

**Q: What exactly is the SEARCH Program?**

- A. The SEARCH Program (Scholastic Enrichment and Resource for the Children in Huntington) was established over thirty years ago due to parent requests for additional and rigorous curriculum for their academically talented students on the intermediate level. It has grown throughout the years to include many enrichment opportunities for all children from K-6 at all levels.

**Q: What curriculum is covered in the program?**

- A. Fifth Grade studies include half year units in Genetics, Biology and Jurisprudence. Sixth Grade studies include half year units in Shakespeare, the Elizabethan Age, Edgar Allan Poe, Chemistry and Forensic science. Hands on activities and science lab sessions are included. The children regularly participate in an active learning environment. Workshops in Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, mock trial competitions and field trips to the DNA Learning Center for each grade complement these weekly double period classes.

**Q. Describe some of the enrichment programs.**

- A. New York Hall of Science instructors will conduct two one hour lab sessions in May for every Fourth Grade student right before the state science test. “Float, Sink, Flink” and “All Charged Up” are the lab sessions each child will attend. All Second and Third Grade students will participate in one hour Mad Science lab sessions in March, following a one hour Science Spectacular Show entitled “Fire and Ice”. First Grade students (four workshops per class) will actively participate in public speaking and writing sessions conducted by teaching artist, Mrs. Heather Thorgersen.

**Q: What is the OLSAT?**

- A. The Otis Lennon School Abilities Test measures the cognitive abilities that relate to a student’s ability to learn in school. The OLSAT is a forty minute group test, comprised of 72 questions, administered in the classroom in Fourth grade. This test includes problems involving, inferencing, comparing and contrasting, analogies, logic and spatial relationships. The OLSAT is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 15, 2017.**

**Q. What if my child is absent for this test?**

- A. A makeup test will be offered to all students who were absent.

**Q. Will I be able to submit outside testing (individual IQ test) instead of the OLSAT score?**

- A. Only the OLSAT score will be used. The OLSAT is a group ability index, which indicates how a child performs compared to another child his or her age.

**Q. Why can’t the report card be used as part of the criterion?**

- A. Using a standard and scaled score provides an objective and consistent measurement of acceptance into the program.

**Q. My child has 4’s on all his NYS tests, yet he isn’t in the SEARCH Program. Why?**

- A. Levels 1 - 4 cover a **wide** range of percentiles. For a more definitive result, a scaled score is used. The **top eight** scale scores in both the NYS ELA and the NYS Math Assessments were used.

- Q. When will I know if my child has qualified for the SEARCH Program in Grade 5?**
- A. In early October of the 2016 school year, letters will be mailed to the parents of the students who have qualified for the SEARCH Program for the next two years.
- Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the SEARCH Program in Grade 5?**
- A. Grade 4 results on the New York State ELA and Mathematics Assessments (total scale score) are reviewed. The Grade 4 OLSAT score (administered during the student's Fourth Grade year) will also be used. If a child's assessments are high enough, the Fourth Grade teacher completes a rating scale developed by Joseph Renzulli based on learning characteristics, motivation and creativity. A composite score is attained. Those students scoring in the top ten percent of the Grade 5 population will qualify for the program.
- Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the SEARCH Program in Grade 6?**
- A. Only students new to the district will be assessed for the program for possible inclusion.
- Q. Do you drop children from the SEARCH Program each year?**
- A. Under normal circumstances, unless a child moves out of district, SEARCH students are not dropped from the program.
- Q. Are children from Saint Patrick's school taking the place of the Huntington school children, when you arrive at the top ten percent?**
- A. No. St. Patrick's students who qualify for the program are added onto the ten percent we take from the Huntington school population in Grade 5.
- Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the Math Olympiad Program in Grade 5 ?**
- A. Scale scores change each year. Therefore, it is necessary to post new cutoff scores at the beginning of the new school year. For the 2016-2017 school year, a student had to earn a scale score of 349 or higher on the Grade 4 New York State Math Assessment and/or score 90% or above on the non-verbal portion of the OLSAT qualify for this program for two years. The expectation is for these children to complete classroom math assignments and exhibit proper behavior in Math Olympiad classes in order to participate.
- Q. What is the criterion used for entrance into the Math Olympiad Program in Grade 6?**
- A. A student must earn a scaled score of 346 or higher on the Grade 5 New York State Math Assessment. The expectation is for these children to complete classroom math assignments and exhibit proper behavior in Math Olympiad classes in order to participate.

**Q. Will my child receive home work from the SEARCH Program?**

A. Only when necessary.

**Q. Should my child study Math Olympiad problems before each of the five competitions?**

A. No. Different types of problems are reviewed on a weekly basis and posted under The Math Olympiad section on my search eboard. I encourage all interested children to try to solve these problems and post their answers and questions using the INote. I will answer.

**Q. Where can I receive updated information on the SEARCH Program?**

A. I update my eboard on a regular basis. Go to the hufsd.edu website. Go to the Quick Click Bar. Scroll down to eboards. Click on the SEARCH PROGRAM eboard.