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Abilene Independent School District

One AISD Center • Curriculum & Instruction • 241 Pine Street • Abilene, Texas 79601

April 16, 2019

Dear Parents of 2018-2019 Grade 4 Students:

The Abilene Independent School District and McMurry University will again partner in offering the Center for Innovation, a mathematics and science magnet school program for Grade 5 students during the 2019-2020 academic school year. This program offers enriched/enhanced opportunities in mathematics and science using the Grade 5 curriculum as set forth by the state as the foundation for the students' studies.

The group of selected Grade 5 students will attend school on the McMurry University campus and receive instruction from two full-time Abilene ISD teachers and a cadre of professors from the McMurry faculty. Through collaborative planning, the classroom teacher and McMurry professors will coordinate units of study in math and science. The classroom teacher will incorporate math and science connections in language arts and social studies units as well. Students will also receive instruction in music and PE as well as technology and library services. Technology will be incorporated into all areas of content study. As part of the program, students will participate in curriculum-related field trips and special math and science projects.

Admission is based on the following criteria:

- Be an enrolled, Abilene ISD student
- Have an interest in math and science
- Have satisfactory attendance with minimal tardies
- Have satisfactory conduct (citizenship grades on report cards and office referrals considered)
- Have at least a 90 average in the core subjects (language arts, math, science, social studies)
- Have passing scores on state assessments (Grade 4 STAAR Reading, Writing, and Math)

Students who meet the criteria will be admitted to a lottery pool. The goal of placement will be to have a balance of students representative of the District. Once the lottery pool has been established from the applications that meet the initial criteria, the lottery will be conducted. Students included in the lottery pool but not selected will remain in the pool in the event a selected student cannot attend. Additional information regarding the Center for Innovation may be found on AISD's website at www.abileneisd.org. (A link is available to the Center for Innovation campus page.)

Due to the logistics of transporting small numbers of students from across the district, parents will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the school at McMurry University each day.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Center for Innovation magnet program application, student/parent agreement, and student essay form. The completed application, student/parent agreement, and student essay must be submitted to Abilene ISD Office of Curriculum & Instruction, 241 Pine St., Abilene, TX 79601. **Applications are due by May 15, 2019**. The lottery will be conducted in mid-June. All applicants will receive notification of the lottery outcome by mail prior to June 28, 2018.

Parents who are interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend an informational meeting on **April 22, 2019, at 6:00 PM** in the Board Room of the AISD Administration Building, 241 Pine Street.

Abilene ISD and McMurry are excited to provide this math/science learning opportunity. We hope your child will consider applying and look forward to the possibilities it opens for them. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Abigayle Barton, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Center for Innovation – Math/Science Magnet School

A Partnership between Abilene ISD and McMurry University

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

APPLICANTS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN ABILENE ISD.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **MAY 15, 2019**.

Please read before completing application.

1. **Fill out completely. Please use ink.**
2. **Parent/Guardian of student must return completed application to the Office of Curriculum & Instruction, Abilene Independent School District, 241 Pine Street.**
3. **Application must be signed by student and parent/guardian.**
4. **Student and Parent Agreement, must be signed by student and parent/guardian, and must accompany the application.**
5. **Student Essay must accompany the application.**
6. **Student meets all criteria as listed on the Student and Parent Agreement.**
7. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.**

Applicant Information:

Student's Last Name _____ **Student's First Name** _____ **Middle Name** _____

Student's Current Elementary School _____ **Student ID #** _____

Student's Date of Birth _____ **Student's Gender** _____ **Parent eMail** _____

Address _____ **Apt #** _____ **City** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Completed Application, Student/Parent Agreement and Student Essay must be received *no later than 4:30 PM on May 15, 2019.* Applications must be delivered or postmarked by this due date.

Application, Student/Parent Agreement and Student Essay are to be sent to: Abilene ISD, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, 241 Pine Street, P.O. Box 981, Abilene, TX 79601.

Center for Innovation – Math/Science Magnet School

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STUDENT ESSAY

Student's Name: _____ Elementary Campus: _____
(PLEASE PRINT) PLEASE PRINT)

Write a *brief* essay describing why you want to attend the Center for Innovation.

Center for Innovation – Math/Science Magnet School

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STUDENT and PARENT Agreement

We understand

- the curriculum of the Center for Innovation is designed for students interested in math and science;
- this program will be located on the McMurry University campus;
- admission to the school is by a lottery pool and the goal of placement will be to have a balance of students representative of the District;
- if chosen, we understand that satisfactory behavior, conduct, attendance, and academic progress are essential for successful completion of the program;
- we are responsible for providing transportation to and from school each day;
- the school day operates from 8:05 AM - 3:30 PM, and we are responsible for ensuring the prompt arrival and pick-up each school day; and,
- due to the enhanced nature of the math/science curriculum, students may occasionally be involved in out-of-town field trips.

We agree to

- abide by all Abilene ISD policies including discipline, regular and punctual attendance, good conduct, and passing grades, as well as any applicable McMurry University policies and
- follow Abilene ISD policies regarding computer and internet use.

We further understand that failure to abide by rules and procedures could result in a student being moved back to the home campus.

_____	_____	_____
Applicant's Signature	*Parent's (Guardian's) Signature*	*Date*