



## Arts & Innovation Magnet Program @ CFIT

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the Arts & Innovation Magnet Program?**

A: The Arts & Innovation Magnet (AIM) Program utilizes the school system’s Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) Campus to provide our students with an arts-integrated and innovative model of middle school education for 6-8 students that features teaching and learning practices that include Project-Based Learning, Arts Integration, STEM/STEAM, Instructional Conversations, Creative Technologies, and 21st Century Education. We maximize student engagement and depth of learning through lessons and assignments that are real-world, rigorous, and relevant. This is a full day program, but students remain enrolled as students of their home middle school.

**Q: What type of student is most successful in the program?**

A: Students are engaged in a variety of ways including dance, theater, technology, visual art, engineering and innovative and integrated learning experiences. These experiences require students to be **self-motivated, willing to work with groups, create and perform dances, plays, videography**, etc. Students who are willing to step outside their comfort zone to try new things and explore their own limits are most successful.

**Q: What does the program’s daily student schedule look like?**

A: AIM program students may either be shuttled to the CFIT Campus from their home middle school or transported directly to CFIT by a parent each day by 9:00 am. Students have homeroom followed by two integrated core content classes. Students will have one of twelve mini-academies, which are the program’s version of connections classes. After lunch, students have their remaining two core content classes of integrated instruction time to complete their core content instruction for the day. Students have a block of time called Individualized Success (IS) during the day which they are able to receive additional academic support as determined by the teachers or continue to work on group and individual projects. Student pickup to return to their home school begins at 2:40 pm so that students can either participate in afterschool activities at CFIT or their home middle school.

**Q: What makes this program different from regular middle school?**

A: While students in the AIM program will still be taught the same mandatory core content standards that they would at any of the school system’s traditional middle schools, the instructional approaches and expectations of how they experience, apply, and show mastery of that content is significantly different. Through both project-based learning and arts integration, students in the program are presented with learning in a way that intentionally connects the required facts and skills of various subject areas to one another and to their real-life applications. Students in the program also experience a higher than typical level of authentic and holistic assessment that includes but goes far beyond traditional paper and pencil testing. Students not only take traditional quizzes and tests but are also expected to demonstrate mastery of learning through created artifacts, live demonstration, personal performance, peer leadership, and project completion within a collaborative environment that models the expectations of 21st century college and career readiness.

**Q: What are the elective mini-academies, and how are they different from traditional middle school connections classes?**

A: An exploratory connections time will be incorporated into the program’s daily schedule so that all students will cycle through Mini-Academies that will focus on the various unique opportunities and learning spaces available at CFIT and how they align with future opportunities at both the high school and post-secondary levels.

The AIM Program Mini-Academy model currently includes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering &amp; Technology</li> <li>• Dance &amp; Choreography</li> <li>• Theatrical Production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culinary Arts</li> <li>• Communicative Arts</li> <li>• Digital Media Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Food Science</li> <li>• Visual Art &amp; Design</li> </ul>
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**Q: What does the future for students in this program beyond next year look like?**

A: In the fall of 2020 the district opened its third high school, The Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy, an Arts & Science Magnet High School of choice. The new high school is an extension and adaptation of the innovative work already taking place in the AIM Program. 9th grade students can attend BASA.

**Q: If a student is selected in the lottery, but decides during the school year that the program is not a good fit for them, can they leave the program?**

A: Such a situation would be handled on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure that a transition plan could be created that would be in the best interest of the student. It is important to decide if the program is a good fit prior to entering the lottery.

**Q: How will student discipline issues be handled in the program?**

A: Students in the program remain enrolled in their home school. Therefore, communications between the AIM program administration and home school administration will remain consistent throughout the year should a significant discipline issue arise. General classroom discipline and PBIS procedures will be managed by each classroom teacher with the support of the program administration.

**Q: Can a student be dismissed from the program?**

A: While we work with students and parents to ensure their success in the AIM program, continuation in the program is contingent upon good attendance and good behavior. Chronic absenteeism, office referrals, or refusal to participate in classroom activities could result in removal from the program.

**Q: Can parents transport their students directly to/from CFIT instead of taking them to their home school?**

A: Yes. For the 2023-24 school year, families can choose to have their student delivered to the homeschool each morning and then shuttled to/from AIM via school system-provided transportation or they can provide their child's transportation directly between their home and the Center for Innovative Teaching. The school system will not be adding dedicated routes directly between student homes and CFIT at this time.

**Q: Will students have access to lockers?**

A: Yes & No. Students will have an assigned locker in their homeroom. Classrooms inside the building have lockers and students in the modular classrooms will have a dedicated "locker" space. They will have allotted time throughout the day to access their lockers. Students will not be permitted to interrupt instructional time to access their lockers.

**Q: How can I access and view my child's grades and/or attendance?**

A: You may access your child's grades and attendance through Parent Portal. Please visit the BCSS website for directions. When logged into parent portal, you will notice that it states your child has dual enrollment. Remember, your child is still enrolled in their home school and our program.

**Q: What is AIM's dress code policy?**

A: We adhere to the BCSS dress code policy. Please review this in the handbook as well as the BCSS website.

**Q: What is the breakfast and lunch protocol?**

A: The Food & Nutrition Department at County Line Elementary School transports breakfast and lunch to our campus daily. Students can eat breakfast in the classroom during homeroom. Lunch options are posted on the BCSS website under each home middle school's menu. Students will eat lunch with their grade level in the lunchroom daily. Middle school lunch for students costs \$1.75

**Q: My child has medicine he/she needs to take, what do I need to do?**

A: Please let a staff member know and we will provide you with the necessary paperwork to complete.

**Commonly Use Terminology:**

AIM: Arts & Innovation Magnet Program

CFIT: Center for Innovative Teaching, this is the name of the building that houses our program

BASA: Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy

Home school: this is the traditional middle school your child is zoned for/ enrolled in

Homeroom/ Homebase: this is the classroom your child will begin and end his/her day

Blocks 1-4: The academic time your child receives core instruction

Dual Enrollment: your child is dually enrolled (home school and AIM program)

Mini-Academy: exploratory connection

Individualized Success (IS): segment of the day where students are able to receive additional academic support/ enrichment