

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board of Education

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Approved November 10, 2014

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide equal employment and educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, place of residence, social or economic condition, or non-applicable handicap.

Affirmative Action Officer:

Mr. John Esposito
School Business Administrator
759 Valley Road
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FUTURES/HORIZON PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code, the Long Hill Township Board of Education acknowledges the requirement to provide services to students enrolled in the district who are identified as being gifted and talented. The school district, through the implementation of the Futures Program, for grades 2 through 5, and the Horizon Program for grades 5 through 8, will provide a variety of learning experiences for these students. These programs will provide opportunities to encourage and challenge gifted and talented students. Activities will be structured to accomplish the following objectives:

- support the development and application of higher order thinking skills
- foster creativity
- stimulate multiple dimensions of intelligence
- develop leadership skills
- foster independent study, research and decision-making skills
- provide the opportunity for the application of knowledge and skills in problem solving and/or invention activities
- provide opportunities for public speaking and forensic competition
- facilitate strong social and emotional growth through the development of interpersonal and communication skills

Students shall be identified for inclusion in the Futures or Horizon Programs based on multiple criteria that shall include, but not be limited to, standardized assessment results, report card data, and teacher recommendation. The Long Hill Township Board of Education acknowledges that students shall be identified as gifted and talented based on the selection criteria and irrespective of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, nonapplicable disability, familial or socioeconomic status.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Futures – This program is designed as a gifted pull-out program for students in grades 2-5. The second grade program will not begin until the 3rd marking period of the year. The program in grades three through five will not begin until the 2nd marking period of the year.

Horizon – This program will be provided in grades 5 through 8 in conjunction with the following core content areas:

Grade 5	Math
Grade 6	Language Arts, Reading and Math
Grade 7	Language Arts, Math and Science
Grade 8	Language Arts, Math and Science

QUEST – The QUEST (Questioning, Understanding, Examining, Solving and Thinking) Program is offered in grades 6, 7, and 8. The QUEST group will meet weekly. Activities will be structured to support the development and application of higher order thinking skills, foster creativity, stimulate multiple dimensions of intelligence, develop leadership skills, foster independent study, research and decision-making skills, provide the opportunity for the application of knowledge and skills in problem solving and/or invention activities, provide opportunities for public speaking and forensic competition, and facilitate strong social and emotional growth through the development of interpersonal and communication skills.

FUTURES/HORIZON PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA

The Futures and Horizon Programs have been created in compliance with New Jersey Department of Education regulations for the provision of programs for gifted and talented students. Students will be considered for participation in the Futures or Horizon programs when compared with the peers in their grade level.

Futures – This program is designed as a gifted pull-out program for students in grades 2-5. The second grade program will not begin until the 3rd marking period of the year. The program in grades three through five will not begin until the 2nd marking period of the year.

A. Grade 1

All students will participate in a “push-in” enrichment program. Enrichment lessons will be based on a variety of topics to stimulate creativity and higher order thinking skills.

B. Grade 2

The second grade program will start midway through the second grade year.

Selection criteria:

1. The student’s score on the NJPASS (or other district-administered standardized test) from the first grade. The student must have a minimum score of 90 on both assessments in order to qualify to take the Millington Futures Assessment.

Terra Nova Mathematics

97-99	5 points
94-96	4 points
90-93	3 points

Terra Nova Language Arts

97-99	5 points
94-96	4 points
90-93	3 points

2. Student score on the Millington Futures Assessment to be administered in the fall of the second grade year. This two-part assessment combines a writing sample (scored in accordance with the NJDOE rubric) and a series of problem solving/logic items.

Score of 9-10	5 points
Score of 7-8	3 points
Score of 5-6	1 point

3. Rating by the second grade teacher on the Futures Selection Criteria (to be completed for those students who have attained a minimum of 10 points on items 1 and 2 above).

40-44 points	5 points
36-39 points	4 points
30-36 points	3 points

C. Grade 3

Students meeting the criteria for entrance into the program in Grade 2 will continue to participate in third grade. For those students with second grade TerraNova scores at the 97-99 level in math and language arts, who did not qualify for the Futures Program in second grade, the matrix scores will be reviewed again for third grade.

D. Grade 4

1. NJ ASK 3 Scores in Language Arts Literacy
 - LAL Score of 280-300 5 points
 - LAL Score of 260-279 4 points
 - LAL Score of 240-259 3 points

2. NJ ASK 3 Scores in Mathematics
 - LAL Score of 290-300 5 points
 - LAL Score of 280-289 4 points
 - LAL Score of 270-279 3 points

3. Rating by the third grade teacher on the Futures Selection Criteria (fourth marking period)
 - 40-44 points 5 points
 - 36-39 points 4 points
 - 30-35 points 3 points

4. Rating by the fourth grade teacher on the Futures Selection Criteria (end of first marking period).
 - 40-44 points 5 points
 - 36-39 points 4 points
 - 30-35 points 3 points

E. Grade 5

1. NJ ASK 4 Scores in Language Art Literacy
 - LAL Score of 280-300 5 points
 - LAL Score of 260-279 4 points
 - LAL Score of 240-259 3 points

2. Composite Score on the COGAT Test to be administered in the late spring of the 4th grade year.
 - Composite of 97-99% 5 points
 - Composite score of 94-96% 4 points
 - Composite score of 91-93% 3 points

3. Rating by the fourth grade teacher on the Futures Selection Criteria (fourth marking period)
 - 40-44 points 5 points
 - 36-39 points 4 points
 - 30-35 points 3 points

4. Rating by the fifth grade team on the Futures Selection Criteria (end of first marking period). This rating will be done for the top 15 percent of the class based on points earned in the first three criteria.
 - 40-44 points 5 points
 - 36-39 points 4 points
 - 30-35 points 3 points

Grades 5-8 HORIZON PROGRAM

The COGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) will be administered to students in Grades 4 and 6. The most recent scores available will be used in the selection of students to participate in the Horizon Program along with the other selection criteria as outlines below. (Example: 4th grade COGAT scores to be used for 5th and 6th grade placement, 6th grade scores to be used for 7th and 8th grade placement.)

Grade 5

Grade 5 Math:

- A. Fifth Grade Benchmark Assessment in Math
 - Assessment to be administered to fourth grade students at the end of the fourth grade year
 - Score of 95-100 5 points
 - Score of 90-94 4 points
 - Score of 85-89 3 points

- B. Quantitative Score on the COGAT Test to be administered in the late spring of the 4th grade year.
 - Score of 97-99% 5 points
 - Score of 94-96% 4 points
 - Score of 91-93% 3 points

- C. Final Grade Average from Previous Year (student must have a grade of “B” or better)
 - A+ 5 points
 - A/A- 4 points
 - B+ 3 points
 - B 2 points

- D. Horizon Identification Checklist
 - The Horizon identification checklist will be completed for all students currently in the Futures program and for non-Futures students with an “A” average.
 - 40-44 points 5 points
 - 36-39 points 4 points
 - 30-35 points 3 points

Grades 6-8 Language Arts:

- A. Cognitive Abilities Test (4th or 6th grade results, depending on grade level)
- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Verbal score of 97-99% | 5 points |
| Verbal score of 94-96% | 4 points |
| Verbal score of 91-93% | 3 points |
- B. Writing Sample (6th grade)
- To be done by the students at the end of the 5th grade year and graded according to the New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Rubric
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Score of 5 – Strong Command | 5 points |
| Score of 4 – Adequate Command | 4 points |
- C. NJASK Language Arts Literacy (utilizing the most current results received as of May 1)
- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| LAL score of 280-300 | 5 points |
| LAL score of 260-279 | 4 points |
| LAL score of 240-259 | 3 points |
- D. Final Grade Average from Previous Year
- | | <u>General Education</u> | <u>Horizon*</u> |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| A+ | 5 points | 6 points |
| A/A- | 4 points | 5 points |
| B+ | 3 points | 4 points |
| B | 2 points | 3 points |

**Grades 7 and 8 only as there is no Horizon Language Arts Program below Grade 6.

- E. Horizon Identification Checklist (Teacher Evaluation)
- The Horizon identification checklist will be completed for all students currently in the Horizon program and for non-Horizon students with an “A” average.
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 40-44 points | 5 points |
| 36-39 points | 4 points |
| 30-35 points | 3 points |

Grade 6-8 Mathematics

- A. Cognitive Abilities Test (4th or 6th grade results, depending on grade level)
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Quantitative score of 98-99% | 5 points |
| Quantitative score of 94-97% | 4 points |
| Quantitative score of 90-93% | 3 points |
| Nonverbal score of 98-99% | 5 points |
| Nonverbal score of 94-97% | 4 points |
| Nonverbal score of 90-93% | 3 points |
| Verbal score of 95-99% | 2 points |
| Verbal score of 90-94% | 1 point |
- B. Sixth Grade Math Benchmark Assessment (Grade 6)
- Assessment to be administered to fifth grade Horizon and Accelerated math students at the end of the fifth grade year
- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Score of 95-100 | 5 points |
| Score of 90-94 | 4 points |
| Score of 85-89 | 3 points |
- C. NJASK Mathematics Test (utilizing the most current results received as of May 1)
- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| NJASK score of 280-300 | 5 points |
| NJASK score of 260-279 | 4 points |
| NJASK score of 240-259 | 3 points |
- D. Final Grade Average from Previous Year
- | | <u>General Education</u> | <u>Accelerated & Horizon</u> |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A+ | 5 points | 6 points |
| A/A- | 4 points | 5 points |
| B+ | 3 points | 4 points |
| B | 2 points | 3 points |
- E. Horizon Identification Checklist (Teacher Evaluation)
- The Horizon identification checklist will be completed for all students currently in the Horizon program and for non-Horizon students with an “A” average.
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 40-44 points | 5 points |
| 36-39 points | 4 points |
| 30-35 points | 3 points |

Grade 7-8 Science

A. Long Hill Science Assessment (scores from the previous year are used to determine eligibility):

Score of 46-50	5 points
Score of 41-45	4 points
Score of 36-40	3 points
Score of 31-35	2 points

B. Cognitive Abilities Test (6th grade results)

Quantitative score of 98-99%	5 points
Quantitative score of 96-97%	4 points
Quantitative score of 94-95%	3 points
Quantitative score of 91-93%	2 points
Nonverbal score of 98-99%	5 points
Nonverbal score of 96-97%	4 points
Nonverbal score of 94-95%	3 points
Nonverbal score of 91-93%	2 points

C. NJASK Scores (utilizing the most current results received as of May 1)

LAL score of 280 to 300	5 points
LAL score of 260 to 279	4 points
LAL score of 240 to 259	3 points
Mathematics score of 280 to 300	5 points
Mathematics score of 260 to 279	4 points
Mathematics score of 240 to 259	3 points

D. Final Grade Average from Previous Year

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Horizon*</u>
A+	5 points	6 points
A/A-	4 points	5 points
B+	3 points	4 points
B	2 points	3 points

**Grades 8 only as there is no Horizon Science Program below Grade 7.

E. Horizon Identification Checklist (Teacher Evaluation)

The Horizon identification checklist will be completed for all students currently in the Horizon program and for non-Horizon students with an "A" average.

40-44 points	5 points
36-39 points	4 points
30-35 points	3 points

QUEST – 6th and 7th Grade in 2012-2013 8th Grade added in 2013-2014

Enrollment in the QUEST Program will be limited to the top ten to twelve percent of the class based on the following criteria:

1. NJASK Language Arts Literacy (utilizing the most current results received as of May 1)

LAL score of 280-300	5 points
LAL score of 260-279	4 points
LAL score of 250-259	3 points

2. NJASK Mathematics (utilizing the most current results received as of May 1)

Mathematics score of 280-300	5 points
Mathematics score of 260-279	4 points
Mathematics score of 250-259	3 points

3. Final Grade Average from Previous Year

No grade lower than A	5 points
No grade lower than B	4 points
No grade lower than C	3 points

4. Horizon Identification Checklist (Teacher Evaluation)

The Horizon identification checklist will be completed for the top 15 percent of the class based on points earned in the first four criteria.

40-44 points	5 points
36-39 points	4 points
30-35 points	3 points

5. Cognitive Abilities Test (Based on 4th grade results for grade 6. Based on 6th grade results for grades 7 and 8)

Composite score of 97-99%	5 points
Composite score of 94-96%	4 points
Composite score of 91-93%	3 points