

**Mr. G. Michael Apostol**  
*Superintendent*

**Mr. Eric Papandrea**  
*7-12 Principal*

**Mr. Mark Foti**  
*K-6 Principal*

Schaghticoke, New York 12154  
518-753-4458

**Ms. Patti J. Sawyer**  
*CSE Director*

September 5, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are happy to offer again this year, an opportunity for third grade students to test for our Young Scholars Program. We piloted this program last year in an attempt to meet the needs of Elementary and Middle School students who have demonstrated extremely high ability in verbal, quantitative and non-verbal reasoning skills.

Students qualify for the program based on the results of a reasoning ability test called the Cognitive Abilities Test, (CogAT), which help determine whether students would be able to benefit from the program. The Cognitive Abilities Test is a multiple choice test, used to measure cognitive development among children, and is often used to identify children for admission into Gifted and Talented programs across the United States, similar to our Young Scholars program. The test is designed to assess specific reasoning skills in area, that correlate strongly to academic success. More specifically, the CogAT measures cognitive development, the ability to learn new tasks, and problem solving abilities.

We expect about 5-10% of the students taking the test to qualify for the program. If your child does not qualify, it does not mean that they are not highly able. It simply means that this particular type of program would not be advantageous for him/her.

The Young Scholars program offers students who qualify, opportunities to explore subjects in depth, with special materials, practices and curriculum approaches that are responsive to the needs of high ability learners. In this program, we hope to match students with similar intellectual ability and chronological age to assist them with their social and emotional growth as they develop their collaboration and teamwork skills.

The program is taught by a certified teacher from WSWHE BOCES, who works with our students each Thursday, starting on September 19th, and continuing throughout the school year. Students are grouped into two groups, one for students in grades 3 and 4, that meets in the afternoon, and one for students in grades 5 and 6 that meets in the morning after specials. Each group spends one half day per week with the Young Scholars program in the STEAM Lab at our school, learning advanced academics in various subject areas through investigations, and problem focused instruction. They develop analytical, communication, and problem solving skills, as they learn to work cooperatively with peers to solve problems. Students who

participate in the program are expected to complete all assignments missed while attending the Young Scholars program.

**Parents that are interested in having their children take part in the program should fill out the form below and return to school by Friday September 6th.** The CogAT will be administered this coming Tuesday morning, September 10th. You will be informed of your child's test results as soon as they are scored, we expect within a week.

Please see the following website for more information about the CogAT.

<https://www.setontesting.com/cogat-7/>

For further information, please feel free to call me at (518) 753-4458, email me at [mfoti@hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us](mailto:mfoti@hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us), or Eileen Minder, from WSWHE BOCES, at (518) 581-3585, or by email at [giftedresources@swhebooces.org](mailto:giftedresources@swhebooces.org).

Sincerely,

Mark Foti  
K-6 Principal

**Permission form below must be returned by Friday September 6, 2019**

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent of, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission for my  
Parent/Guardian Name Student Name

son/daughter to participate in the CogAT testing on Tuesday September 10th 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature