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MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT
the  of our community



Morris School District Elementary Enrichment & Quest Brochure



Kindergarten-Fifth Grade

The Morris School District believes that each student is entitled to challenging, stimulating educational opportunities.

To provide these experiences to our students we have put into place a three-pronged program which consists of:

- 1) Teacher-differentiated support in all K-5 classrooms
- 2) Self-selected school-wide enrichment clusters for all students grades 2-5
- 3) Quest, a pull-out program for academically gifted students

Enrichment Program Description

- Support from Quest teachers for in-class enrichment in grades K-2
- In-class enrichment by the classroom based on individual educational needs
- Grade level enrichment (40min/10 sessions per academic year) for students in grades 2-5; all students will create a final product
- School Quest is 240-250 minutes during a six day rotation for students in grades 4 and 5; 200 minutes for grade 3

School Wide Enrichment Clusters

Students, in grades two through five, will participate in ten 40 minute enrichment sessions throughout the academic school year. These enrichment clusters will allow groups of students who share a common interest to come together during a scheduled time to produce an original product, performance, or a targeted service based on a common interest.

Enrichment clusters may include:

- Chess
- Dance/Exercise
- Readers' Theatre
- Math Games
- Art Gallery
- Song and Sound
- Writers' Workshop
- Debate
- Rocks and Minerals

Quest Program Description

We are committed to identifying and educating academically gifted children. Our responsibility is to provide an excellent education for these children and requires the development of their special abilities and talents as well as addressing their social and emotional needs.

The Quest program targets the top 3%-5% of the student population who demonstrate several of the following attributes: advanced communication skills, creativity, humor, keen insight, diverse interests, high levels of curiosity, above average memory, intrinsic motivation, advanced problem solving abilities, and complex reasoning skills.

Quest Curriculum

The Morris School District's Quest program is designed to extend the established curriculum to meet the educational needs of students who have been identified as gifted and talented.

Units will focus on topics that extend the grade level curriculum and enhance each student's ability to think reasonably, creatively, and divergently. The curricular goals and objectives will evolve once student selection is complete and will reflect students' gifts, interests, and talents. The students will meet with the teacher of the gifted for concentrated periods of time within a pullout program in grades 3-5. Efforts will be made to bring students together from all schools to share ideas and projects

Quest curriculum may include but not be limited to:

Grade 3

- Colonial America
- Native Americans
- Inventions

Grade 4

- Ancient Civilizations
- Natural Disasters
- Engineering and Design

Grade 5

- American Law
- Independent Study
- Economics

Identification Process

All students will be considered annually using the following criteria:

- Non-verbal reasoning test
- Standardized test scores
- Morris School District Behavioral Checklist for parents and teachers

Selection Process Time Line

- The behavioral checklist will be distributed in the fall to the families of all grade 3-5 students
- Families will be notified of the outcome of the selection process

Appeal Process

- A District Appeal Committee is established to address appeals by parents
- Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss their concerns before the committee
- The committee will then review data and inform parents of its final decision.