



A program for highly gifted students
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

For Your Information...

What is the Quest Program? The program is a school-within-a-school program for highly gifted students. The purpose of the program is to provide challenging academic experiences for students who require a greater degree of enrichment and/or acceleration than can normally be provided through differentiation in the mixed-ability classroom. Students in the program have accelerated or enriched classes in mathematics, science, English and social studies, as well as the opportunity to participate in special programs. Hands-on and technology based curriculum are emphasized. Students are not necessarily assigned more homework than students in other classes, but the homework is matched to the challenge level of the course content and to the students' abilities. Students who have not been accustomed to doing challenging homework learn study skills and time management skills.

How are students selected for the Quest Program? Students are selected based on several admission criteria. Parents and teachers contribute information about an applicant, and student test scores are required as part of the application. Test scores reviewed include Measures of Academic Progress Growth (MAP), Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) used to determine student achievement levels, and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) used to determine student ability levels. The CogAT is administered at school to students who apply for the program. Students considered for admission show a pattern of scoring at or above the 95th percentile on MAP and MCA testing in reading and mathematics, and score at or above the 95th percentile on the CogAT. Applicants can also submit other information, such as IQ test information. An admissions committee reviews all of the applications and makes decisions on student qualifications for the program. District 877 students have priority for admission, but qualified open enrollment students from other districts are accepted as space allows.

Where is the Quest Program located? The grades 2-5 classrooms are located at Parkside Elementary School (207 3rd Street Northeast), grades 6-8 classes are located at Buffalo Community Middle School, (1300 Highway 25 North), grade 9 is located at Buffalo High School (877 Bison Boulevard) all in Buffalo.

Can elementary students who do not attend Parkside Elementary attend? All students who live in District 877 are eligible to apply for the program. Students who live anywhere in the BHM district and qualify for the program will be transported to school on district buses at no charge. Families of qualified students who live outside District 877 are responsible to transport students to district boundaries for bussing.

How much does it cost to attend the Quest Program? There is no tuition cost for the program as it is part of our public school program. Open enrollment students must provide their own transportation to district boundaries.

How are students in the Quest Program part of the regular programs and activities at Parkside Elementary or Buffalo Community Middle School? Students in the elementary program will have music, physical education and any other special classes with the appropriate specialist. They will have lunch and noon recess with other children in grades 2-5. Students in the middle school program will have English, science, social studies and mathematics with the students in the Quest Program. For all other classes (such as Prime Time, WEB, music, art, technology, physical education and electives) and for lunch Quest Program students will be mixed with other students at their grade level. Quest Program students are able to participate in any after school programs at their school.

What is the difference between Quest Program English and mathematics classes and enriched English and mathematics classes at BCMS? Admission requirements will be higher for students to be part of the Quest Program. Students who qualify for Quest will be highly gifted in broad academic areas, not just in single subject areas. Quest Program classes will be accelerated beyond grade level in mathematics and science, and highly enriched in social studies and English. There will be sections of enriched English and enriched mathematics offered at each grade level in addition to the Quest classes. Students may apply for just enriched math or enriched English. The Enriched classes will not be accelerated beyond grade level content.

If a student is in the program this year, will he or she have to apply again for next year? Once a student is accepted in the program, he or she will stay as long as he or she is successful, as demonstrated by completing assignments, participating fully in class, and showing progress on achievement measures.

If a student applies this year and decides not to attend, can he or she enroll automatically in the future? If a student declines enrollment, he or she will have to request to be reassessed for future admission.

How does a student apply for the program? Applications are available on line at www.bhmschools.org. Search "Request to Assess" or call Tess Teichert at 763-682-8778.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

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