

## Program Philosophy & Core Values

Fox Chapel Area School District is committed to designing programming to meet the unique academic and affective needs of gifted and talented students. The middle school QUEST curriculum has been designed to foster areas of student strengths and interests through rigorous, motivating, and meaningful learning experiences. Specific program goals include:

1. Supporting the **achievement and growth of gifted and high performing students.**
2. Designing **cross-curricular and standards-aligned** learning experiences.
3. Developing **social, emotional, and intellectual** capacities of exceptional students.
4. Providing **choice** through independent **inquiry and self-directed learning** experiences.
5. Promoting **collaboration, communication, creativity, problem solving and critical thinking.**



## Administration

### Timothy Mahoney

Director of Special Education  
Timothy\_Mahoney@fcasd.edu

### Matthew Harris

Executive Director of Secondary Curriculum  
Matthew\_Harris@fcasd.edu

### Jon Nauhaus

Principal Dorseyville Middle School  
Jonathan\_Nauhaus@fcasd.edu



## Gifted Support Staff

### Mimi Loeffler

Department Chair  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Mimi\_Loeffler@fcasd.edu

### Melissa Swift

7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Melissa\_Swift@fcasd.edu

### Danielle Price

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Danielle\_Price@fcasd.edu

## Middle School Gifted Education



Fox Chapel Area School District

[www.fcasd.edu/academics/](http://www.fcasd.edu/academics/)

"There is no better time than today to encourage gifted learners to shine!"  
~Angie French



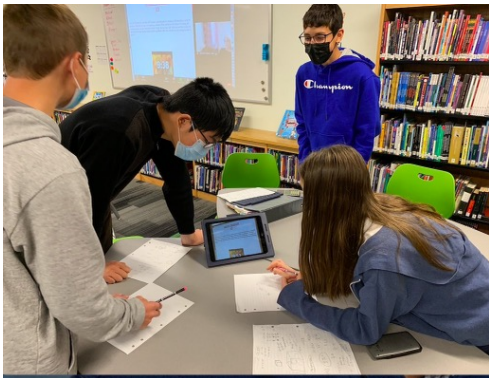
## 6-8 QUEST:

Our goal is to be your child's advocate at school. The DMS gifted education teachers support gifted and non-identified high ability students. The gifted education teachers have collaborated on a deliberate vertical articulation of skills and experiences for students.

Grade Level Gifted Education Teachers

- Compose and implement Gifted Individualized Education Plans (GIEP's)
- Provide curricular extensions
- Provide career exploration through special events and speakers.
- Support students in their academic endeavors and scholastic pursuits.
- Work with students, parents, counselors, and teachers to help to ensure rigorous educational programming for our students.

Advanced Math and Literacy classes are not part of QUEST. These classes are open to all students who demonstrate readiness. The criteria set for these courses is



## Field Trips and Special Events

DMS QUEST students can choose to explore and develop new interests through field trips and special events. Field trips take place during the school day. Students are expected to make up the work they miss while out of the building. Students choose how often they want to participate. Activities range from competitions to general enriching experiences. We also invite guest presenters to speak with our students. These opportunities are often career oriented.



## Homebase Enrichment

Students can work with their grade level Gifted Education teacher during Homebase. Some of the options offered during this time include:

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Mock Trial        | Design Challenges       |
| Chess             | Quiz Bowls              |
| Battery Car Races | Writing Seminar         |
| Math Competitions | Gifted Learner Seminars |

## Gifted Education Resources

**Fox Chapel Area School District - PAGE**

[www.giftedfoxes.org](http://www.giftedfoxes.org)

**National Association for Gifted Children**

[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

**Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education - PAGE**

[www.giftedpage.org](http://www.giftedpage.org)

**Pennsylvania Department of Education**

[www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us)

**Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development**

[www.gifted.uconn.edu](http://www.gifted.uconn.edu)

