

Elementary Quest Program

2012-2013

For highly capable students, grades 2-5



Every Student Future Ready

*Prepared for college,
Prepared for the global workplace,
Prepared for personal success*

 **Lake Washington**
School District

Program Timeline for 2012-13 School Year

Parent/Student Information Night* (Two date options)	September 29, 2011 or October 6, 2011 4:30 or 7 p.m. Rose Hill Junior High 13505 N.E. 75th St., Redmond, 98052
Applications Available	October 3, 2011
Applications Due	October 28, 2011, 4 p.m.
Round I of Assessment: Cog AT	
Grade 1	January 21, 2012
Grades 2	January 14, 2012
Grades 3-4	January 7, 2012
Round II of Assessment: ITBS & Renzulli	ITBS: February 11 and February 25, 2012 Renzulli: Not a scheduled exam.
Notification of Placement	Late spring

These dates are subject to change depending on the number of applications.

*There are two date options for the Parent/Student Information Night: either Sept. 29 or Oct. 6.

Application Process

The Quest office has access to all LWSD student report card and test data. Parents will not need to submit this information.

1. Fill out the online application and submit. The application is online at www.lwsd.org/quest.
2. All applications must be received by the Quest office on or before **4:00 p.m., Friday, October 28, 2011**. Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.
3. Parents will be contacted in mid December by email as to whether or not students are eligible for testing.
4. Parents will be notified in late spring of 2012 regarding student placement in the Quest program for the 2012-2013 school year.

Overview of Elementary Quest Programs

Lake Washington School District provides a continuum of services to meet the learning needs of students residing in the district. Two program options are offered for students in grades one through six who demonstrate exceptional ability, who exceed grade level standards in literacy and math, and who possess strong motivation to excel. In 2012-13, LWSD is changing to a configuration of K-5 elementary schools, 6-8 middle schools and 9-12 high schools. The options offered in 2012-2013 will be for students in grades 2-5 who demonstrate exceptional ability.

Enrichment Pull-Out Program

The enrichment pull-out program is designed to meet the needs of students who have exceptional ability by enriching their elementary curriculum. Students attend their home school four days a week and the enrichment pull-out classroom one day a week.

The curriculum in the enrichment pull-out program includes integrated social studies and science themes. Students apply literacy and math, with emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Long-term projects are part of the enrichment pull-out program.

The enrichment pull-out program is located at:

- Blackwell Elementary, Sammamish
- Franklin Elementary, Redmond
- Sandburg Elementary, Kirkland

Full-Time Program

The full-time program is designed to meet the needs of students who have exceptional ability by accelerating the district curriculum. Students are enrolled in a self-contained classroom all day, five days a week.

The curriculum in the full-time program includes literacy, math, social studies, science, health, and the arts. As this is an accelerated program, the learning pace is faster than in the regular education program. Students are expected to perform work that exceeds grade level standards. Many of our classrooms are multi-grade level, integrating two years of curriculum.

The full-time program is currently located at:

- Alcott Elementary, Redmond
- Franklin Elementary, Kirkland
- Redmond Elementary, Redmond
- Smith Elementary, Sammamish
- Thoreau Elementary, Kirkland

Transportation

District transportation is available from the Quest student's neighborhood school to and from the Quest school site. **Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the neighborhood home school.**

Student Identification Process

Based on state guidelines for identifying highly capable students, Lake Washington School District uses multiple criteria to determine placement.

Applicants must:

- be residents of the district
- be in first grade or higher
- complete the online application (private and home schooled students may be asked to submit additional required forms to the Quest office)
- demonstrate high creativity, high academic achievement and high cognitive ability in both literacy and math (not one subject area or the other),
- participate in the testing process and the process for selection

Students currently enrolled in the enrichment pull-out program and not on the wait list, must apply to the full-time program if they wish to be considered for full-time placement.

Note: Private testing outside school district cannot be used to substitute for Lake Washington School District testing.



Screening Procedures

Applicants must meet the screening criteria to be considered for Quest testing. The district reviews academic performance to determine eligibility. Academic performance is reviewed through the district standards-based report card.

To ensure success in a highly capable program, students need to demonstrate strong, current performance in both reading and math. The Quest office will have all report card data and test results for LWSD students.

Screening Criteria

Beginning in 2012-13, the program will serve elementary students in grades 2-5. Therefore, no kindergarten testing will be done this year. Elementary applicants need to meet the following screening criteria in order to be considered for Quest assessment:

Grades 1, 2 and 3 (applying for second, third and fourth grade Quest) Final report card data from the previous school year	
Reading	3.5 mean of all strands
Math	3.5 mean of all strands
Grade 4 (applying for fifth grade Quest) Final report card data from the previous school year	
Reading	3.5 mean of all strands
Math	3.5 mean of all strands
Washington Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) results from Spring 2011	Reading: Level 4 Math: Level 4

Students in fifth and sixth grade need to apply to middle school Quest.

Screening for Private School Students

Academic performance on the most recent report card is reviewed along with standardized testing results. Applicants need to provide a private school report card form available in the Quest office and on the Quest website, www.lwsd.org/quest. The form must be completed by the student's teacher and returned to the Quest office. This form explains the expectations for performance in reading and math for private schools.

Screening for Home Schooled Students

Academic performance is reviewed through student work in reading and math. Contact the Quest office for the form which explains these procedures, or download the form on the Quest website: www.lwsd.org/quest. This Home School Report card form explains the requirements for some applicants to submit work samples and the expectations for performance in reading and math. This completed form is required along with the application.

Assessment Procedures

Applicants who meet the screening criteria are scheduled for district assessment, starting in January 2012. Most of the group testing is scheduled on Saturdays and takes place at Einstein Elementary School, in Redmond. The final testing schedule will be sent to parents and posted on the Quest website. Only one make-up day for each test for children who are ill will be scheduled.

Round I: Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT)

The Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT), one level above the student's current level, is administered to all students who have met the screening criteria. Students who meet the Cog AT ability criteria will be scheduled for Round II, the ITBS assessment.

Round II: Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and Renzulli

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), one level above the student's current level, is administered to all students who have met the Cog AT ability criteria in Round I. After students have met Cog AT and ITBS criteria, teachers are asked to complete a *Renzulli Creativity Scale for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students*. This rating scale is based on the characteristics of highly capable students and obtains an estimate of a student's characteristics in the area of creativity. The Quest office will arrange for these scales to be completed.

Quest Assessment Criteria

Only applicants who meet the application screening criteria are eligible for Quest assessment. Students are tested in small groups by trained proctors.

Round I of Assessment (Screening procedures must be met)	Ability: Cog AT
Enrichment pull-out Quest	131-134 Composite Standard Age Score (98th-99th percentile)
Full-time Quest	135 or higher Composite Standard Age Score (99th percentile)
Round II of Assessment (Cog AT composite score must be 98th percentile or higher to qualify for Round II)	Achievement & Creativity: ITBS and Renzulli
Enrichment pull-out Quest	98th percentile or higher in both ITBS total reading and total math
Full-time Quest	99th percentile in both ITBS total reading and total math
Both pull-out and full-time Quest	80th percentile on <i>Renzulli Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics for Superior Students</i> completed by classroom teacher

Placement Procedures

Students must meet Quest criteria to be considered for placement. Space is limited at every site. Not all students meeting the criteria for placement may actually be placed. Placements are made on a space available basis at the site that serves your home address. In the event that space is not available, a waiting list is created. Students on the waiting list are rank-ordered, based on their test results at the time of their identification. Students for each site are placed in rank order, using the Cog AT standard age score and then the ITBS achievement scores. Should there not be enough room to place all students who have the same rank order at a site, a random number lottery will be used to determine who is placed, and also the order of the wait lists. If a student declines an offer for placement in their home site or moves out of the district, that place is offered to the next student on the rank-ordered list.

Once the wait list is established, it is not re-ordered when students leave the district and return or when new students transfer into the district. Returning and transfer students are placed at the end of the wait list, regardless of score, after students who are already on the rank-ordered list.

Appeals Process

As the Quest Program is designed to serve students who demonstrate exceptional ability, acceptance into the program is challenging. Appeals for reconsideration of students who have not met the assessment criteria are reviewed by an appeals review team after each round of assessment. Specific deadlines for appeals will be provided by the Quest office.

Appeals of assessment results must be based upon:

- a) a condition or circumstance believed to have caused a misinterpretation of the testing results; or
- b) an inequitable application of the identification procedures

All appeals must be submitted in writing and include reasons to support that either (a) or (b) have occurred. Each appeal will be reviewed by a team including the Quest Psychologist and the Director of Accelerated Programs. The decision of the appeals review team is reported in a letter to the parents and is final.

Quest Contacts

Quest Staff: Dan Phelan, *Director of Accelerated Programs*
Sandy Malone-Long, *Psychologist*

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Website and e-mail: www.lwsd.org/quest; quest@lwsd.org

Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC): www.lwsdgeac.org; info@lwsdgeac.org
Open meetings, first Wednesday of most months at LWS D Resource Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.