

Please mail or fax to:

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 Q.U.E.S.T Program**

January 6, 2012

Dear Shenendehowa Parent:

During the 2012 - 2013 school year the Q.U.E.S.T. (Question, Understand, Experiment, Share, Think) Program at Shenendehowa will be offered to students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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). The CogAT test is open to all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 for parents and teachers to consider how the 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 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. Q.U.E.S.T. is intended to supplement a student's education.

For more information about the Q.U.E.S.T. program, please feel free to view the program's website at <http://www.shenet.org/district/Quest/questhome.html>.

If you have additional questions, contact Erin Madden, Q.U.E.S.T. teacher at [madderin@shenet.org](mailto:madderin@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.

***4<sup>th</sup> GRADERS CURRENTLY IN THE PROGRAM***  
**DO NOT NEED TO BE RETESTED IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wood  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Please mail or fax to:

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(518) 881-0600 ext. 68200  
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No later than January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ - February \_\_\_\_\_