

**2008-2009
Hernando County Gifted Task Force**

Recommendations for
the QUEST Academy
for Gifted Education

Acknowledgements

- **Maryanne Bozeman-Teacher of the Gifted**
- **Joe Clifford-Principal**
- **Cathy Dofka-Director of Exceptional Student Education**
- **Paula Drankwalter-Teacher of the Gifted**
- **Dr. Stan Giannet-Provost Dean Pasco Hernando Community College**
- **Cindy Gustafson-Community/Parent Representative**
- **Janine Hammett-Secretary**
- **Cindy Hall-Community/Parent Representative**
- **David Katcher-Assessment Teacher**
- **Loren Kavanaugh-Teacher of the Gifted**
- **Jim Malcolm-Vice Chairman School Board of Hernando County**
- **Rick McGee-Community/Parent Representative**
- **Kelly O'Connor-Teacher of the Gifted**
- **Lydia Pinkowski-Supervisor of Exceptional Student Education**
- **Marsha Reiniers-Chamber Representative**
- **Rose Shaeffer-Program/Staffing Specialist**
- **Mary Grace Surrena-School Psychologist**
- **Elaine Wooten-Elementary Curriculum Specialist**

“Q U E S T”

Academy for Gifted Education

- **Q** – Questioning personal values and feelings
- **U** – Understanding personal, unique capabilities
- **E** – Educating to full potential
- **S** – Searching new ideas and new ways to view the world
- **T** – Thinking through problems for the best solution

Task Force Subgroup

- **Communications**
 - **Jim Malcolm**

Task Force Subgroup

- **The Ideal School**
 - **Mary Grace Surrena, Chair**
 - **Cindy Gustafson**
 - **Cindy Hall**
 - **Jim Malcolm**
 - **Lydia Pinkowski**

Ideal School Components

- Academic instruction provided by teachers holding or attaining the Gifted endorsement.
- Classes clustered to accommodate horizontal and vertical teaching and learning.
- A challenging and comprehensive curriculum.
- Differentiated classroom instruction based upon diagnostic assessments that determine a student's strengths and weaknesses aligned with the Florida World Class Standards.

Ideal School Components (cont.)

- Higher level reading material that is content appropriate available in the Media Center.
- Liberal access to information through technology utilizing laptop computers.
- Opportunity for greater academic engaged time through the use of technology such as the Student Response System.
- Weekly social/emotional skill development through classroom guidance with a curriculum targeting the particular needs of Gifted learners.

Ideal School Components (cont.)

- Opportunity for frequent fieldtrips corresponding to teaching themes and cohesive units.
- Opportunity to earn high school credit, participate in distance learning based upon individual needs, and prepare for the high school International Baccalaureate Program.
- A venue for parents of Gifted learners to have a voice in the QUEST Academy.
- Access to services provided by a school psychologist.

Ideal School Components (cont.)

- Readily available support from Media personnel.
- Opportunities to integrate with grade-level peers for specials, electives, lunch, and extracurricular activities.

Task Force Subgroup

- **Policies and Procedures**
 - **Joe Clifford, Chair**
 - **Cathy Dofka**
 - **Dr. Stan Giannet**
 - **Kelly O'Connor**
 - **Elaine Wooten**

Policies and Procedures

- **Screening Process**
 - Obtain consent for screenings from parent/guardian
 - Parent or teacher recommendations
 - Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test
 - Naglieri (Non-Verbal Ability Test)
 - To be completed at the second semester of first grade

Policies and Procedures (cont.)

• Procedures for Referral

- Any student due to social economic disadvantage or who may be English proficient, who does not demonstrate high performance or achieve high stanines, may be referred for evaluation on the basis of exhibited characteristics of giftedness documented by the classroom teacher and/or others in the school with whom the student has contact.
- If the parent or guardian requests an evaluation in writing, a referral will be completed regardless of the content of the information gathered.

Policies and Procedures (cont.)

- The guidance counselor or administrative designee is responsible for facilitating the completion of the referral form which documents required pre-referral/referral activities and ensuring that the appropriate data is attached.
- The completed referral with all supporting documentation is given to the ESE program/staffing specialist to review for accuracy and compliance. If the referral is in order, the program/staffing specialist signs the referral, sends a copy to Student Services and/or a copy to ESE to be logged, and submits a copy to the appropriate evaluator(s).

Identification of Gifted Students

Evaluation

- Superior intellectual development measured on an IQ test
- 2 standard deviations above the mean
- Individually administered
- 1 out of 5 characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist
- Statement of need for the special program

Standard Error of Measurement

- 2 standard deviations above the mean
 - Minus the standard error of measurement
- 3 out of 5 characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist
- Statement of need for the special program

Gifted “Plan B”

If the student does not initially qualify ... may qualify if the student...



- Is a member of an underrepresented group
 - Low socio-economic or ESOL
- And meets criteria in an approved school district plan

Teacher Endorsement

- Five 60 hour courses need to be completed:
 - **Nature and Needs**
 - **Curriculum**
 - **Guidance and Counseling**
 - **Special Populations**
 - **Creativity**
- * **Teachers must be working towards or have completed the Endorsement requirements**

Enrollment

- Enrollment in the QUEST Academy is automatic when a student is identified as Gifted or a student moving into the county already identified as Gifted from within the state of Florida.
- If at any time a student is dismissed from the Gifted Program, the student will return to the home zoned school.
- If a student transferred to the QUEST Gifted Academy from a magnet school and no longer wishes to attend the QUEST Gifted Academy, the student will not be able to return to the magnet school unless the student successfully goes through the magnet school entry process.
- If the student chooses to return to the home zoned school, the student will be dismissed from Gifted, but is able to reenter Gifted at a later date.

Acceleration

- County policy for whole grade acceleration will be followed as written in the School Procedures Handbook. Subject acceleration will be considered on an individual basis dependent upon the student's needs.

Task Force Subgroup

- **Curriculum Committee**
 - **David Katcher, Chair**
 - **Mary-Ann Bozeman**
 - **Loren Kavanagh**
 - **Kelly O'Connor**
 - **Rose Shaeffer**

Curriculum for the Gifted Student

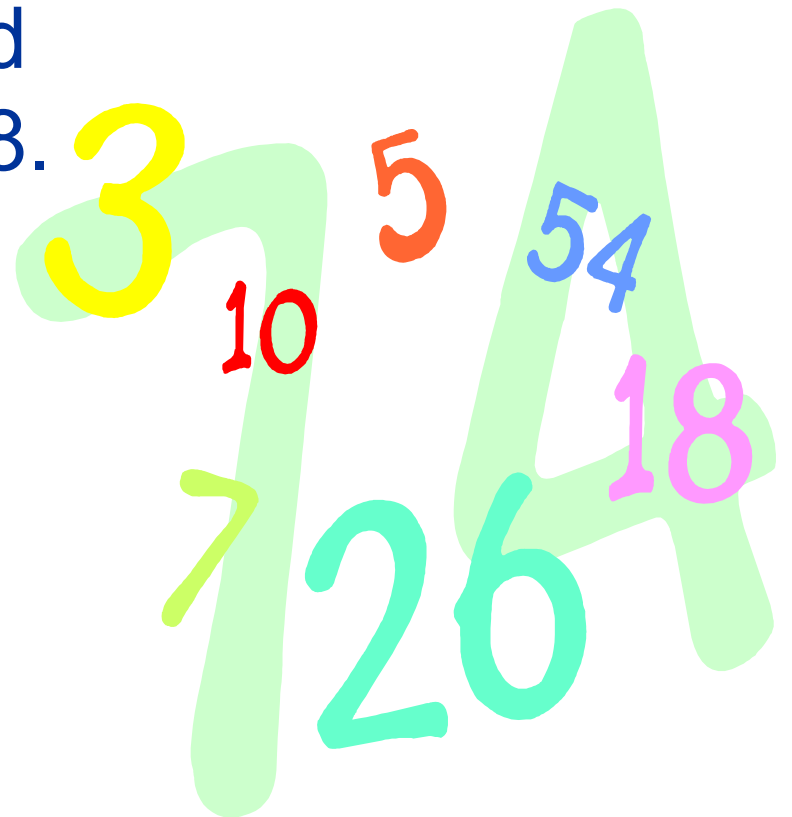
- **Offers opportunities for:**
 - **A differentiated curriculum**
 - **Compacted and/or accelerated curriculum**
 - **Variety and challenge**
 - **Complex critical and higher level thinking**
 - **Application**
 - **Analysis**
 - **Synthesis**
 - **Evaluation**
 - **Bloom's Taxonomy/Webb's Depth of Knowledge**

Reading/Language Arts Recommendations:

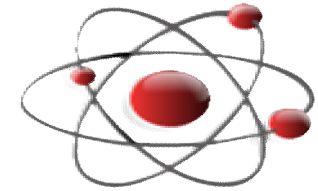
- The Gifted Program will use the district adopted reading series grades K-8.
- **Renzulli Learning Systems** (academic strengths, learning styles).
- William and Mary Language Arts Curriculum (including Units, Navigators and Jacob's Ladder).
- **Supplemental Class** set of novels for Kindergarten through second grade.
- Words Their Way grades K-4
- **SAT Vocabulary** grades 4-8 (Sadler-Oxford Pub.)
- The Think-Link Assessment and Probes

Math Recommendations:

- The Gifted Program will use the district adopted math series grades K-8.
- Singapore Math for grades K-8.



Science Recommendations:



- The Gifted Program will use district adopted textbooks for Science.
- William and Mary Clarion Units grades K-2
- William and Mary Science Units grades 3-8

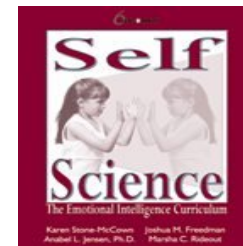
Social Studies Recommendations:



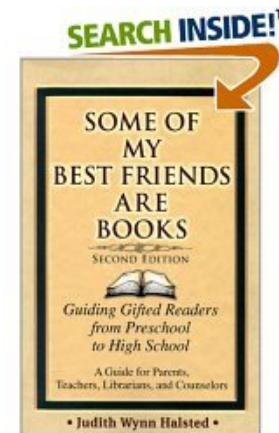
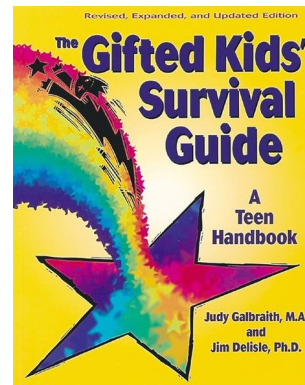
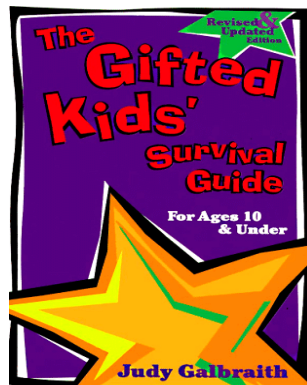
- District adopted program for grades K-2 NewBridge and *Time Magazine* for kids
- The Gifted Program will use district adopted textbooks for Social Studies grades 3-5
- William and Mary Units
- *Geography Alive! History Alive!* and Class sets grades 6, 7, and 8

Social Emotional Recommendations:

- *Self-Science: The Emotional Intelligence Curriculum*



- Pages of Hernando will be donating the *Gifted Kids Survival Guide* (Ten and under, as well as Teen and two copies of *My Best Friends Are Books*).



High School Credit

- **Per School Procedures Handbook, the only approved courses for middle school at this time are: Spanish and Math**
- **Any additional courses will need to go through Hernando School Board for approval.**

Financial Impact

- Staff allocations
- Miscellaneous
- Staff training
- Curriculum

Gifted Staff

- Teachers
 - Grade K- 1
 - Grade 2
 - Grade 3
 - Grade 4
 - Grade 5
 - Grades 6-8
 - Elective
 - PE
- Guidance Counselor
- Gifted Coordinator
- Media Specialist (2nd allocation for school)
- School Psychologist (Increase service by 1 extra day - from existing staff)

Cost of Gifted Staff

Current expense of staff for Gifted students (2007-08):	\$912,000
Expected expense of staff for Gifted students(2008-09):	\$1,368,000
Increase	\$456,000

Miscellaneous

Substitutes for 23 teachers -10 days each

Media Allocation - Enhancement to Media Center

Textbooks - To be provided from Construction Budget

Naglieri (Non-Verbal Ability Test)

Renzulli Learning

Technology - To be provided from Construction Budget

Field Trips - Normal School Allocation

Think Link

Self-Science: Emotional Intelligence Curriculum

Total \$96,885

Staff Training

Career Mapping 5 Extra Work Days for 24 teachers

W&M Training Consultant 5 days plus travel expenses

Singapore Mathematics Training Contract

Singapore Mathematics Training - 100 Teachers

Gifted Endorsement Training - Trainer

Gifted Endorsement Textbooks

Total \$81,900

Language Arts

Jacobs Ladder I, II, III

SAT Vocabulary (grades 5-8)

Words Their Way (grades K-4)

Words Their Way Word (grades K-4)

William & Mary - Other Readings - Supplemental Class
Sets

Sub-total Language Arts **\$18,769**

Mathematics

Singapore Mathematics-teacher reference
Singapore Mathematics-student journals
Singapore Mathematics-textbooks

Sub-total Mathematics **\$14,846**

Science

- Curriculum Assessment Guide to Science Materials
- Guide to Key Science Concepts
- Notes from Scientist
- Budding Botanists (grade 2)
- Dig It! (grade 3)
- How the Sun Makes our Day (grade K-1)
- Invitation to Invent (grade 3)
- Survive and Thrive (grade 1)
- Water Works (grade K-1)
- The Weather Reporter (grade 2)
- What's the Matter? (grade 2-3)
- William & Mary Teaching Models Card
- Guide to Teaching Research Skills (grade 4-12)
- William & Mary Science
- William & Mary Clarion (grade K-2)

Sub-total Science **\$3,083**

Social Studies

- William & Mary Social Studies Units
- TCI History Alive (Ancient Civilizations, Medieval World, US History)
(grades 6-8)
- TCI Teacher Geography Alive (Regions & People)
(grades 6-7)

Sub-total Social Studies **\$33,340**

Financial Impact: *2008-2009 Additional Gifted Budget*

Operating Fund

• Additional Staff	\$456,000
• Miscellaneous	96,885
• Curriculum	<u>70,038</u>
	\$622,923

Title II

• Staff Training	<u>\$81,900</u>
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TOTAL \$704,823

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