

Welcome to QUEST!

QUEST is the Gifted and Talented Program of West Hartford Public Schools. It serves the needs of high ability, highly creative, highly motivated students. QUEST offers unique and diverse opportunities for students in grades 4-8; and strives to identify, nurture, support, and service gifted and talented students from diverse populations.

A student centered model, QUEST is founded on the principles of the Enrichment Triad Model (Renzulli, 1977) and the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (Renzulli and Reis, 1985). Students adopt challenging and demanding roles that require hands-on learning, first-hand investigations, and the application of knowledge and thinking skills to complex problems. Opportunities, resources, and encouragement are provided to support continuous escalation of student involvement in both required and self-selected activities. (Renzulli, 1994/1995).

Vision Statement

QUEST is committed to providing each student a nurturing and supportive environment that encourages advanced learning, problem solving, and critical and creative thinking, combined with innovative learning in theme-based studies.

*Ms. M. Thompson
Director of Gifted and Talented*

"We value the open-minded and cooperative exchange of ideas. We seek to positively influence our collaborative team with each member contributing toward our collective success."

-QUEST Team



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West Hartford, Connecticut



Welcome to QUEST!

QUEST
A Schoolwide Gifted Program
West Hartford Public Schools

exploring
searching
questioning
thinking

QUEST Approach to Learning

QUEST, West Hartford Public School's Gifted and Talented Program, has been addressing the learning needs of highly capable students since 1994.

The program guides students to become independent, lifelong learners who will know how to act upon their own interests and talents to become innovators, artists, scientists, political and philosophical thinkers, humanitarians and leaders in our community and beyond. This has become the hallmark of the program's work.

Identified students in grades 4-8 are provided opportunities to advance their learning and understanding of themselves through authentic and challenging experiences found in QUEST, Math QUEST and Art QUEST. Multiple criteria for identification of gifted and talented students are used including intelligence, achievement, leadership, creativity, product evaluation, and student work.

Identification of students begins at the end of grade 3 and is a continuous process through grade 8. Students explore three types of enrichment learning activities, each one guiding the student learner through greater depth, complexity and independency. The delivery components are:

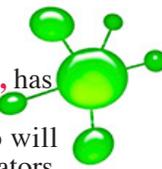
Type I Enrichment: exploration and discovery are the key elements in Type I enrichment. Students are exposed to general exploratory experiences such as presentations, performances, workshops, interest development centers, etc.

Type II Enrichment: "How to" is the key element in Type II enrichment. Students engage in individual, small group or classroom lessons to develop the skills and processes necessary for independent learning.

Type III Enrichment: "Practicing professional" is the highest level of enrichment learning. Students conduct an in-depth independent/small group investigation based on their personal interests and motivation.

Math QUEST is an accelerated math program that allows students to grow two grade levels beyond their current grade placement. Math QUEST is offered in grades 4 and 5 for students who qualify based on specific criteria. Elementary QUEST teachers deliver the instruction. Math QUEST students take the grade 7 honors math placement test at the end of grade 5. Students must qualify each year to continue in Math QUEST.

Art QUEST invites any incoming 5th grade student across the district to submit a portfolio for review as the new school year begins. Approximately 30 fifth graders are selected for 20 weeks of after-school art classes in two school locations, staffed by 4 art teachers. An Art QUEST Exhibit celebrates the students' work at the conclusion of the program.



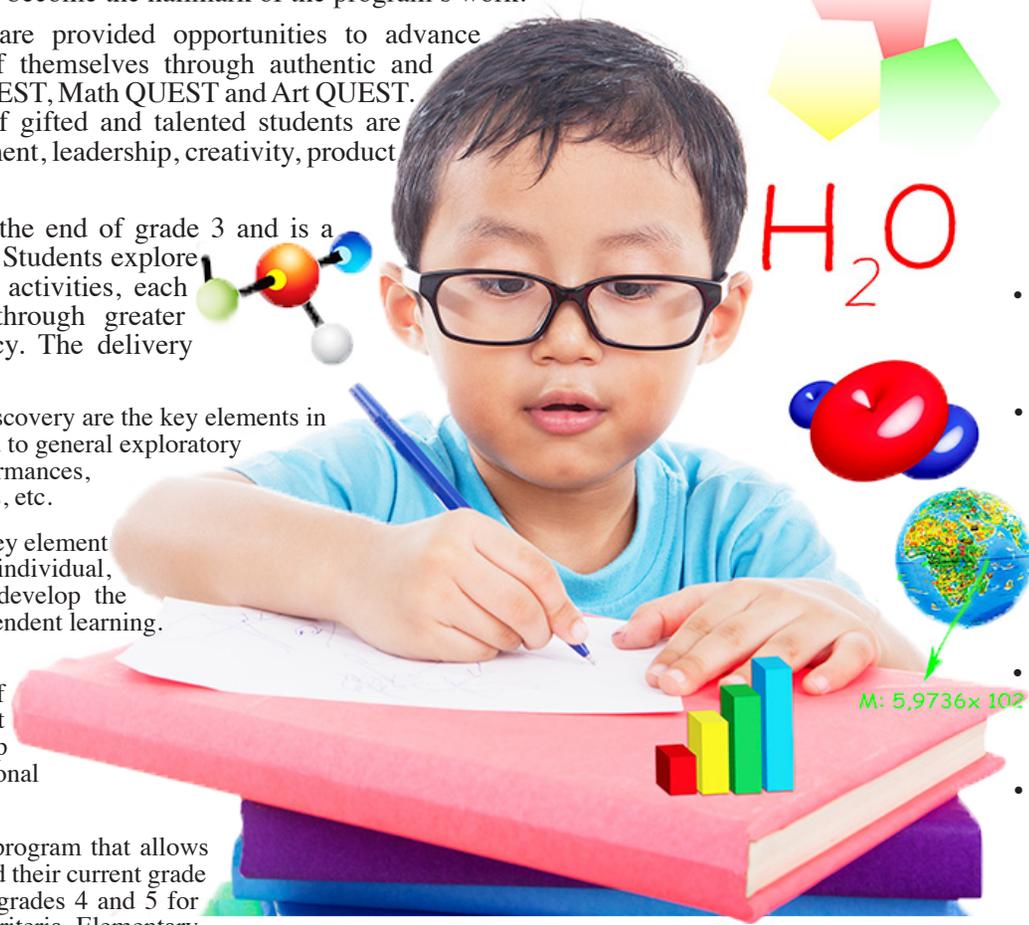
$$\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x) = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(-x) &= -\sin(x) & \csc(-x) &= -\csc(x) \\ \cos(-x) &= \cos(x) & \sec(-x) &= \sec(x) \\ \tan(-x) &= -\tan(x) & \cot(-x) &= -\cot(x) \end{aligned}$$



GOALS

- To provide students with challenging opportunities, experiences, and resources, including roles that require hands-on authentic investigations based on student interests and intellectual curiosity.
- To create a safe learning environment that encourages the development and demonstration of students' creative and critical thinking skills.
- To provide opportunities for students to explore academic talents and personal interests through independent investigative work. Research is followed by the creation of advanced level products incorporating their knowledge, skill, and expertise.
- To promote continuous growth of the professional staff in the area of gifted education, with an emphasis on ability, task commitment and creative expression.
- To advocate among the faculty, administration, student body, parents, and community for recognition of the demanding and challenging roles and responsibilities that are required to meet the needs, abilities, and interests of high ability students throughout the district.



MISSION

The mission of the QUEST Program is to ensure that students have an opportunity to develop their unique gifts and talents by creating a learning environment that encourages students to:

- Q**uestion the world around them
- U**nderstand the need to learn and grow
- E**xplore the past, present, and future
- S**earch for solutions and meanings
- T**hink creatively and critically