



# Shenendehowa Central Schools

Office of Instruction  
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## Q.U.E.S.T Program Testing

January 3, 2017

Dear Shenendehowa Parent of Students in Third and Fourth Grade:

During the 2017-2018 school year the Q.U.E.S.T. (Question, Understand, Experiment, Share, Think) Program will be offered to students in the fourth and fifth grades who demonstrate well-above average verbal and reasoning skills. Students qualify for this program by meeting the requirements of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) as well as additional district benchmarks for achievement.

The CogAT test is open to all third and fourth 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. Information gathered about a student through administration of the CogAT test may be used by the school for instructional planning and to identify students who qualify for further testing for math acceleration. 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 Q.U.E.S.T. Program.

Most students who qualify have previously obtained national percentile ranks of 97 or higher in either math or reading on standardized testing. It is important to consider how your child ranks on other standardized tests before considering testing for the Q.U.E.S.T. Program. In addition, it should be noted that students who qualify and enroll in the program are expected to make up any regular classroom work they miss when they attend Q.U.E.S.T. Therefore, this program may not be a good idea for a struggling learner. Students in Q.U.E.S.T. work on thematic units of instruction designed to supplement and elaborate on the general curriculum. The goal of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to meet and exceed challenging learning standards in an interactive and hands-on classroom environment.

For more information about the Q.U.E.S.T. program, please feel free to view the program on the Shenendehowa website.

If you have additional questions, contact **Patricia Bryan**, at [bryapatr@shenet.org](mailto:bryapatr@shenet.org)

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

**Please note, fourth grade students currently in Q.U.E.S.T do not need to be retested in order to remain in the program.**

Sincerely,

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