



# Shenendehowa Central Schools

Office of Instruction  
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## Cognitive Abilities (CogAT) Testing

January 3, 2017

Dear Shenendehowa Grade 5 Parent:

There are many opportunities for middle school students to participate in specialized programming. Student performance data is used to determine course selections to ensure students have the best possible learning experiences.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Critical Inquiry Program will be offered to sixth grade students who demonstrate well-above average verbal and reasoning skills. Students qualify for this program by meeting the requirements of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). This program will be offered during the student's scheduled reading period. The goal of this program is to provide a challenging and rigorous curriculum for highly-able students in sixth grade, designed to strengthen critical thinking skills and nurture creative thought using a Socratic Seminar approach and inquiry model of instruction. For information about the Critical Inquiry Program, please feel free to view the program on the Shenendehowa website.

Students who wish to be considered for Math 6 Honors should also take the CogAT. Students with high quantitative scores on the CogAT test will be examined for possible placement in Math 6 Honors. (*This does not apply to grade 5 students already taking Grade 6 Math, as they will move into Grade 7 Math Honors*). Math 6 Honors follows the Grade 6 Math curriculum with enrichment and deeper conceptual understanding. Please refer to the Math Progressions found on the Shenendehowa website under Academics to see future opportunities for students who are successful in Math 6 Honors.

The CogAT test is open to all fifth grade students in the Shenendehowa District. This test is used to assess students' abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal (spatial) symbols. For students currently enrolled in Shenendehowa, ***this will be the only time of year that this testing will be offered***, therefore, parents may want to consider having their child take the test even if they are uncertain about their child's participation in the Critical Inquiry program and/or Math 6 Honors.

\* The deadline for granting permission to test is **January 13, 2017**, if you would like to have your child take the CogAT test. You may grant permission by either scanning or mailing the completed form on the next page

**\*All grade five students, those who are in Q.U.E.S.T., those that previously qualified for Q.U.E.S.T., and those that wish to be considered for Critical Inquiry must take the CogAT this winter for Critical Inquiry and/or Math 6 Honors consideration.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wood, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment