



Mendham Township Gifted & Talented Program
Adopted 2014
Mendham Township School District



Quest Program Grades 3 - 8

Overview

The Elementary School's grade 3 and 4 Quest programs engage students in advanced collaborative and critical thinking to problem solve real-world STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) based learning activities. Students are challenged to use effective oral and written communication skills to research, collect data, analyze information and provide strong rationale for outcomes and proposals.

The grade 3 and 4 Quest classes meet weekly during enrichment and zero periods. Quest students may also participate in additional special programs, competitions, or field trips coordinating with their units of study. In addition to the Quest program, all students in grades K-4 participate in weekly enrichment classes delivered by the G&T and classroom teachers.

The Middle School's Quest programs are a continuation of the elementary programs. Students work collaboratively to propose and implement solutions to real life phenomena through logic-based simulations. Students continue to develop effective oral and written communication skills, however, developing effective 'cooperation skills' are paramount to producing successful projects as students move through the grades. In addition, there is an increased focus on authentic 'building' and creative problem solving in grade 7 and 8.

Quest 5 and 6 classes meet weekly during enrichment periods and are open only to those students who meet the eligibility requirements outlined below. Quest 7 and 8 classes meet at least once per week during enrichment but may meet more frequently based on the complexity of the units or activities. Quest activities may include field trips, competitions, and or special presentations.

Overview of Eligibility

All MTES students in grade 2 will be screened for Quest services beginning with CogAt Testing. Students found eligible for Quest services in grade 2 will remain eligible for Quest services indefinitely through grade 8.

All students will again be screened for Quest services in grade 5. The grade 5 screening shall not terminate Quest eligibility for any student regardless of score, rather, grade 5 students who earn in the 96th percentile (CogAT) Composite or Non-Verbal will be added to Quest service rosters for grade 6. In grades 7 and 8, all "interested" students shall have the opportunity to participate in Quest 7 and 8 based upon successful completion of preliminary summer projects.

Students new to the district may be recommended for participation upon registration, however must be screened and meet minimum eligibility criteria.

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Grade 2 Eligibility Process for Grades 3-5

Stage 1 - Screening

Step 1

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is administered to all students in grades 2. Students receiving a (CogAT) Composite or Non-Verbal Standard Age Score of 125 or above continue to step 2.

**A Standard Age Score of 125 represents scores in the 8th stanine and 94th percentile of national scores.*

**A standard Age Score of 130 represents scores in the 9th stanine and the 98th percentile of national scores.*

Step 2

Students are assessed using the **Sages-2 Aptitude Assessment** (Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary School Students) *Parent permission is required.

Step 3

Two teachers will complete the Renzulli-Hartman Checklist.

Stage 2- Identification

*Students must meet the minimum score requirements listed below to be eligible for Quest services:

CogAT: Standard Age Score of 125 or higher on the Composite or Non-Verbal sections.

Sages-2: Aptitude score of 120 or higher (on either section)

Renzulli-Hartman Checklist: Students must receive at least 60 out of 72 points on one or both of the Checklists.

***Appeal Process**

If a child does not meet the entrance requirements for Quest services, a parent or teacher can request the student be assessed through the appeal process. All appeals must be filed in writing to the principal for consideration for the following school year.

**Students must demonstrate above average ability on the CogAT Composite Standard Age Score (125 or above) to be considered for appeal.*

- The appeal will consist of an opportunity for the student to demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in a given performance task.
- The students will be able to select from either a linguistic (language based) or mathematical/spatial performance task.
- The students will complete the task independently and be assessed using the Creative and Critical Thinking rubric.
- The student must receive a minimum score **24** on the rubric to receive Quest services.

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Grade 5 Eligibility Process for Grades 6-8

- All students found eligible for Quest in grade 2 will remain eligible through grade 8
- CogAt administration in grade 5
- Grade 5 students who earn in the 96th percentile (CogAt) Composite or Non-Verbal will be added to the Quest rosters for grade 6.
- In grades 7 and 8, Quest services will be available to all Middle School students based upon interest. However, eligibility may be contingent upon successful completion of a lengthy summer project.



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Gifted, Talented, and Enrichment Offerings

Primary Quest

Grades 1-2

Quest for all students utilizing the Primary Education Thinking Skills (P.E.T.S.) program. One period per week the enrichment teacher pushes into the classroom to provide instruction in critical and creative thinking skills.

Mentoring Mathematical Minds (M3)

Grades 2-4

A math enrichment program designed to enhance conceptual understanding of math. Curriculum units include, but are limited to, measurement and deciphering the Moli Stone. Students are recommended to participate one math period per week based upon teacher observation and performance on benchmark assessments, as well as results from the quantitative sections of the NJASK, Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and NJ Model Curriculum Math Unit Assessments.

Mastery & Enrichment

Grades 3-4

All students participate in enrichment activities one period per week. The activity offerings run on 6-8 week cycles, and vary throughout the year. Students can self-select from the offerings based upon his or her individual interests and needs. Once an activity is selected students remain in the enrichment cluster for the entire cycle. Students have the opportunity to select new enrichments each cycle.

Quest

Grades 3-4

One of the clusters offered during Mastery & Enrichment is Quest. This class focuses on collaborative work that requires high levels of critical and creative thinking skills. Potential students are identified and screened during the spring of grade 2. Multiple measures are used to help identify students that are demonstrating readiness to participate in the Quest program. Students attend the Quest enrichment one period per week during Mastery/Enrichment, and one zero period before school. The curriculum for this program is on the school website, under the curriculum link.



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Gateways
Grades K-4

Gateways is an advanced academic program which provides parallel or accelerated instruction in math and language for students who have demonstrated ability and achievement 1+ grade levels above peers, and whom need additional or advanced coursework to continue his or her academic growth. Eligibility is determined on an as need basis for K-1. If a student has shown academic skills far beyond his or her peers, his or her teacher may recommend the child for additional math, language arts, or cognitive assessments. The math specialist, reading specialist, and/or testing coordinator administer assessments. If the assessments support the initial findings of the teacher, additional academic enrichments will be provided to support the identified needs of the child. All students in grades 2-4 will be screened to determine need for advanced programming.

Gateways offerings

Math Acceleration-
Grade levels vary on a yearly basis

Students are recommended for additional math assessment based upon classroom observations and performance on benchmark assessments. A test may be administered to determine ability in specific math areas including basic concepts, operations, applications, critical thinking and problem solving. The test results will help determine if the student needs math acceleration, such as completing the 5th grade math curriculum in 4th grade.

Gateways Social Studies-
Grades 3-4

Students who demonstrate ability and achievement beyond his or her peers in Language Arts will participate in a pullout Social Studies program. The parallel curriculum will address the same essential questions and standards as the grade level Social Studies curriculum but will utilize a language based approach to enhance reading and writing skills.