



**WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

tel: (919) 233-4228

fax: (919) 670-4389

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 26, 2024

Contact Person: Margaret Feldman

Contact Information: mfeldman@wcpss.net

Dillard Drive Center for Global Studies and Spanish Immersion Magnet Middle School Named National Merit School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America

January 25, 2024

Dillard Drive Center for Global Studies and Spanish Immersion Magnet Middle School has been named a National Merit School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America, the national association for magnet and theme-based schools. Students at Dillard Drive Magnet Middle School make global connections, become global citizens, and study a world language so they can engage in the world as productive global citizens. Learning is centered around global-content integration and the four domains of global competencies: investigate the world, recognize perspectives, communicate ideas, and take action. Teachers and students use the four domains of global competencies to explore the interconnections of state curriculum, global issues, and global topics. Our world language program offers students the opportunity to earn up to two high school credits in either the French or Spanish language, while our native Spanish speakers can engage within a heritage program. In 2026, our school will welcome a cohort of Spanish Immersion students from our pathway elementary school Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary School, also a recipient of the 2024 National Merit School of Excellence award. Dillard Drive Magnet Middle School's acceptance of the National Merit Award of Excellence for 2024 is accompanied with these additional 2023 awards:

Margaret Feldman, Principal, 2023 Outstanding Administrator, *American Association of Teachers of French*

Lisa Bartels, French Teacher, 2023 Teacher of the Year, *Foreign Language Association of North Carolina*

Presentation of Excellence Award:

Margaret Feldman, principal at DDMMS, will be recognized and receive a National Merit School of Excellence Award on behalf of the school during an awards ceremony held at Magnet Schools of America's National Conference hosted by New York City Schools, April 16-20, 2024.

Merit School of Excellence Awards are only given to a select group of magnet schools. Schools of Excellence are eligible to receive monetary awards and are eligible to be named the nation's top Elementary, Secondary, or New & Emerging Magnet School. One of the Schools of Excellence will also be selected to win \$5,000 and the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award, which is considered the most prestigious magnet school award in the nation.

To receive a national merit award, members of Magnet Schools of America must submit a detailed application that is scored by a panel of educators. These schools are judged and scored on their demonstrated ability to raise student academic achievement, promote racial and socioeconomic diversity, provide integrated curricula and instruction, and create strong family and community partnerships that enhance the school's magnet theme. To learn more about the national merit awards program, please visit www.magnet.edu.