

# Middle School Quest Program

2012-2013

*For highly capable students, grades 6-8*



**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

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Parent/Student Information Night	October 25, 2011, 7-8:30 p.m. Kamiakin Junior High 14111 132nd Ave N.E., Kirkland, 98034
Applications Available	October 24, 2011
<b>Applications Due</b>	<b>November 18, 2011, 4 p.m.</b>
Assessment for Grades 6-8	
Round I: Cognitive Ability	January 7, 2012
Round II: Academic Achievement	February 11, 2012
Notification of Placement (email)	Spring 2012
Acceptance Due	Spring 2012

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

*Note: Students who accept placement in the Quest program will be removed from Choice schools waiting lists.*

## Application Process

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Quest students have already been selected for the 2011-12 school year. The online application period for sixth through eighth grade Quest for the 2012-13 school year will begin October 24, 2011.

1. All applicants, including current full-time Quest students, must fill out and submit the online application. The application is online at [www.lwsd.org/quest](http://www.lwsd.org/quest).
2. All applications must be received by the Quest office on or before **4:00 p.m., Friday, November 18, 2011**. Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.
3. Parents will be contacted in early December by email as to whether or not students are eligible for testing.
4. Parents will be notified in spring 2012 regarding student placement in the Quest program for the 2012-2013 school year.

# Overview of Middle School Quest Programs

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## Overview

The middle school Quest program offers acceleration and enrichment of core curriculum in the areas of language arts, social studies, and science. Providing academic challenge for highly capable learners, classes include greater breadth and depth of subject matter, a wide variety of learning processes and teaching methods, and high expectations for student work and achievement.

## Student Outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate and apply higher-level thinking processes
- Develop and demonstrate advanced research skills
- Become independent, creative, and self-directed thinkers
- Develop and demonstrate the ability to identify and solve problems

## Location

The middle school Quest program is located at Kamiakin and Redmond middle schools. Placement in either school is determined by home address and neighborhood middle school attendance pattern. Once accepted into the program, students enroll in one of these middle school schools for the full day.

## Structure

The middle school Quest program consists of a two-period, integrated language arts and social studies block and one period of science. Students will be placed at the appropriate math level for one other period, leaving them two additional periods for electives (e.g. world language, music, P.E., etc.).

## Transportation

Students living more than a mile from the middle school may use school district transportation to and from school if a district-established bus route is available. Otherwise, parents are responsible for transporting students in the absence of established bus routes. At the time of enrollment into the program, parents may also apply for a Metro bus pass if the student lives more than a mile from the middle school and there are no district-established bus routes available.

# Student Identification Process

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The middle school Quest program is open to all students residing within the district who meet program criteria. Students who participated in the elementary Quest full-time program and the elementary Quest enrichment pull-out program must also apply to the middle school Quest program and meet the eligibility criteria. ***Acceptance into the middle school Quest program is not automatic for current elementary Quest students.***

Based on state guidelines for identifying highly capable students, the Lake Washington School District utilizes multiple criteria to determine placement. Applicants must demonstrate high cognitive ability and high academic achievement in literacy, social studies, and science. Applicants must be residents of the district, and must go through the district testing process for selection. Private testing outside the school district cannot be used to substitute for Lake Washington School District testing.

## Quest Assessments

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### **Cognitive Ability**

A student's cognitive ability indicates how well the student uses general thinking and problem solving skills to solve verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal problems. The Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT) is used to measure a student's ability for these verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning skills. The Cog AT is a group ability test administered in small groups. Students must have a Composite Standard Age Score at the 99th percentile or higher to be eligible for the middle school Quest program.

### **Academic Achievement**

A standardized achievement test is used to measure academic achievement in the areas of reading, language, social studies, and science. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is used to measure academic achievement. Students must score at the 98th percentile or above in total reading, total language, social studies, and science to be eligible for the middle school Quest program.

### **Creativity**

After students have met screening and achievement criteria, teachers are asked to complete the *Renzulli Scales 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. Students must have a rating of 80 percent or higher to be eligible for the middle school Quest program.

## Screening Procedures

Applicants must meet the screening criteria in order to be considered for Quest assessment. Not all Quest applicants will be eligible for assessment. The district reviews academic performance through the standards-based report card and standardized assessment data in order to determine eligibility. Students must demonstrate that their current performance exceeds the grade level standards in language arts, social studies and science. The Quest office will have all report card data and test results for current Lake Washington School District students.

## Screening Criteria

Middle school applicants must meet the following screening criteria in order to be considered for Quest assessment:

Fifth and Sixth Grade Criteria	
Current full-time Quest students:	Quest review of student performance
All other applicants, including current Quest enrichment pull-out students:	<b>Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math:</b> Mean (average score) of 3.5 or higher in each subject. Mean is computed by combining last spring report card scores for each subject. <b>Measurements of Student Progress (MSP):</b> Level 4 on all of previous year's MSP scores (excluding Writing)
Seventh Grade Criteria (applying for eighth grade Quest)	
All Quest applicants:	<b>Language Arts:</b> B+ or higher on November report card <b>Social Studies:</b> B+ or higher on November report card <b>Science:</b> B+ or higher on November report card <b>Reading:</b> Level 4 on 6th grade MSP results

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

### Screening for Private School Students

Academic performance on the student's most recent report card is reviewed along with standardized testing results. Applicants will need to complete the private school application, which is available online at [www.lwsd.org/quest](http://www.lwsd.org/quest). This form, which explains to the private school the expectations for performance in literacy, social studies, and science, must be included with the application. Proof of residence in Lake Washington School District must also be provided. Hard copies of these documents and forms should be sent to the Quest office.

### Screening for Home Schooled Students

Academic performance through student work in literacy, social studies, and science is reviewed. Applicants will need to complete the home school application, which is available online at [www.lwsd.org/quest](http://www.lwsd.org/quest). Proof of residence in the Lake Washington School District must also be provided.

# Assessment Procedures

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Middle school applicants who meet the screening criteria are scheduled for Quest assessment to determine eligibility. There are two rounds of assessment.

## Round I: Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT)

The Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT), one grade 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 grade 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 the *Renzulli Scales 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.

## Middle School Quest Assessment Criteria

Applicants must meet the following assessment criteria to be considered for placement in the middle School Quest program:

- be residents of the district
- Quest full-time students will receive a Quest review of student progress
- Quest enrichment pull-out students must:
  - Complete Round I - Cog AT (unless previously tested by Quest within one year at 99%)
  - Complete Round II (if qualified) - ITBS (unless previously tested by Quest within one year at 98%), and *Renzulli Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics for Superior Students* completed by the classroom teacher.
- All other applicants must:
  - Complete Round I - Cog AT
  - Complete Round II (if qualified) - ITBS and *Renzulli Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics for Superior Students* completed by the classroom teacher.

Middle School Quest Assessment Criteria	
Round I: Cognitive Ability Assessment - Cognitive Abilities Test (Cog AT)	Must score at 99th percentile or higher, 135 Composite Standard Age Score
Round II: Academic Achievement Assessment - Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)	Must score at 98th percentile or higher in total reading, total language, social studies and science
Creativity: <i>Renzulli Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics for Superior Students</i>	80th percentile or higher Scale Total 43-54

# Placement Procedures

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Placements are made on a space available basis at the site which serves your home address. Achievement and ability data measures are compiled and weighted values are assigned for each measure. These multiple measures are combined to derive a total value. The total values are then rank-ordered to determine priority order for program placement.

## Wait List

Placement in the middle school Quest program is limited. In the event that space is not available, a wait list will be created. Students on the wait list are rank-ordered based on their test results at the time of their identification at the middle school, which serves the students from that area. Rank of students with identical scores is by lottery. Placement is offered based on the student's place on the rank-ordered list. Once the class limit is reached, a wait list is created, based on the rank-ordered list. If a student declines an offer for placement 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

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Appeals for reconsideration of students who have not met the screening, or assessment criteria are reviewed by an appeals review team after application screening, after Round I for Cog AT appeals and after Round II for ITBS appeals. Specific deadlines for appeals will be provided by the Quest office. Appeals of assessment results must be based upon one of the following:

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

All appeals must be submitted in writing and include reasons to support that either situation has occurred. Each appeal is reviewed by a team including the Quest psychologist, and the Director of Accelerated Programs. The final decision of the appeals review team is reported in a letter to the parents, and may not be appealed.

## Quest Contacts

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

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P.O. Box 97039  
Redmond, WA 98073

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Redmond, WA 98052

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**Website and email:** [www.lwsd.org/quest](http://www.lwsd.org/quest); [quest@lwsd.org](mailto:quest@lwsd.org)

**Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC):** [www.lwsdgeac.org](http://www.lwsdgeac.org); [info@lwsdgeac.org](mailto:info@lwsdgeac.org)  
*Open meetings, first Wednesday of most months at LWSD Resource Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*