



A program for highly gifted students



For Your Information...

In most circumstances, teachers and parents can work together to utilize the regular curriculum in order to challenge students. On occasion, this may not be possible in the regular classroom setting. In order to best fit the learning needs of our students, BHM Schools utilizes a number of strategies. The Quest program is an acceleration and enrichment program for students who are at or above the mid to upper 90th percentile of student ability and performance. If you feel that your child's academic needs may require something beyond the traditional curriculum, we invite you to consider applying for Quest.

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 FastBridge aReading and aMath which are used to determine student achievement levels, and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) which is 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 in the mid to upper 90th percentile on aReading/aMath testing, and score in the mid to upper 90th percentile on the CogAT. Parents and the student's current teacher will also complete a perceiver form of gifted characteristics. Applicants can also submit other information, such as IQ test information, IEP or 504 plans. A recommendation team reviews all of the applications and makes decisions on student qualifications for the program. BHM 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.

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 to 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 bhmschools.org/quest-program or call Tess Teichert at 763-682-8778.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

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