

## Leading the Way: Courses at Hanes Encourage Students to Consider Engineering

*What will be the hot job field when today's middle schoolers complete college?*

Statistics point to engineering. A new program at Hanes Magnet School provides opportunities to learn more about the field.



George Eckart and Kara Adams

"A degree in engineering can open doors that many people have probably never thought about," said George Eckart, who teaches the Gateway To Technology elective at Hanes with Kara Adams. "For instance, biomedical engineering has the highest acceptance rate for students accepted at medical schools these days."

Gateway To Technology is the middle school component of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a national effort to encourage students to choose careers in science, technology, engineering and math. According to PLTW, about 1.3 million engineering and engineering technology jobs go unfilled in the United States because of a lack of trained workers.

Federal statistics show that the United States will need 15 million engineers and technology workers by 2020, about the time that today's middle school students will graduate from college.

Adams said that PLTW doesn't ask middle schoolers to decide on a career. Instead, Gateway To Technology reinforces math and

science concepts through lessons that directly relate to students' lives. Many of the activities require them to work with their hands and encourage teamwork and problem solving.

"If students do not feel comfortable with math or science, they should still give engineering a chance," Adams said. "By taking an engineering course, they will be improving their math and science skills in a way that might be more appealing to them."

Over the three years of middle school, the curriculum covers five units:

- Design and Modeling
- The Magic of Electrons
- The Science of Technology
- Automation and Robotics
- Flight and Space

Although students aren't required to take the Gateway To Technology elective each year, it is encouraged.

Eckart is an engineer by training. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in engineering from the University of South Florida. He has achieved National Board Certification.

Adams is a graduate of Appalachian State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in technology education.

With his engineering training and Adams' knowledge of the latest teaching methods, Eckart said their different backgrounds complement each other.

For a longer version of the interviews with Eckart and Adams, go to [wsfcmagnets.net](http://wsfcmagnets.net).

## MAGNET SCHOOLS:

**Ashley IB Elementary Magnet School**  
*International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme*  
336.727.2343

**Atkins Academic and Technology High School**  
*Schools of Biotechnology, Pre-Engineering and Computer Technology*  
336.703.6754

**Diggs Elementary School**  
*Magnet for Visual and Performing Arts*  
336.727.2424

**Downtown Elementary School**  
*Community School*  
336.727.2914

**Hanes Magnet School**  
*Project Lead The Way/Math, Science and Pre-Engineering*  
336.727.2252

**Hill Middle School**  
*Magnet for Visual and Performing Arts*  
336.771.4515

**Mineral Springs Elementary School**  
*Renzulli Academy of Arts and Technology*  
336.703.6788

**Mineral Springs Middle School**  
*Magnet for Arts and Leadership*  
336.703.6733

**Moore Magnet Elementary School**  
*Multiple Intelligences*  
336.727.2860

**Paisley Magnet School**  
*Grades 6-10, International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme*  
336.727.2775

**Parkland Magnet High School**  
*International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Center for the Cultural Arts*  
336.771.4700

**Philo Magnet Academy**  
*Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion, International Business and World Cultures, and Global Technology*  
336.771.4570

**Reynolds High School**  
*Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts*  
336.727.2061

**Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy**  
*An Academic Academy for Grades 6-12*  
336.703.6732

# MagNews

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MAGNET SCHOOLS OF WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY

## School Year Shaping Up Well for Magnets

The popularity of magnet schools continues to build, thanks to three new programs and the strong reputation of older magnets.

Parents are excited to have more choices and are enthusiastic about the different ways that magnet schools teach the state curriculum, said Kim Morrison, the program director for magnet schools.

Based on interest this year, parents should not wait to apply for the 2009-10 school year, Morrison said. The school system will begin taking online applications on Jan. 1, 2009.

"I think people need to know to apply in January, because the schools are going to be extremely popular this year," Morrison said.

Magnet applications for the current school year almost doubled from the previous school year, with 1,645 applications received.

Each of the school system's magnet schools offers opportunities for students to explore their interests and create projects that apply the skills they've learned.



Performing Arts at Reynolds

The addition this school year of magnet programs at Hanes Middle School, Philo Middle School and Reynolds High School strengthened the system's overall offerings, Morrison said. Philo's focus on internationalism is continued at Parkland Magnet High School, which offers internationalism, arts and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Students in arts programs at Mineral Springs Middle or Hill Middle could continue on to Parkland or Reynolds, which is a magnet for the

visual and performing arts. And Hanes' focus on pre-engineering carries on through the 12th grade at the School of Pre-Engineering at Atkins Academic and Technology High School.

There are plenty of other new happenings at magnet schools:

- Philo has changed its name to Philo Magnet Academy.
- Mark Hairston is now the principal at Philo, and Spencer Hardy is the new principal of Atkins' School of Biotechnology. Jeffrey Parris is the new Chief Operating Officer for the Atkins Complex.
- Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools was one of only a handful of districts chosen to be featured on a U.S. Department of Education Web site that highlights successful magnet school programs across the country.
- Construction of a new Moore Magnet Elementary School is under way on the current campus. The school is being built with local bond money.

## Recruiting for Magnet Schools Starts Early

Parents don't have to wait until January to get information about magnet schools.

Many magnet schools are inviting students and parents to attend open houses, performances or special events in November and December.

One of the largest events will bring together three schools at Wake Forest University for an IB Community Forum. Admission officers from Davidson College, Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest will discuss the International Baccalaureate (IB) program as a predictor of academic success at colleges or universities.

The forum also will feature a panel discussion by IB students. Ashley IB Elementary Magnet School, Paisley IB Magnet School and Parkland Magnet High School are sponsoring the event.

This fall, Reynolds High School is inviting rising ninth-graders to attend an arts performance of their choice at no charge. Special cards were sent home with students' team packs or they can get a free ticket by stopping by the magnet table at each performance.

Paisley IB Magnet School began its recruiting efforts in October with student visits to elementary schools.

<b>Nov. 19-22</b> . . . . .	Annie at Mineral Springs Middle. See inside for information.
<b>Thursday, Nov. 20</b> . . . . .	"Faces of Philo" at Philo Magnet Academy. Multi-Cultural Event. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
<b>Saturday, Dec. 6</b> . . . . .	Arts Day at Hill Magnet School. Performances, arts-related sessions and classes for parents and students. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 9</b> . . . . .	Fall Band Concert at Reynolds High. In Reynolds Auditorium. 7 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 9</b> . . . . .	Holidays Around the World at Diggs Elementary. 6 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Dec. 11</b> . . . . .	Exploration Event at Atkins Academic and Technology High. Learn about career strands at the school. 6:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Dec. 15</b> . . . . .	International Baccalaureate (IB) Symposium at Wake Forest University's Carswell Hall. See story at left for more information. Concert at 6:15 p.m.; program begins at 7 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Dec. 18</b> . . . . .	Holiday Spectacular at Reynolds High by chorus students. Reynolds Auditorium. 7 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Jan. 8</b> . . . . .	Winter Dance Performance at Reynolds High. In Reynolds Auditorium. 7 p.m.
<b>Saturday, Jan. 10</b> . . . . .	Magnet School Enrollment Fair. North Main Hall, Benton Convention Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
<b>Friday, Jan. 16</b> . . . . .	Shakespeare Scenes at Reynolds High. In Reynolds Auditorium. 7 p.m.

## THE FAIR IS COMING!

DOWNTOWN SCHOOL • MOORE MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • WINSTON-SALEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY

January 10, 2009 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • North Main Hall, Benton Convention Center

The magnet school fair is a great place to learn about all 15 WS/FCS magnets, including the Downtown School, Moore Magnet Elementary School and Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy. Meet staff and teachers at these three schools, and all the other magnets.



# MAGNET SCHOOL SCOOP

## ASHLEY

### Students Explore IB Traits in Multiple Ways

Ashley welcomed Rosemary Mngadi, who is from South Africa and is teaching fourth grade at the school. Mngadi came to Ashley through the Visiting International Faculty (VIF) program. Six other VIF teachers teach in Ashley's dual language immersion classrooms, which offer instruction in Spanish and English.

In November, students began a year-long project focused on the IB Community Theme, "Sharing Our Humanity." Teachers and staff at the school used a bone marrow drive for Malia Hardin as the springboard for studying infectious diseases around the world. Hardin, the daughter of an Ashley teacher, is 33 and has sickle cell anemia. As part of this project, students will study the relationship of sickle cell anemia to malaria. In addition, teachers at the school will attend a session on global health issues at World View, an international program for educators at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The school will hold International Week in November and bring in people from countries around the globe to join students for reading time.

Ashley also congratulates Tonya Keith, who was recently named an Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence.

## ATKINS

### Schools Make Learning Relevant

The School of Pre-Engineering at Atkins is now a certified Project Lead The Way (PLTW) school. This certification means that Atkins students who take PLTW courses have the opportunity to earn college credit through the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Also, all PLTW courses are considered honors-level courses, a designation that was approved by the State Board of Education and goes into effect this school year.

The School of Biotechnology is hosting a free after-school program in January and February for seventh- and eighth-graders who are interested in careers in health care. Students will meet different local health care professionals, go on field trips and perform hands-on activities. The application deadline for the program is Jan. 1, 2009. This fall, the school also offered BIOFocus career exploration programs in Forensics/CSI and Careers in Biotech.

The School of Computer Technology sponsored a Bridge Academy for eighth-graders and ninth-graders. This summer program gave students opportunities to take part in projects

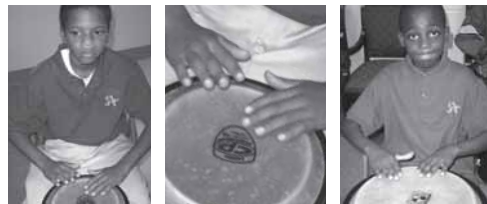
designed to increase their knowledge of computer engineering, graphics and software.

## DIGGS

### First Semester Brings Several Performances

Second-grade students at Diggs read books by Eric Carle, created original musical compositions and movement studies based on these stories, then performed them before a live audience. This production has been uploaded to [www.teachertube.com](http://www.teachertube.com). Students performed under the guidance of Mark Pilson, the school's music technology teacher, and Ashley Penman, the dance teacher at Diggs.

In third grade, teachers Lakeisha Hill and Stephen Friel collaborated with Pilson, Penman and Judy Uhrig, the media coordinator, to create a production of vocals and movement about the human skeletal system. To watch the production, go to [www.teachertube.com](http://www.teachertube.com).



Diggs World Drummers

Diggs World Drummers performed at the YWCA in downtown Winston-Salem twice during first quarter in an effort to extend community partnerships with neighboring businesses. Drummers included fifth-grade students under the direction of Ron Forsh, the band director at Diggs.

On Oct. 29, students in kindergarten through fifth grade presented an "informance" to show how what they learned in their classrooms built foundations for a successful first quarter.

## HANES

### New Technology, Teachers Just Some of the Changes at Hanes

In its first full year as a magnet school, Hanes has experienced exciting changes.

Using Federal Magnet School Assistance grant funds, the school has added TI-Nspire™ handheld technology for math classes and connect-to-class software that allows students' graphing calculators to communicate with teachers' computers. Two new computer labs and LEGO robotics systems have been added in the Project Lead The Way classrooms. Technology to be added this school year includes microscopes, graphing calculators, 50-inch television screens with wireless QOMO tablets, laser printers and a distance-learning laboratory.

A big increase in the school's enrollment has led to the hiring of several new teachers. New sixth-grade teachers are Laura Anderson, Dave Bombick, Kathryn Burford, Shelley Rohm, Janet Shepard, Diana Somers and Billie Woosley. New seventh-grade teachers are Marilyn Carlton and Courtney Willis. Additions to the eighth-grade staff include Leah Hampton, Shawn McDonough, Jean Rockford and Jeremy Samora. New Exceptional Children's staff members include Karla Higgins and Mary Jo Whitley. Kara Adams, George Eckart and Dana DeHart have joined the Career and Technical Education department.

The school's building also has undergone a facelift. New murals reflect the school's theme and new tile floors have been installed.

## HILL

### School Garner Awards for Innovation, Improvement

Hill has won or been nominated for awards from state organizations for its outstanding academic programs and increases in student performance.

The school was the central region winner for the Trailblazer Award from the North Carolina Association of School Administrators. Hill was nominated for its dual education program called The BEARS Project. The program also received recognition from the school system, which nominated Hill for the Signature School award from the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium. The Consortium is a collaborative group of school systems and higher-education institutions. Winners of the Signature School awards will be named later this year.

Hill was one of only six WS/FCS middle schools to achieve high growth for 2007-08 under the state ABC accountability model. In addition, Hill's seventh-graders made the highest growth at that grade level of any WS/FCS middle school.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Program, Hill was the only WS/FCS middle school that made adequate yearly progress in math.

## MINERAL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

### School Year Off to a Busy Start

Students in third, fourth and fifth grades at Mineral Springs Elementary are working on science-based research projects in the school's media center. At the end of two weeks, each class will give an "informance" that integrates their research and the science curriculum with technology and the arts. Parents and

the community will be invited to attend each informance.

Several after-school enrichment clusters and clubs have begun to meet, including the Chess Club, Cub Scouts, Drama Ensemble and Odyssey of the Mind. Other clusters at the school include ballet, band, media/broadcasting and orchestra. Mineral Springs also offers a Visual Arts Club and a Computer Club.

In December, the school will begin a series of "brown bag" events that will bring in experts including a banker, a musician and a veterinarian. These guest speakers will make presentations during students' lunch time.

## MINERAL SPRINGS MIDDLE

### Annie Offers Something for Everyone

The Mineral Springs theater arts department is working with the school's chorus and dance students to present the Broadway musical *Annie*.

According to drama teacher Dave Surrige, *Annie* is a gem of a musical which is at the heart of a musical comedy: big, warm-hearted, funny and overflowing with spirit. The musical, with its message of hope, love and family, is suitable for all ages.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 19, 20 and 21. A Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. is scheduled for Nov. 22.

Ticket prices are \$5 for adults, \$1 for Mineral Spring students and \$2 for students who attend other schools. Children under 6 are admitted free.

People who attend *Annie* should look for enhancements to the hallway outside the school's theater. A "Broadway theater" wall with poster cases has been added to highlight some of the school's outstanding students and its theme as a magnet for the arts and leadership. Posters of students involved in the arts at Mineral Springs Middle also have been hung throughout the school.

## PAISLEY

### Paisley International Festival Held Nov. 18

Paisley's annual International Festival was filled with music, food, fun and an international focus for students of all ages.

The event, sponsored by the school's PTSA, was held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 18. This year's festival drew hundreds of parents and students from throughout Forsyth County.

Paisley is the only school in the district that offers the rigorous International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, which includes a strong emphasis on international awareness.

The year's International Festival at Paisley focused on international mindedness, intercultural awareness and communication. Parents and students toured cultural displays representing more than 20 countries and North Carolina, and talked to current students about their displays and the countries studied in their classrooms. Visitors had opportunities to sample international foods, participate in dance demonstrations and enjoy music from around the globe.

## PARKLAND

### School Awards First IB Diplomas, Welcomes Theater Conference

This summer, Parkland graduates Julie Elliott and Lydia Walters received the first two International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas awarded to WS/FCS students. Both women are now freshmen in college.

To earn an IB diploma, students must receive passing scores (a 4 or higher on a 7-point scale) on six examinations that are assessed on international standards, on a research paper of no more than 4,000 words, and in an interdisciplinary Theory of Knowledge course. Diploma candidates must also complete 150 Creativity, Action and Service hours. Students' results are determined by their performance against set standards, not by each student's position in the overall rank order.

The IB diploma is widely recognized by leading universities. Meeting the requirements is considered to be a strong indicator for a student's success in college.

In October, Parkland served as the host for the North Carolina Theater Conference's regional competition. Parkland students made a strong showing, winning top prizes for outstanding play; outstanding actress for Maddie Fox; and outstanding actor for Luis Ramos. Parkland was the only WS/FC school to qualify for the state competition.

## PHILO

### Philo Celebrates International Theme and Multicultural Strengths

"It is the common wonder of all men, how among so many million faces, there should be none alike." –*Sir Thomas Browne*

The classrooms at Philo reflect more than 400 faces, each unique, boasting different

talents and different stories, but brought together by one promise.

The school will celebrate the diversity of its students, staff and families with a multicultural festival called "The Faces of Philo." The celebration will take place at Philo Magnet Academy on Haverhill Street on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Philo will highlight four cultures represented at the school with a street fair atmosphere, virtual tours, authentic cuisine and entertainment provided by students and staff. A sampling of international foods will be provided, and the school's PTA is sponsoring a food sale in the cafeteria. Those looking to "feed their brains" can stop by the media center for a book fair. Students and families from Winston-Salem are invited to experience all Philo Magnet Academy offers. You'll leave with your face fed, painted and celebrated!

## REYNOLDS

### Magnet Program in Full Swing

Reynolds has seen big changes with the start of its new arts magnet program. The school has added 20 new arts classes and renovated existing spaces to make room for a piano studio, a digital media studio and a Black Box Theater.

Several artists have visited the school this fall for residency programs, performances and to talk about careers in the arts. During a residency by the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, musicians made presentations to classes and ate lunch with students. Other visiting artists included Benjamin Bradham, a classical pianist, and Living Rhythms, a group that performs West African music.

The school's Arts Express program has made it affordable for students to attend arts events in the community after school hours. This fall, students traveled to High Point for a performance of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, visited Reynolda House for the *Seeing the City: John Sloan's New York* exhibit, and will attend performances of *Smoke on the Mountain Part 2* at the Little Theatre and Piedmont Opera's presentation of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tickets to these events were only \$5 for Reynolds students.

