FAQ for the Krueger Magnet Program - KSAT

1. **What are the Magnet Programs at Krueger?**
   The Krueger School of Applied Technologies (KSAT) is located on the campus of Krueger Middle School. The KSAT magnet program is a school within a school that uses integrated thematic units in the core subjects’ content to build relevancy across the curriculum. KSAT uses the themes of aerospace and technology to guide students in applying their learning to real world problems. The interactive Media Applications @ Krueger (iMAK) is a magnet program that is no longer accepting students and will be phased out after this school year (2015-2016). However, the high level electronic technologies previously available in the iMAK program have been integrated into the KSAT program. Through our integrated theme based units, students make connections between their core academic classes (English, Reading, Math, Social Studies and Science) while learning to work as a team, improve self-discipline, and foster a lifelong desire to learn.

2. **What is the KSAT Magnet Program?**
   KSAT uses Aerospace Science and Technologies as its themes. Students take three years of rocketry and aviation classes as part of their core curriculum. The KSAT program uses project-based learning in which students apply either the scientific method or the engineering design processes to complete major class projects. Using this style of teaching, the teachers are able to actively engage students in rigorous, inquiry based learning. The instructional units incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with an emphasis on team work, problem solving, and improving communication skills. Additionally, the required multimedia and Digital Communications for the 21st century classes teach students how to use and apply high-end photo and video editing equipment as well as animation and game design software.

   As the KSAT students progress through the program, their rocket projects increase in difficulty, providing them the opportunity to improve their understanding and use of STEM concepts. During 8th grade, their first integrated project is to build a rocket which is entered into the Team America Rocketry Challenge, a national rocket competition. With a different challenge each year, the students are asked to demonstrate the level of skill they have acquired while in the program. KSAT also offers rigorous Gifted and Talented classes to students who qualify.

   Each nine weeks, there is an integrated theme for each grade level. Each teacher incorporates the theme into the core area instruction. At the end of each unit, there is a culminating project and a field trip.

   All courses are taught at a rigorous level including Pre-AP English/ Reading and Pre-AP Math at all levels and Pre-AP Science and Pre-AP Social Studies in the 8th grade. Students have the opportunity to earn high school credit which aligns them with several of the graduation endorsements.
3. **What is a school within a school?**
   KSAT is a smaller learning community (school) within the larger school of Krueger Middle School. Students have core classes including their KSAT electives with KSAT teachers and students, but have other electives such as PE/Health and Fine Arts with other Krueger students. The KSAT students must still fulfill all the state required courses and STAAR tests.

4. **Can my child participate in athletics or the performing arts?**
   YES. Magnet students must still fulfill all the requirements of middle school which include PE and Fine Arts credits. Our students are active participants in all sports and performing arts with other students from Krueger. We encourage their participation because it helps the students to be well rounded.

5. **How are these programs different from programs at other middle schools?**
   a. **Academic Support**
      The goal of teachers and staff members in the magnet program is to help students benefit to the greatest degree possible from these programs. The curricula and daily lessons are designed to motivate and challenge students while guiding them to become disciplined learners. To keep the parents informed and up to date, KSAT teachers post daily homework assignments, upcoming tests, and other major events on their individual webpages. The magnet program at Krueger is committed to each student’s success, and carefully monitors all students’ progress to ensure that he or she receives necessary support.

   b. **Course of Study**
      Upon entering the sixth grade students in both programs will take Introduction to Multimedia, Digital Graphics, and Animation as their elective. This is to give students a well-rounded introduction to engineering, computers, technology, and other courses available to them in 7th and 8th grades. Additionally, students will be able to take one other campus elective such as, band, orchestra, art, accelerated instruction, etc.

      Seventh and eighth grade students are required to take rocketry and one other elective from the magnet program. Additionally, 7th and 8th grade students will be able to take one other campus elective such as, band, orchestra, art etc. While in the Magnet Programs, students are extended a variety of opportunities to enroll in courses unique to our program:

      **6th Grade** - Introductory Rocketry through science classes and required Technology through multimedia class which includes an introduction to animation, introduction to digital design and intro to Android Applications

      **7th Grade** - Required rocketry and aviation and required Digital Communication* which includes advanced animation and game design, advanced photography and video production and advanced Web Design

      **8th Grade** - Required high powered Rocketry and electives

      7th and 8th grade electives include Web design *, Creative Media, Photo Journalism, Robotics I and II, Newspaper, Yearbook, and Android Application writing

      (* Classes that receive high school credit)
c. **Field Trips**
   Each 9 weeks, KSAT students take field trips as a culminating activity for the integrated unit. Past trips have included Renaissance Festival–6th grade, NASA–7th grade and Toyota–8th grade.

d. **After School Opportunities**
   The Magnet programs offer a variety of after school programs called YATP- Youth Applied Technology Programs three days each week. A club schedule is developed during the fall and students may sign up for up to three clubs. The clubs include: Spelling Bee, Robotics, Rocketry, sci-fi, soccer, and numerous UIL clubs such as number sense, Science, and Charts and Maps.

6. **Where to KSAT students go after completing the 8th grade?**
   From the KSAT program, students can apply to any magnet program available to any students in NEISD. Because of our focus on engineering concepts and technology, our students frequently apply and get into the Engineering Technology Academy (ETA) or Design and Technology Academy (DATA) at Roosevelt. We have other students whose interests lead them to ISA, NESA or STEM at Lee High School. Some of our students choose to go to other prestigious programs around the city or return to their home high school. Whichever program they select, their background at KSAT will prepare them for success.

7. **How do students get into the program?**
   KSAT uses an admissions rubric to evaluate student grades, standardized test scores (4th grade STAAR), and conduct. Students who meet the specified criteria are extended an invitation to join the KSAT program. To have your child considered for admission to the magnet programs at Krueger Middle School you will need to complete an online information sheet (can be found at http://www.neisd.net/ksat) or complete a paper form and submit it to the Magnet Directors office at Krueger by the deadline (January 27, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year). Students must be NEISD students to be considered for admission.

8. **Is my child eligible to apply?**
   Any 5th, 6th or 7th grade student who resides within the NEISD boundaries is eligible to apply for admission in the fall. **Students must pass their STAAR tests in 5th grade and every year while in the program.** If a student fails one the STAAR tests, they are placed in a Student Success Initiative (SSI) class for each test they did not pass in the place of their electives. Since this removes them from the KSAT electives, these students will not be able to continue in the program.

9. **Is there a time when my child can come to see what happens on campus?**
   In addition to the information available on the website, KSAT also offers a shadowing program where 5th grade students come to Krueger and “shadow” one of our students to see the program in action. Campus tours are also available by appointment. **To arrange a shadow day or a tour, contact Lupe Rodriguez, KSAT Administrative Assistant at 210-356-4706 or Stephen Watson, the Director of Magnets at 210-356-4733.**

10. **Does KSAT have a dress code?**
    Yes. The Krueger Campus has standardized dress. All students wear tan shorts/skirts/pants with a collared shirt based upon their grade level- 6th grade- yellow, 7th- white and 8th-black.
Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to earn free dress days. Free dress is granted on Monday if the previous week’s attendance was 97% or greater.

11. **Is there transportation?**
Magnet shuttle buses pick up students at their home middle school and transport them to Krueger. At the end of the day, students get back on a magnet shuttle bus and are returned to their home middle school. Parents are responsible for getting students home from their home middle school. The magnet shuttle bus information is found on the Transportation web page [http://www.neisd.net/trans/busrouteinfo.htm](http://www.neisd.net/trans/busrouteinfo.htm). Select the Magnet Shuttle Buses link and then chose “KSAT”. The approximate pick up and drop off times from each middle school are listed. Students who participate in before or after school practices or clubs will have to provide their own transportation to and from those activities.

12. **Can my child ride the bus to their home middle school and then catch the shuttle?**
No. The magnet shuttle bus information page says: “Shuttle buses run between campuses only. It is up to parents/guardians to provide transportation of students to & from their home campus.”

13. **When is the application due? When will my child be notified of acceptance?**
The applications are due January 27, 2016. Notification letters will be mailed on January 29, 2016.

If you have further questions, contact the Director of Magnets, Stephen Watson at [swatso1@neisd.net](mailto:swatso1@neisd.net) or 210-356-4733.