

Office of Instruction
Shenendehowa Central Schools
5 Chelsea Place
Clifton Park, NY 12065-3240
(518) 881-0600 ext. 68200
FAX: (518) 881-0626

Testing Date for Critical Inquiry Program

January 6, 2012

Dear Shenendehowa Parent:

During the 2012 - 2013 school year the Critical Inquiry Program at Shenendehowa (formally Young Scholars) will be offered to students in the 6th grade who demonstrate well above average verbal and reasoning skills. Students qualify for this program by meeting the requirements of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The CogAT test is open to all 5th 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 the child's participation in the Critical Inquiry program.

Most students who qualify have previously obtained national percentile ranks of 97 or higher in reading on standardized testing. It is important for parents and teachers to consider how the child ranks on other standardized tests before considering testing for the Critical Inquiry Program. The goal of this program is to provide a challenging and rigorous curriculum for highly adept 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 more information about the Critical Inquiry program, please feel free to view the program's website at www.christymc.webs.com.

If you have additional questions, contact Christine McCarroll at mccachri@shenet.org. Please fill out and return the attached testing permission form no later than **January 18, 2012**, if you would like to have your child take the CogAT test.

***5th GRADERS CURRENTLY IN THE Q.U.E.S.T. PROGRAM DO NOT NEED TO BE RETESTED
IN ORDER TO ENTER THE CRITICAL INQUIRY PROGRAM IN 6th GRADE***

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wood
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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REQUEST TO HAVE STUDENT TESTED USING THE CogAT

Please Print

I wish to have my child tested for programming options for the 2012-2013 school year. I understand that the criteria for qualifications must be met in order for him/her to participate in the gifted programming offered in Shenendehowa next year.

Last name, First name

Grade Level

Student's Elementary School

Teacher's name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed name

Today's Date

Testing date for Okte - February 8th at 9:15 a.m.