

QUEST Approach to Learning

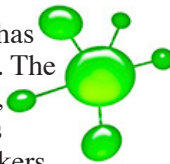
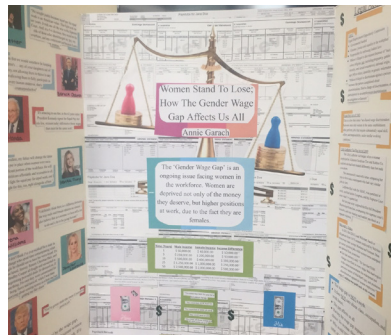
QUEST, West Hartford Public School's Gifted and Talented Program, has been addressing the learning needs of highly capable students since 1994. The program facilitates an environment for students to become independent, lifelong learners who will know how to act in their interests and talents to become innovators, artists, scientists, political and philosophical thinkers, humanitarians and leaders in our community and beyond. A purposeful plan to provide programming for the unique educational needs that challenge and motivate students to achieve at optimal levels is the hallmark of QUEST to maximize learning opportunities.

Identified students in grades 4-8 are provided opportunities to advance their learning and understanding of themselves and the world through authentic problem solving and investigative experiences found in QUEST, Math QUEST and Art QUEST. The students are capable of high performance/exceptional production and/or learning behaviors. A multi-criteria identification process is based on a combination of these areas of giftedness: intellectual ability, academic aptitude, creative and productive thinking, leadership and performing arts.

The selection process for identification of students begins at the end of grade 3 and is a continuous process through grade 8. Identified students explore three types of learning targets, each one guiding the student through greater complexity, depth, and independence.

Math QUEST is an accelerated math program that provides mathematics for students in grades 4 & 5 who qualify for developmentally advanced instruction where special provisions are required to meet the students' educational needs. QUEST teachers deliver the education through a rigorously paced scope and sequence.

Art QUEST invites all 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 visual art exploration classes in two school locations, staffed by 4 art teachers. An Art QUEST Exhibit celebrates the students' work at the conclusion of the program.



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

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



$$M: 5,9736 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$



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

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.

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 the continuous growth and development 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 thematic-based studies.

*Dr. Mary 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



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