



June 8, 2018

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to encourage student submission of their most prized collection of art. A work of personalized visual art where they can say without a shadow of a doubt is reflective of their most natural talent. With school quickly coming to a close and planning for next year, what better measure to provide for both recognition and appreciation of the developing artist.

For more than 15 years Art QUEST has provided students with an opportunity to explore, create, and extend their artistic knowledge and skills through participating in Art QUEST 2018-2019. Fifth grade students who demonstrate a passion and are interested in being considered for Art QUEST are required to complete a Student Self-Nomination Form and submit a portfolio for review in the fall.

A Portfolio Review Committee of certified teachers and practicing artists will convene in September to make the selection of students to participate in Art QUEST. The committee is comprised of art teachers from West Hartford elementary and middle schools. Details of the program are as follows:

Population: 30-35 fifth grade students from West Hartford's Public Schools

Locations: King Philip Middle School and Bristow Middle School for students who will be attending Sedgwick Middle School. Prospective Bristow Middle School students will attend the Art QUEST site corresponding to the middle school they would have attended based on district guidelines.

When: Classes for Session I (October 1, 2018 ~ December 10, 2018) and Session II (January 7, 2019 ~ March 25, 2019) will be **Monday** afternoons from 3:50 pm – 5:30 pm. Each session consists of 10 classes. **These dates are subject to change and will be confirmed in a letter to students in September.**

Transportation: Participating students are picked up at their elementary schools by bus and taken to the designated Art QUEST location. Parents are asked to please pick up their child promptly at 5:30 pm at the Art QUEST location.

Important Dates:

First Week of School: All fifth grade students will receive a letter and a Student Self-Nomination Form, inviting them to submit a portfolio for review for Art QUEST. Interested

students should return self-nomination forms to the QUEST Office no later than ***Friday, September 7, 2018.***

Monday, September 24, 2018: Portfolios are due at King Philip Middle School, Main Office, 100 King Philip Drive. **It is strongly recommended that students complete the portfolio prior to the start of school.**

Friday, September 28, 2018: Student notification letters will be sent home from the QUEST Office. Parents of accepted students will be notified by phone that afternoon as well.

Monday, October 1, 2018: Classes begin.

Student Portfolios will contain:

1. A self-portrait completed independently outside of school. **Media:** pencil, pastel, pen and ink, collage. Choose one or combine.
2. An art piece, free choice of subject matter, in color, completed at home. **Media:** paint (water color, tempera, acrylic).
3. A drawing of a bicycle, a sneaker, or a shoe in a setting of the student's choice. **Media:** pencil (black and white drawing).
4. An art piece exploring the theme "The Spirit of Adventure." **Media:** mixed, in color, not to exceed 12"x18".
5. A writing response to be assigned in the fall.

Portfolios should be delivered in a large folder or envelope. Please do not fold artwork. The students' name and school should be on the back of all art pieces. Each portfolio should include only the 4 requested works. Portfolios will be returned to students.

Putting a portfolio together takes time, commitment, and planning. **If your child is interested in Art QUEST participation, I encourage him/her to complete the portfolio requirements prior to the beginning of school. The art teachers in each elementary school are available to discuss portfolio development with your child. Further, it is important that students understand that Art QUEST is instructional time, and that the work in which students will engage represents diverse selections of visual arts media and styles.**

Sincerely,

M. Thompson

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Director of Gifted and Talented

C: Pam Murphy
Elementary and Middle School Principals
Elementary and Middle School Art Teachers
QUEST Teachers
Transportation