



Johns Hill Magnet School

K-8 Magnet School · Decatur Public Schools #61

Johns Hill Magnet School (K-8) has the longest history as a magnet school in Decatur, IL and houses the district's English as a Second Language program. In addition to the core academic subjects, we integrate the arts in all of our programs. We offer solid programs in foreign language, fine arts, music, and sports. Many students excel in several areas, and most students participate in a variety of activities. There are multiple languages spoken by students who attend Johns Hill and students have opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity.

Our new state-of-the-art school facility opened in August 2021, replacing what was previously the oldest building in District #61. Our new building includes an art studio, with a kiln for pottery and ample space all over the school for displaying art projects. It also includes a dance studio that can be used for yoga, as well as rehearsals and performances in a smaller setting. Our auditorium is state-of-the-art, with space for 680 guests, including safe catwalks that are easily accessible so students can learn set-lighting and backstage management for performances.

Our History

The original Johns Hill Magnet School building was constructed in 1928 on the site of the former home of Dr. C.H. and Jane Martin Johns, prominent Decatur citizens who had connections to the Governor Richard Oglesby and President Abraham Lincoln families. The site was known as Johns Hill while the couple lived there and the name was retained for the school. It was originally called Johns Hill Junior High School. The school was renamed Johns Hill Magnet School when it became the District's first magnet school program, focusing on fine arts.

Our Vision

Inspiring students by enhancing academics with multicultural experiences and the visual and performing arts.

Our Mission

Curriculum: JHMS will have a challenging, multicultural, standards-based curriculum that infuses visual and performing arts.

Learning Environment: JHMS will create a program that offers challenging, creative learning opportunities for all students.

School Community: Our school community will develop a family of lifelong learners through innovation and collaboration, focusing on the unique individual.

Community Involvement: JHMS will actively collaborate with the community to enhance artistic, creative, and cultural experiences.



<https://www.dps61.org/Page/1262>

Check us out at:



Our Highlights

Johns Hill earned a COMMENDABLE designation in 2024–2025 with a summative score of 52.29, reflecting solid performance across chronic absenteeism, climate, and academic indicators. This places Johns Hill among the higher-performing schools in the district.

- Maintained a perfect Climate Survey score (5.00/5.00) for three consecutive years, demonstrating a strong culture, positive relationships, and high levels of student engagement—key conditions that support sustained academic growth.
- Showed a 7.48% increase in summative performances from the prior year, complementing district-wide gains in math and stable reading performance. These results reflect effective instructional systems and a strong foundation for continued improvement in literacy and mathematics.
- 89 total staff members, including 2 Assistant Principals; 37 support staff; and 49 certified professional educators, creating a strong team-based environment
- Three (3) sections per grade in Grades K–5 and 6–8 with two (2) teachers per core subject area, promoting collaboration, shared planning, and instructional consistency supporting manageable class sizes and close student relationships.
- 74% of professional staff are tenured, reflecting a culture of stability, mentorship, and long-term commitment to the school community.
- Johns Hill is the DPS #61's ESL school for students in Kindergarten thru 8th grade. There are 6 ESL/Bilingual teachers. There are 11 languages spoken with 186 ESL students.

Salary and Benefits

The salary will be highly competitive and include a comprehensive benefit package. Salary will be in the range of \$104,512.00 to \$129,799.00. The final salary for the successful candidate will be negotiated and determined based upon proven experience, qualifications and meeting District criteria.

Questions should be directed to:

Phone: 319-393-3115
molly@rayassoc.com

Please do not contact the Board of Education, Superintendent or District directly.

Deadline and Selection

All materials submitted as part of the principal application will remain confidential to the extent allowed by law, which includes review in a closed session. After all applications have been reviewed and preliminary interviews conducted by the consulting firm, the names of the semifinalists will be presented to Decatur Public Schools #61 for consideration. Selection of candidates for final interviews is the sole responsibility of the district. Persons wishing to be considered for the position should submit an application file online including:

- A letter of application stating personal qualifications, experiences, and reasons for interest in the position.
- The online application form and a resume.
- 4 current letters of recommendation.

Deadline to Apply: March 5, 2026