



Columbus Magnet School
A wonderful place where we all learn and grow...

46 Concord Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
(203) 899-2840

<https://www.cms.norwalkps.org>

The Columbus Magnet School Mission is to develop passionate, lifelong learners who strive for academic excellence by cultivating their creativity and imagination through hands-on, interdisciplinary social studies-based units and vibrant arts infusion. We foster the academic, social and emotional development of each child while building a caring and ethical community that celebrates diversity and encourages strength of character.

A Brief History

Columbus Magnet School first opened its doors in September of 1980 under the principalship of Arthur J. Perschino. The Bank Street method was chosen to develop integrated, hands-on, social studies-based experiential learning. In 2000, CMS was designated a HOTS (Higher Order Thinking) School, in recognition of the natural connection with the Bank Street philosophy and the integration of the Arts. Today, Columbus Magnet School remains unique within the Norwalk Public School system. We operate in accordance with the policies, standards, regulations and by-laws of the Norwalk Public Schools Board of Education, while holding the unique distinction of being one of the few Connecticut schools to integrate both the Bank Street and HOTS educational philosophies. At Columbus, we believe that the process of learning is as valuable as the product. We strive to create a learning experience that combines traditional academics with an individualized approach based on each child's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs. Above all, we remain committed to educational excellence.

The Bank Street Philosophy

The Bank Street approach to teaching and learning is based on the belief that school can be stimulating, satisfying, sensible, and perceived by each child as an important part of his or her life. In a Bank Street school, children are encouraged to be curious, love learning, be respectful and tolerant of human differences, engage with the world around them, and prepare to lead lives of consequence.

- The Bank Street method develops life-long learners through an experiential approach to learning.
- Children learn through interactions with peers, the environment, and the community around them, as well as engage in an exchange of ideas and insights.
- Through small group work, field trips, experiments, and individual exploration, children expand their learning beyond that of traditional methods, and see the world as a learning opportunity.

Arts in Education

Why is Arts Education so important? The Arts are used as a pathway to develop Higher Order Thinking skills by:

- cultivating imagination, self-expression and creativity;
- developing critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- promoting intellectual, psychosocial, and academic growth for each child to reach his or her own unique potential;
- creating a democratic school culture that ensures that each child's voice is celebrated;
- gathering as a school community at All School Meeting to creatively share learning experiences through an expression of arts.



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COLUMBUS MAGNET SCHOOL **LOTTERY INFORMATION**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Lottery Applications Accepted January 16 through March 15, 2018.
Lottery drawing is Thursday, April 5, 6 pm at Columbus Magnet School.

Evening Information Meetings:

Tuesday, February 13, 6 pm

Thursday, March 1, 6 pm (BILINGUAL PRESENTATION)

Daytime Guided Tours: (RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED)

Tuesday, February 6, 10 am

Tuesday, February 13, 10 am

Thursday, March 1, 10 am

Thursday, March 9, 10 am

Tuesday, March 13, 10 am

Please call the Columbus Magnet School Office (203) 899-2840 or email Terry Lakin at lakint@norwalkps.org to make a tour reservation or if you have additional questions.

LOTTERY GUIDELINES

- Lottery Applications are only distributed during our scheduled evening information meetings and daytime guided tours. (See dates above.)
- If you attended an information meeting or guided tour in the past, please call our school office.
- Applications are pre-numbered and may not be reproduced.
- Applicants must be residents of Norwalk. (Proof of residency is required.)
- Kindergarten applicants must be born on or before January 1, 2014.
- All applications require parent/guardian signatures.
- Information in the application will be checked for accuracy. False information will disqualify the applicant.
- To qualify as a sibling and receive priority status, both applicant and sibling must attend Columbus Magnet School in the 2018/2019 school year.
- Applicants may only apply to one of Norwalk's public magnet schools. Applying to more than one school will disqualify all applications submitted.
- All applicants must be registered at their home school by the April 5 lottery drawing in order to be eligible for acceptance into Columbus Magnet School.
- Application confirmations and lottery numbers will be mailed to all applicants.
- Applications received after the March 15 deadline will be held and placed on the Waiting List after the lottery drawing.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: *It is essential that parents become involved in the Columbus Magnet School Program. You must commit to attend all parent/teacher conferences, parent meetings and try your best to volunteer for at least one school-related activity each school year. Whether you are chaperoning for a trip or cutting or pasting pictures from home, please volunteer. Your children will be so happy, and the school will be stronger as a result of your help. Upon admission to Columbus Magnet School, parents will be given a Parent Participation Contract to sign, and Mr. Thomas will keep track.*