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DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM
KRISTIN FOX
SOCIAL STUDIES SUPERVISOR, REACH COORDINATOR

March 5, 2010

Dear Parent,

REACH, or "Reaching Excellence in Academic and Creative Heights", is a program whose goal is to provide gifted and talented students an opportunity to challenge themselves academically and creatively. The criteria for admission into this program are stringent, as the program is very challenging. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the process which will be used to determine student eligibility for this program.

The 6th grade REACH program offers students varied projects and units of study that foster critical thinking and problem solving strategies. While some units are completed independently others are designed for small group work. Many projects and units are research based. These units afford students broad opportunities to explore challenging reading materials while students engage in collaborative discussions. The units do not tap into a specific subject but rather a combination of subjects.

The REACH program for grade six will occur during three (3) of the six (6) six-week cycles contained in the related arts cycle period. The student will use the remaining three (3) cycles of the related arts cycle period to participate in three additional cycles and will be assigned randomly.

In order to determine student eligibility for the REACH program, all students in Grade 5 will be given the Cognitive Abilities Test (COGATs) in April, 2010. The COGATs assessment is designed to assess students' abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal symbols. This assessment will measure each student's cognitive ability and potential for learning, therefore, it is not a test which requires preparation or studying. You will receive a copy of your child's scores by mail. The students whose individual scores fall within the top 25% of the 5th Grade will be further evaluated for program eligibility using multiple measures, including report card grades and teacher input.

If your child is eligible for the REACH program, you will be contacted to give permission in order for them to be scheduled into the program. Questions about the REACH program should be directed to Kristin Fox, REACH Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Sean Siet

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