



Keene Elementary Schools Gifted and Talented Report

Report prepared for the Keene School Board Education Committee

Keene Elementary Principals
December 15, 2009

Background

All five schools provide enriching learning experiences to *all* students. Some activities provided are for large groups or grade levels of students and some are more specific to certain projects/student populations. Examples of extended learning experiences for all students are an Artist in Residence, Cultural Ambassador, or a whole school show. We purchase the services of an individual who then joins our school communities for a period of time and teaches all students and engages faculty in learning. A theme or project is planned. The QUEST funds may purchase these services in conjunction with PTA/O groups as well as specific fundraising initiatives.

Another function of QUEST monies in the schools is to provide students with special guests or assemblies. These visits are of shorter duration usually a day or part of a day. Some examples of assemblies in our schools are Living Literature-Laura Ingalls Wilder, New England Brass, Lynn Cullen-Storyteller, and Odds Bodkin. These assemblies provide enrichment in the arts (dance and movement, music), literature, science and other curricular areas.

Other school-based enrichment activities change from year to year based on the student needs and the classroom needs. Monies may be used to purchase materials for specific classroom or grade level projects or field trips. At one school each of the grade levels participates in a project of their choice supported by QUEST monies. Materials purchased might include arts/crafts, or games and instructional materials to support the activities. We have also used QUEST monies to provide experiences in technology. Several schools explore the use of LEGO Engineering Software systems where students are involved in lessons using technology, robotics, and problem solving. Internet websites have allowed students to research and report on topics of their choice.

In addition, we continue our partnership with Keene State College in providing *Math Beyond the Dots* to fifth graders who enjoy the challenge of stretching their math minds. This program is NOT funded through QUEST monies but is budgeted in the 09 Cost Center. The monies provide stipends for the college students who teach the lessons throughout the school year.

Quest monies provide enrichment or extension of higher order thinking skills for all students. But, each school also works within its own means to provide appropriate programming for each and every student. Based on developmental needs, learning needs, and pre-assessment data, teachers provide students with enriched curriculum using a variety of methods and materials-this also varies by classroom teacher. Some teachers use flexible grouping to allow for the pace of instruction to be altered for students who have already demonstrated competencies in the skills area. At times, the reading specialist may work with groups of students, focusing on mastery of higher level skills.

Differentiated instruction is used to meet a wide range of learning needs in all areas. For example, teachers host Math clubs or enhanced Literature Circles with appropriate level materials that are held at lunch or recess time to expand the thinking of students. Curriculum materials may be purchased to meet a specific need for a student or groups of students and this may be accessed through QUEST funds. Many times teachers pull from a variety of resources in order to develop a program that will provide students with the most appropriate programming without incurring additional expenses,

Types of activities provided for student enrichment:

(Funding is a combination of QUEST monies, PTA contribution, and fundraising efforts)

- Museum Visits
- Montshire Museum Science Night and Fair (2 days)
- Worldwide Drumming (artist in residence)
- Paula Aarons –dance (artist in residence)
- Copper Stamping (artist in residence)
- NH Dance Institute
- New England Brass
- Strings
- Musicals
- Jodi Kruskal, Science of Sound
- Lita Judge, Author and Illustrator
- Geography Bee
- Chess Club
- Math Mystery Club
- Various projects that supplement the curriculum: Colonial Studies, etc.
- Knitting
- Yoga
- Choices for various types of math and science projects
- Vocabulary programs to enhance knowledge of spelling and language skills
- Integrated thematic units
- Art Museum night
- Puppets (Ha’penny Theatre) (artist in residence)
- Jeff Warner Music Residency (3 days)
- Felt Murals (artist in residence)
- Basket weaving (artist in residence)
- Monadnock Music
- Instrumental Music
- Chorus (including the All-City Concert)
- Paula Arons Dance Assembly
- Lynn Cullen, Storyteller
- Jeff Warner, Musician
- Spelling Bee
- Book Club
- Use of varied student grouping
- Yarn club this year to focus on sharing students' talents with other students who wanted to learn how to knit and crochet
- Quilting
- After school math for first graders
- Reading Specialist's role in enhancing reading program for precocious readers
- Technology- websites

In addition we enjoy many events at no cost to us, including visits our KMS Show Choir and Jazz Band as well as the KHS Acapella choir. If questions arise prior to next Tuesday’s meeting, please contact any of the Keene Elementary Principals.

Respectfully submitted,
Keene Elementary Principals