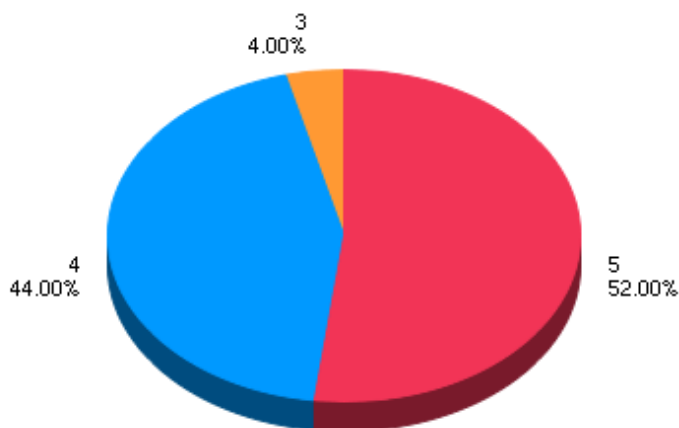


# Response Summary Report #2

December 09, 2010

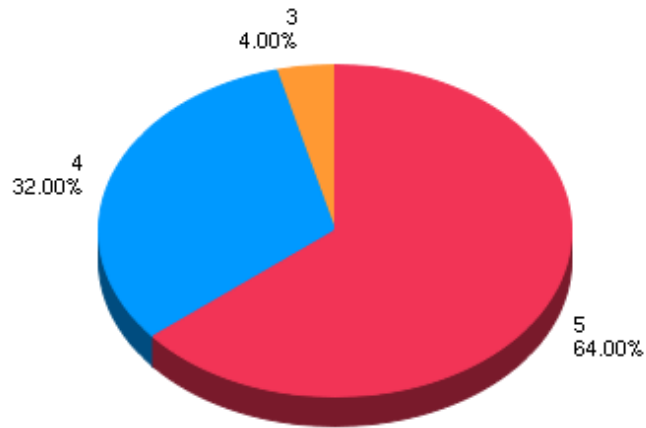
1. The Quest Program is focused on the goals stated in the literature (brochure and Q & A sheets) that families received last spring.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	13	52.00%
4	11	44.00%
3	1	4.00%

Average: 4.48

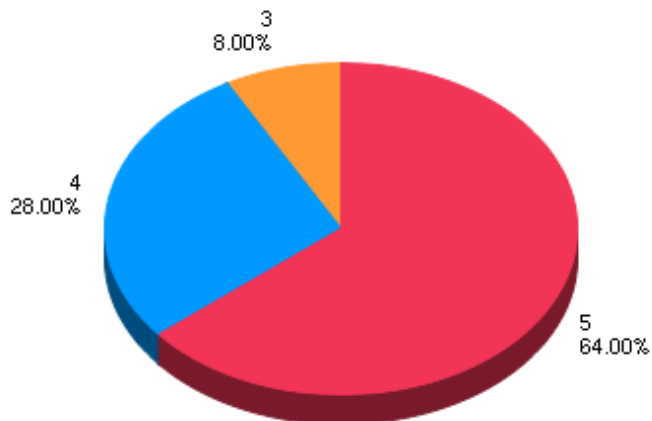
2. The level of challenge in the Quest curriculum and classroom learning activities is appropriate for my child's learning needs.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	16	64.00%
4	8	32.00%
3	1	4.00%

Average: 4.60

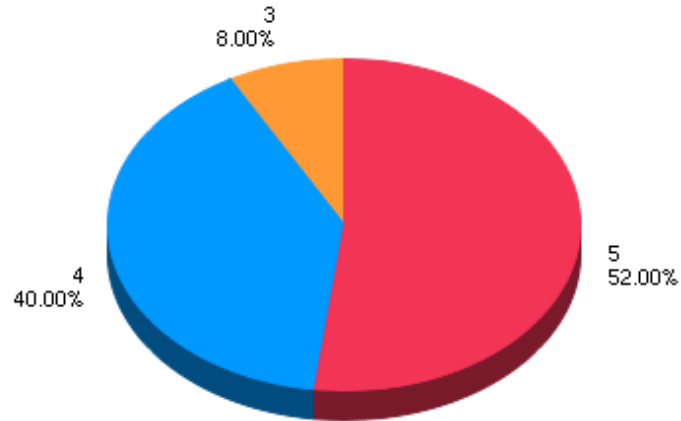
3. My child has positive interactions with other students in the Quest Program.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	16	64.00%
4	7	28.00%
3	2	8.00%

Average: 4.56

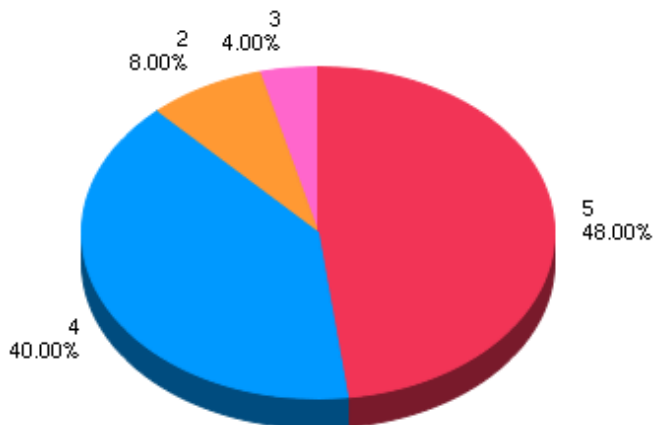
4. The homework that my child is assigned is meaningful and at an appropriate challenge level.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	13	52.00%
4	10	40.00%
3	2	8.00%

Average: 4.44

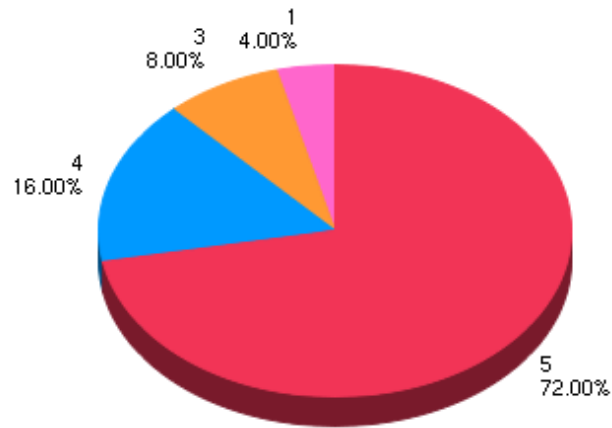
5. The Quest teacher(s) are addressing my child's academic needs as well as social-emotional needs.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	12	48.00%
4	10	40.00%
2	2	8.00%
3	1	4.00%

Average: 4.28

6. I would recommend the Quest Program to other parents of gifted children who are seeking school options for their child.



Item	Count	Percent %
5	18	72.00%
4	4	16.00%
3	2	8.00%
1	1	4.00%

Average: 4.52

Appendix 2: We welcome your comments and examples to tell us how the launch of the Quest Program is going.

#### Open Text Responses:

Whitmore in the math quest is amazing. Is she able to follow the students in grades 7 and 8?

My child is enjoying her 6th grade quest classes and been quite enthusiastic about most everything. She is learning a great deal and has found some of the teachers to be amazing advocates for these talented students. I was nervous about the same students staying together throughout the core classes, but it has worked just fine for my daughter. She is learning from her classmates as well. I do hope quest continues and hope that it even reaches younger students in the 2nd and 3rd grade level in the coming years as the program grows.

We have loved being a part of the Quest program this fall! My son loves school this year and never grumbles about homework. The homework/projects/discussions are intriguing and get him excited to learn! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am so grateful to the teachers and the school for allowing my son to be able to be challenged and more engaged during the school day. He was so bored in his regular classes and enjoys these additional challenges. So many times people discuss how to improve the educational experiences of the students needing additional help - it is great to see BHM trying to also improve the education of the students who are already excelling.

This program fills a vital role in the education of all students appropriate to their unique learning needs. It provides a rigorous academic challenge and a safe social net for these gifted learners. The academic and social needs of these students are finally being met! This program would do well to expand to serve more of these qualified students, both from within and from outside the school district. I have two children participating in this program and am grateful that the school district provides this programming for them and the other students enrolled. As a parent, I appreciate the positive interactions I have had with the teaching staff. I am confident that my children have had a positive experience thus far as well.

The amount of homework is a little high for this age....and I feel the homework is very lesson based but I don't hear about a lot of fun classroom learning activities that make learning fun. Also, at least at the beginning of the program, the program seemed a little disorganized and homework was very excessive....which left our child questioning the program. Also, I am disappointed with the school's decision to not have holiday celebrations, costumes, or pledge of allegiance, etc. I think decisions like these negatively impact the social aspects of learning. Last, our child has to bus very far for the program. It is disappointing the program could not be extended to other schools. This has been a hard adjustment...not just schedule but also losing contact with friends at a very critical age.

I really like the creative assignments that my daughter is given to help her understanding of the material she is learning. She has written plays, journals and court cases. These assignments also draw on other skills and abilities outside of the facts needed for life.

Quest has been AWESOME for my son! I'm so thankful for this program. He was getting increasingly bored and disinterested with school each year. His regular teachers tried to differentiate as needed, but it just wasn't enough. I'm so glad that Quest came along! I would HIGHLY recommend it to other families whose child(ren) qualify for the program.

I think the teacher can provide more communication with the parents in regards to what is going on in the classroom; such as what is being studied, projects being worked on, and upcoming tests and events.

The pace of learning something new is rapid, which is positive. However there needs to be more time dedicated to reviewing wrong answers. I feel like this step is being skipped in the name of progression, but these moments provide optimal learning opportunities to gifted students.

We are so pleased with the program and feel very lucky to have it in Buffalo.

My daughter absolutely loves being in a classroom with other kids "like" her....she has struggled in the past being in a regular classroom, not because other kids weren't as smart as she is, but because the teacher had to teach everyone in a pace that was too slow for her. This has been a blessing for us and would love for other children in the district to be able to have this opportunity as well. Thank you so much!!

Our Quest children are learning EVERY day. They are excited about school and are motivated to excel. They have taken ownership of their education and are engaged in learning.

Quest positively stimulates students that wouldn't have had the opportunity to engage and stretch themselves. We believe the faculty involved are enthusiastic and truly student centered.

The Quest program has exceeded our expectations and we are so pleased for the opportunity our children have in the Quest program. Thank you!

My son told me this is the first time he has had really think about his school work.

He has always been an A student, but now he is an A student because he is working for it.

I am concerned that this concept, will put my child ahead of the curve, but if eliminated next year, will put him back in a bad position of avoiding boredom, having to repeat work he is already capable of, etc... It is essential that once this program is started it isn't cancelled and that students should be offered this advanced curriculum until they complete middle and high school.

I am very happy about the opportunities and challenges offered by this program.

## Open Text Responses:

I was under the impression that the Quest program would teach kids, that previously did not have to study much or do homework, how to do that. I feel like my Son is sinking. He is overloaded with assignments and homework, that he isn't used to doing. Instead of easing him into it, I feel it got dumped on him. Also, just because a child is gifted in Math and English, doesn't mean they automatically know how to write papers or do bibliographies or time management of assignments. Also, 6th grade is a new time for these kids. Coming from elementary school to 6th grade is a huge change, plus the Quest program on top of it! My son is overwhelmed. Plus he had a teacher rip up a test and throw it away and give him a 0 because another kid talked to him and my son answered him. It was regarding a test question that was put on the test to try to make the kids laugh....which was what the kids were doing...laughing. How does this help gifted students? The teacher never even called us to tell us our son was failing. He told me at conferences with only 1 week to fix it. Luckily, the principal was very understanding and allowed my son to retake the test...which he did great on because test taking isn't where he struggles. The Quest program is NOT helping him where he struggles. Basics....homework, paper writing, time management....which the program said it was going to do....study skills. Not sure if we will do it next year. My son wants to quit.

I am impressed with both the breadth and depth of learning on any given subject that my 4th grade child has been receiving.

We believe that the Quest Program has been successful so far. Our daughter is enthusiastic about attending school unlike the past. She is enjoying her classes and her classmates and seems comfortable with her teachers. She has been given challenges appropriate for her learning level and appears to be accepting those challenges. She described school as not too easy and not too hard. We believe that this program has given our daughter a chance to enjoy learning and we are very pleased with it.

My daughter has never been more content in school. For the first time in her educational life she is not being labeled as "the smart kid". This has allowed her the freedom to try new things and not be afraid to make mistakes. This has allowed her the opportunity to feel like she can voice her opinion even if it doesn't (gasp) align with the teachers'. One of the first projects they did was to show, via powerpoint, how the Europeans influenced how the Native Americans saw our arrival in the New World. In addition to learning the facts about how and when the USA was founded they also learned some critical thinking skills which are not normally taught in the classroom. What if the Europeans wouldn't have tried to force the Native Americans to conform to our customs. How would things be different. This is just one example of how the kids are being taught at there level.

I have had the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom and Mrs. Steabner does an excellent job at giving the kids an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas while at the same time maintaining a level control that is necessary with kids. This empowers the kids to feel like they are contributing to their own educational experience.

My daughter finally has friends that are her intellectual peers. I know that probably doesn't sound like something important. But, believe me, it is heartbreaking when your child feels like she doesn't fit in. They formed a book club at recess. With Mrs. Steabner's assistance they have started to write chain stories on the computer - one child writes one paragraph and the next child writes a paragraph to continue with the same story. Something so small as feeling like she is as capable in gym class as the rest of the kids has great meaning in her life.

These kids are our future scientists, engineers, teachers and leaders. For this reason, if for no other, these kids need to be given the opportunity to learn how to use the gifts that they were given. Thank you to the School Board members for proactively being an advocate for our gifted kids.

My child is enjoying and is being challenged in this program. As a family we are struggling with the amount of homework and knowing what is due and when. Maybe the homework assignments can be posted online with due dates. Having access to the homework online is a great way for our family because if something is forgotten the school is usually closed for the evening. Thank you for the opportunity for our child to be in this program.

The Quest program is a great option to have after the cuts that have been made over the last few years. We are very proud that our school district knew that this was needed and followed through with providing our students with this option to enhance their learning and study skills. Thank you

The Quest program is amazing. Mrs. Steabner is fabulous. My son is finally being challenged in math. I'd like to say thank you to the school board members for implementing this program.