

Our Thematic & Interdisciplinary Approach

Because we don't live our lives in isolated parts, it doesn't make sense to learn in isolated ways. Cleveland's interdisciplinary program, called *Core*, approaches topics from various disciplines, thus giving students a fuller understanding of the connections inherent in the world. The four primary subjects that form our Core program are:

LITERATURE HISTORY PHILOSOPHY ART



To deepen these interdisciplinary connections, our curriculum is designed in units around *themes*. These themes articulate the most fundamental issues regarding the human condition. We address questions about the nature of our existence, such as: *Why are we here? What is the essence of a Good Life? What are our responsibilities in the world?* The following are examples of unit themes:

- 9th Grade— *A Shrinking World: Navigating Multiple Perspectives in a Global Community*
- 10th Grade— *Areté: A Study of Virtue in the Ancient Greek Culture*
- 11th Grade— *The American Jungle: Untangling Democracy, Meritocracy, and the American Dream*
- 12th Grade— *Postmodernism: Coping with a World Without Truth*

Over 30 Years of Success

As one of the most successful and longest running Integration Programs in Los Angeles, Cleveland Humanities Magnet fosters the development of an informed, reflective, and diverse community of learners.

The Humanities Model for Los Angeles

Cleveland Humanities Magnet is the founding school and model curriculum for over 30 *Humanitas* programs throughout LAUSD. In collaboration with the Los Angeles Education Partnership, hundreds of teachers have participated in seminars and institutes led by our Magnet teachers.



About the Brochure Art

On walls throughout magnet classrooms, you will find murals designed and painted by students. The artwork for this brochure began as photos of these murals and have been cropped, modified, and sometimes re-colored, to fit the design of this project.

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Cleveland Humanities Magnet High School



Where ideas matter.

The Core Curriculum

The following required courses constitute our Magnet's Core classes.

9 th	Honors English 9 Honors/AP Geography Environmental Studies
10 th	Honors English 10 Honors World History and Geography
11 th	Honors American Literature Honors Humanities A.P. U.S. History
12 th	A.P. Literature Honors Art History Honors Economics/Principles of American Democracy

Math: "The Hard Core" Curriculum

It is no surprise that a Humanities program would lead the district in Language Arts achievement. What many overlook is the strength of Cleveland's Math Department. For example:

- Our students are the highest performing Math students of District 1 magnet high schools
- More Cleveland students take and pass the Calculus A/B and B/C tests than in any other school in LAUSD

Innovating Science: Guns, Germs, and Core

Our thematic and interdisciplinary curriculum is not limited to the humanities. As part of 9th grade Core, students take an innovative, introduction to the Sciences course, inspired by Dr. Jared Diamond's, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, that demonstrates the connection between biology, geography, and the development of civilization.

Cultivating an Intellectual Life

Scholarship is a word not generally associated with high school, but in the Core program, teachers and students share a culture of intellectual development. Students are treated as scholars through exposure to rich texts, discussion of important ideas, and encouragement to critically examine their world. This level of student engagement is due to the commitment of our teachers to make university level material accessible to youth. We forgo standard textbooks for a customized and dynamic curriculum.



Engaging our Diverse World

While our magnet undoubtedly provides a rigorous college preparatory program, we are driven by more than the desire to produce high test-scores or send our students to great colleges and universities. Our mission is to foster the development of civic leaders who will work to create a world that is more peaceful, prosperous, and democratic for everyone.

From Plato to bell hooks, from Lao-Tzu to Sartre, we study the greatest ideas of the world throughout history in order to improve life.

"CORE was the single most important part of my education from kindergarten through medical school. I still incorporate everything that I learned into my daily life."

COREbaby from the Class of 2000

A Small Community on a Big Campus

One advantage of enrolling in Cleveland's magnet is that our students experience the intimacy of a smaller learning community, while having the opportunities to participate in all of the activities a large, comprehensive high school provides. Thus, our students have many chances to play sports, take electives, and participate in numerous clubs and extra-curricular activities, such as:

*write for the school paper—play water polo—
produce a film—join the debate team—run
for class president—dance on the drill team—
start a club—create a web site—develop
photographs—volunteer with recycling—
design a building—drum in the marching
band—cheer at halftime—take a trip*

Elective AP classes offered at Cleveland:

AP Art History	AP European History
AP Biology	AP English Language
AP Chemistry	AP Human Geography
AP Physics 1 & 2	AP Computer Science
AP Environmental Science	AP Studio Art
AP Calculus A/B & B/C	AP Spanish Literature
AP Economics	AP Spanish
AP Government	AP French

Writing-Based Assessments

Essays, Essays, and More Essays

Most of the major assessments in our Core program are writing-based. Every 10 weeks students write an in-class, two-hour essay that combines the material from each of their Core subjects. Because these rigorous essay exams are the cornerstone of our program, we teach the students to be articulate, effective writers.

