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**For Immediate Release** 

## Pittsburgh Public Schools to Hold Magnet Information Fair

PITTSBURGH September 28, 2006 – Parents seeking information about Pittsburgh Public Schools magnet programs are encouraged to attend the District's Magnet Information Fair, Saturday, October 7, 2006. The fair will take place from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Frick International Studies Academy which is located at 107 Thackeray Street, next to Children's Hospital in Oakland.

Magnet schools and programs provide students opportunities to pursue special interest, talents or career goals. Students who enroll in a magnet program are expected to remain in the program for at least one school year and must maintain satisfactory attendance, citizenship and academic progress, or the transfer may be rescinded and the student may be returned to the school of assignment. Magnet options have a set number of spaces, with 50 percent reserved for African American and 50 percent for students of other races in order to preserve a racial balance. Staff, parents and students will be on hand to educate parents about the magnet options available at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

General registration for District magnet programs will take place November 1-15, 2006. Preferred registration will run October 9-20, 2006. Students who are eligible for preferred registration include:

- **Program Preference**: Students may continue from elementary to middle or from middle to high school in the same magnet program if they are enrolled in the Traditional Academy magnet or the International Studies magnet. Weil students who meet academic entrance exams will have preference to the Schenley Technological Studies Magnet.
- **Sibling Preference:** Preference is given to the younger sibling of any child who is attending the same magnet in the same school where the younger sibling is applying. Both siblings must attend the same school/magnet during the 2007-2008 school year.
- Geographic Preference: Geographic Preference to certain magnets is offered subject to space and racial balance. Geographic area is determined by the elementary attendance area in which a student resides. Applicants with limited mobility will be given geographic preference to the magnet they apply to, regardless of where they live, if the magnet gives geographic preference.

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Additional information regarding magnet schools and programs can be found at the Pittsburgh Public Schools website at <a href="www.pps.k12.pa.us/MagnetRegistrationInfromation.asp">www.pps.k12.pa.us/MagnetRegistrationInfromation.asp</a>. Copies of "Public School Choices" can be picked up at District schools or by calling the Division of Communications and Marketing at (412) 622-3615.

Please note that high school options described in 'Public School Choices' and on the District website may change based on the High School Reform plan expected to be released in April 2007.