

QUEST Assessment Opportunity

We need your permission

For Grade 5 Students

For the 2014-2015 school year, **Quality Utilization Enrichment of Students' Talents (QUEST)** in middle school will continue with the new and dynamic format introduced in 2012-2013 for gifted education. The enhanced gifted program will create a sense of personal responsibility and pride in our students as they are challenged in new and exciting ways. Suffolk Public Schools is excited about the new direction because it will better prepare QUEST students for the rigors of high school and college.

The program features:

- ❖ Increased curriculum rigor and depth of content by accelerating content and infusing several high school SOL standards into the middle school curriculum for science and social studies
- ❖ Improved student readiness for advanced high school programs including:
 - ✓ International Baccalaureate
 - ✓ Project Lead The Way
 - ✓ Advanced Placement courses
 - ✓ Honors courses
- ❖ New direction for QUEST
 - ❖ All of the QUEST students will be scheduled in QUEST science and social studies classes. Therefore, *pullout* will be implemented within these accelerated core classes, rather than the former method of pulling them away from instructional time in exploratory classes.
 - ❖ Examples of the integrated core curriculum and the QUEST portfolios can be found on the gifted blog, <http://blogs.spsk12.net/spsgifted/> on the middle school pages.
 - ❖ *Push-in* will occur in all of the subjects across the curriculum as it has in the past. We anticipate the opportunity to provide this service to a wider range of classroom teachers.



The Suffolk Public Schools Gifted Assessment dates for grade 5 students who wish to be considered for middle school QUEST is March 31st through April 11th in your child's elementary school. You will be notified of the exact date for your elementary school.

Students presently enrolled in QUEST maintain their selection status and do not have to be assessed again.

We are excited about the new direction of the gifted program in middle school because we feel it will allow us to better meet the needs of your gifted child. This rigorous program will require your continued support to ensure your child's success in the classes. As your child transitions to middle school you can expect that there will be requirements in learning which will require increased study time, dedication, and commitment to task with the expectation of maintaining high performance grades.

For additional information, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Supervisor of Advanced Instruction, by e-mail (carolkennedydickens@spsk12.net).

To grant permission, please go to the gifted blog, <http://blogs.spsk12.net/spsgifted/>, to complete online the form labeled "QUEST 5 Assessment" and send it to Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Supervisor of Advanced Instruction by e-mail attachment (carolkennedydickens@spsk12.net) by **March 15, 2014. If you do not have access to the blog, ask your child's 5th grade teacher for a copy of the document to mail in.**