**Claiborne Magnet**  
2345 Claiborne Avenue  
Shreveport, LA 71103  
Phone: (318) 222-2580

**Eden Gardens Magnet**  
626 Eden Boulevard  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
Phone: (318) 861-7654

**Fairfield Magnet**  
6215 Fairfield  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
Phone: (318) 868-9826

**South Highlands Magnet**  
831 Erie Street  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
Phone: (318) 865-5119

**Herndon Magnet**  
11845 Gamm Road  
Belcher, LA 71004  
Phone: (318) 221-7676

**Judson Magnet**  
3809 Judson Street  
Shreveport, LA 71109  
Phone: (318) 635-1132

**Selection Process**

Admission to kindergarten is competitive and due to the large number of applicants, not all students will be admitted.

Applicants who meet the January 6 deadline are scheduled for individual standardized testing. In the first phase of the kindergarten admission process, all applicants are administered a standardized test which covers basic concepts. Once all tests have been administered and scored, the test scores are evaluated and verified for accuracy.

**Notification Dates**

Notification letters will be mailed by April 18, 2012, and at that time students will be informed of their acceptance and offered a contract. Parents have around two (2) weeks to either accept or reject the contract offer. A student's contract is for one school year. After a contract is signed, a student may not transfer to another magnet school for that school year. Parents rejecting contracts may opt to be placed on a waiting list for a preferred school. After the first five (5) full school days, an elementary magnet school opening will not be filled from any Caddo neighborhood school.

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**Late Applications**

Late applications are accepted; however, there is no guarantee that late applicants will be tested. To meet notification deadlines, all testing must be completed by February 9, 2012.