

**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.

**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](http://www.magnet.edu).