



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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Dillard Drive Center for Global Studies and Spanish Language Immersion Magnet Elementary School has been named a National Merit School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America, the national association for magnet and theme-based schools.

Dillard Drive Center for Global Studies and Spanish Language Immersion Magnet Elementary School (DDMES) fosters diverse relationships and an inclusive learning community, inspiring learners to make a positive global impact. Our global studies curriculum intentionally integrates global content across all subject areas and in all teaching spaces, promoting students' natural curiosity about the world. To enhance cultural awareness and communication skills, all students learn a second language through year-round instruction in Spanish or French as an elective class. The Spanish Immersion program specifically cultivates bilingualism and biliteracy through direct core instruction in the target language, complimented by daily English literacy instruction for comprehensive language development beginning in second grade. DDMES develops future leaders with global mindsets and language skills for successful interactions in diverse communities.

Presentation of Excellence Award:

Dr. Roxann Sykes, Principal of DDMES 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 April 7-10, 2025, in Nashville.

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.

**#MeritSchoolofExcellence, #MagnetSchoolofMerit, #SchoolsStudentsWant
#SchoolsStudentsNeed**