

Frequently Asked Questions – Elementary Quest Program

(These can also be found on the Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC) website at www.lwsdgeac.org)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1) What are the different Quest programs?

There are three types of Quest programs:

- **Pull-out Quest** (enrichment one day per week for grades 2-5)
- **Full-time Elementary Quest** (accelerated classroom five days per week for grades 2-5)
- **Middle School Quest** (accelerated program for grades 6-8; *there is no pull out program in middle school*)

2) Is there a Quest program in high school?

LWSD does not offer a Quest program in high school. Based on individual interests and goals, students have a number of accelerated program options in high school including Advanced Placement courses, the Cambridge program, Signature Programs, Choice schools, College in the High School, and Running Start.

3) Does my child need to test every year to stay in Quest?

Once students are enrolled in Quest, they do not need to test again to remain in Quest, **except** for Pull-out Quest students who wish to apply to Full-time elementary Quest or Middle School Quest. Pull-out elementary Quest students wishing to participate in Middle School Quest must apply in 5th grade.

4) Where would my child attend school in the Quest program?

Unless your neighborhood school happens to be the location of your child's Quest program, your child would be going to a different school at one of the designated Quest locations. Feeder patterns for the current year are available on the LWSD Accelerated Programs website. Be aware that Quest school feeder patterns and school assignments can change from year to year.

5) How would my child get to and from his/her Quest school?

If your child's Quest school is *not* your neighborhood school, you have a choice for your child to take a Quest school bus or for parent drop off/pick up at the Quest school.

- **A Quest school bus is not a neighborhood school bus; it makes designated stops (usually near other schools) to pick up and drop off Quest students. It is the parents' responsibility to get the student to and from the designated Quest bus stop.**
- There is no charge for Full-time or Middle School Quest students to take the Quest bus.
- There is a charge for Pull-out Quest students to take the Quest bus. These families should receive information from the LWSD Business Office sometime after school ends in June (for the following year).
- Neither the Quest office nor the Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC) is able to arrange or facilitate carpools.
- Families typically receive a postcard in late August indicating the location and schedule of their Quest bus stop. You can also check the Bus Finder page on the LWSD website beginning in late August.
- Any questions regarding Quest transportation should be directed to the LWSD Transportation department.

6) How many students are in a Quest classroom?

The number of students in a Quest classroom is typically the same as for general education classrooms.

7) How are elementary Quest classes structured?

Elementary Quest classes are multi-grade classes (typically 2nd/3rd and 4th/5th), although on occasion some Pull-out classes may be single grade depending on enrollment. This model allows students to have an opportunity to be mentored by older students as well as mentor younger students. In addition, students benefit from exposure to a range of abilities in various subjects.

8) How are students assigned to elementary Quest classrooms?

As with general education students, Quest students are assigned to classrooms by Quest teachers and their principal, taking into account a variety of factors to create balanced classrooms.

PULL OUT QUEST (in addition to General Information)

9) What do students study in the Pull-out program?

Pull-out Quest (POQ) is an **enrichment** program that supplements the LWSD standard classroom curriculum. POQ students complete long-term, theme-based enrichment projects using a variety of skills in reading, writing, research, math, science, social studies, art, public speaking, etc. POQ students receive a separate report card from their POQ teacher, reflecting the work done in that class.

10) When do students attend Pull-out?

- POQ students meet one day per week at one of the Quest Pull-out locations, on the same assigned day every week.
- The other four days of the week Pull-out students attend their neighborhood school. Each general classroom teacher manages Pull-out students differently, but the expectation is that Pull-out students will make up any work missed in their general classroom.

11) When do Pull-out classes start? Where do I find the school supply list?

POQ classes start the second week of school. Typically, the week before school starts your child's Pull-out teacher will email supply lists and other information to you or provide a list on the first day of school.

FULL TIME QUEST (in addition to General Information)

12) What do students study in the Full-time program?

Full-time Quest (FTQ) is an accelerated classroom program that accelerates and enriches the LWSD standard curriculum. Full-time students attend school five days a week at one of the Quest locations.

- **Math and Language Arts:** Students typically study one level above their grade level (2nd graders study 3rd grade Math and Language Arts, 3rd graders study 4th grade Math and Language Arts, etc.). Teachers have various structures in place to be able to teach two different Math and Language Arts curricula to different groups of their students. In addition, Math and Language Arts enrichment activities or projects are provided to further challenge and engage the students.
- **Science and Social Studies:** Students typically study the units for one grade level one year and the other grade level the other year. For example, in a 2nd/3rd classroom, the whole class would do the 3rd grade Science and Social Studies curricula one year and the 2nd grade Science and Social Studies curricula the other year. In addition, Science and Social Studies enrichment activities or projects are provided to further challenge and engage the students.

13) How much homework do Full-time elementary Quest students have?

There is no standard or required amount of homework in Quest. As with general education classes, the amount and type of homework varies from teacher to teacher.

14) What else is different for Full-time elementary Quest students?

Other than the Quest classroom, Full-time elementary Quest students participate and are involved in their Quest school the same as every other student at that school. They have the same specialists (PE, Library, Music), lunchtime, recess, school events, after school enrichment opportunities, etc.

15) Where do I find the school supply list?

As with the supply lists for general education classes, the supply lists for Full-time elementary Quest classes can be found on the website for your Quest school. Different schools post their supply lists in different places on their websites, so you may need to look around. Some schools post one document in which you will need to scroll to the Quest class lists; some schools post individual documents. Either way, you are looking for a supply list that indicates it is for a Quest classroom, not just an individual grade level.