

**School Board Meeting:** April 23, 2012  
**Subject:** Quest Update  
**Presenter:** Ed Cox  
High Potential Services Coordinator

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Quest program is a school within a school program that is housed at Tatanka Elementary and Buffalo Community Middle School. The intent of the program is to provide unique academic programming to students whose needs cannot be reasonably served in a traditional classroom setting. The classroom practices and identification methods are based on a foundation of research and applied to the Buffalo–Hanover–Montrose (BHM) environment.

The Quest program is moving into its third year of implementation. Over the course of three years, the program has expanded. Quest expanded by adding one 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade multi-age section and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade group during the 2011–2012 school year. The program also expanded by including more students at each grade level, while still maintaining the admission requirements of the program. In 2012–2013, Quest will again grow. The program will add an 8<sup>th</sup> grade group and will see a significant increase in the number of students at each grade level.

The identification process for Quest involves screening students within BHM schools through classroom teacher recommendations, parent recommendations, and the use of available data. In addition, we publicize the program throughout the local area. Quest serves a unique population of students and parents may find a better fit for their child through this program. Through the identification process, the program has again grown at the elementary level to the point where an additional section will be added for the 2012–2013 school year. The incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade section will be at comparable classroom numbers to the rest of Buffalo Community Middle School (BCMS). Having students participate in the entire school within a school program is in line with research and the philosophy of the program.

In addition to Quest, BHM schools also offers Enriched Course options at BCMS and BHS. These courses have been undergoing change since the addition of the Quest program. At BCMS, we will be offering Enriched Math and English courses in grades 6-8. Also, BHS will offer Enriched English 9 and 10, and Enriched Science 9. The number of students in these courses has fluctuated in size, but with the addition of Quest, BCMS is expecting to offer one section per grade level of each course. The intent of these courses is to provide enrichment opportunities for students that show high potential in these specific course areas.

These courses will be instructed to meet grade level standards, but also provide extended learning opportunities for students.

The presentation on Monday evening will include an overview of the following:

- Identification practices and future modifications to these practices;
- An overview of the student profile in Quest;
- The role of growth and future concerns related to growth;
- Reorganization in response to a growing population;
- The financial efficacy of the program;
- Overview and comparison of Enriched programming and Quest;
- Future planning in regards to Buffalo High School.