



WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Dear La Familia and Chandler Magnet School Families,

Thank you to everyone who attended tonight's meetings to discuss the merger of the La Familia Dual Language School with the Chandler Magnet Elementary School. We appreciate your questions. The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) is committed to helping students, parents/guardians, and staff through this transition. We are sharing this letter to ensure everyone has the information they need.

Important Information:

- All current La Familia students are guaranteed enrollment in Chandler Magnet next year.
- All current La Familia students are guaranteed to remain in dual-language programming at Chandler Magnet.
- All current La Familia teachers and staff are anticipated to work at Chandler Magnet so long as those employees remain properly credentialed.
- Chandler Magnet has the facility space and programming to accept all La Familia students. Chandler Magnet has a maximum student capacity of 800. There are currently 402 students at Chandler Magnet and 172 students at La Familia.
- La Familia students will be fully merged with Chandler Magnet students to become one school family. Chandler Magnet offers robust dual-language programming.

- The Chandler Magnet Elementary School is located at 525 Chandler Street. School bus routes will be issued to families this summer. School hours are 8:25 AM-2:30 PM. If you have questions about buses, please call the Worcester Public Schools Transportation Department at 508-799-3241.
- The district believes the school community should decide if the Chandler Magnet School should be re-named. The district will support the school leadership in leading a process to change the name if that is a desire of the school community. The Worcester School Committee would have to approve a name change.

Leadership Changes

At the meeting, we were pleased to announce that Suzanna Resendes, the current principal of La Familia, will be the principal for the Chandler Magnet Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. Noeliz Irizarry, the current principal of Chandler Magnet, has been named principal of the Burncoat Middle School, whose current leader, Mary Scully, is retiring.

Ms. Resendes has a deep connection with the La Familia community due to her work as principal and has a strong background in supporting language programs. Ms. Irizarry is excited to lead Burncoat Middle, where she is an alumna and part of that community.

Both Ms. Resendes and Ms. Irizarry have done excellent work in leading their schools. We congratulate them both as they embark upon these exciting opportunities.

What are my child's enrollment options?

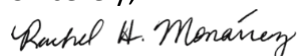
- We encourage your student to attend the Chandler Magnet School. However, you have the choice to enroll your child in your neighborhood school, another magnet school, or request a "voluntary transfer" for a different option.
- For more information on the enrollment process, please [visit the enrollment page on the WPS website](https://worcesterschools.org/current-families/family-involvement/parent-information-welcome-center/): <https://worcesterschools.org/current-families/family-involvement/parent-information-welcome-center/>
- You can also contact the WPS James Garvey Parent Information Center by calling at 508-799-3194. Appointments are required for in-person visits. The center is located at 768 Main Street and is open from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Lottery

- The lottery for preschool (Pre-K) and kindergarten school assignments is scheduled for May 3. If students were in the lottery for a seat at the La Familia School, those students will now be in the lottery for the Chandler Magnet School.
- We will continue to honor sibling preference while balancing enrollment capacity.

The decision to merge the two schools was given tremendous thought and care by my administrative team. We all want the best for your children to ensure they can succeed. We thank you for your understanding and will work together with everyone through this process.

Sincerely,



Rachel H. Monárrez, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Worcester Public Schools