



CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW ROCHELLE
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Dear Families of Grade 3 Students:

As you may be aware, the City School District of New Rochelle offers an enriched Language Arts and Mathematics program to all children in the 4th and 5th grades. This program is known as Kaleidoscope and it is delivered either in the Regular Classroom, through the Modified Kaleidoscope Program located at each of our elementary schools, or as part of the Full-Time Kaleidoscope Program housed at Webster School.

Within the next week or so, if your child has qualified to participate in either the Modified Kaleidoscope Program or the Full-Time District Kaleidoscope Program, you will receive another letter from my office. The purpose of this letter is to familiarize families with the three types of Kaleidoscope Programs available in our district and to explain how students are selected to participate in these programs. The *Regular Classroom Program* exposes students to cultural enrichment activities that complement the fourth and fifth grade curricula. These enrichment activities are developed collaboratively each year by the grade-level teachers and building principal. The *Modified Kaleidoscope Program* in each elementary school provides selected students with a two-hour block of time in which they receive their reading, language arts and mathematics instruction from a specially-trained teacher. Students in the Modified Kaleidoscope Program are afforded the opportunity to develop their ability to articulate and defend ideas, examine and solve problems through logical reasoning, find alternative solutions, exercise critical judgment, and share and profit from the ideas of their classmates. The *Full-Time Kaleidoscope Program* draws students from the six elementary schools in our city. Students receive instruction in all content areas as a self-contained unit while also taking part in the school-wide activities. Emphasis in this program is on the development of high-level thinking skills, guiding students in the creation of unique learning projects, and recognizing the interrelated nature of all knowledge.

An invitation to participate in the Modified and Full-Time Kaleidoscope Programs is extended to those children who meet specific entry requirements. **The minimum criteria that all students who are involved in these programs must meet is that they received at least 90% of the total number of possible raw score points on the Grade 3 New York State Assessments in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.**

In addition, there are five entry windows for students that determine their eligibility to participate either in the Modified or Full-Time Kaleidoscope Programs. Students who meet **one** of these entry windows are invited to enroll in the Modified Program at their present school. Students who meet **two or more** of these entry windows are eligible to apply for the Full-Time Program at Webster School.

Here are the five entry windows.

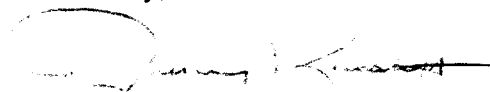
- 1) Students who receive a national percentile total score of 97, 98 or 99 on the Test of Cognitive Skills (which was administered in October) meet this first entry window.
- 2) Students whose Raw Score on the NYS Grade 3 ELA Test (administered in January) falls within the highest 5% locally meet this second entry window. We have calculated this raw score to be 33.
- 3) Students whose Raw Score on the NYS Grade 3 Mathematics Test (administered in March) falls within the highest 8% locally meet this third entry window. We have calculated this raw score to be 39.
- 4) Students who receive a perfect rubric rating on two writing samples (one was written in May and another will be selected from their portfolio) meet this fourth entry window.
- 5) Students who receive the highest score in their homeroom on the Renzulli Hartman Creativity Scale (to be completed by teachers in early June) meet this fifth entry window.

There are thirty seats available in the Full-Time Kaleidoscope Program for incoming students. Should there be more than thirty eligible candidates who are interested in the Full-Time Program, a lottery will be held in June. First priority will be afforded those students who meet all five of the entrance criteria. Second priority will be afforded those students who meet four of the criteria. Third priority will be given to those students who meet three of the criteria. And finally, fourth priority will be given to those students who qualify by only meeting two of the criteria. That is to say, seats will be offered to students who meet three or more of the entrance criteria before students who qualify with two entry windows can be considered for placement. Transportation will be provided for all Full-Time Kaleidoscope students who live at least 1.5 miles from Webster School.

I also want to mention that our district is presently conducting a periodic review of the Kaleidoscope Programs. The purpose of this review is to insure that the instructional models which are put in place best meet the needs of high ability children and accurately reflect the current research on gifted and talented education. Any recommendations for proposed changes will be presented to the Board of Education next year for their consideration.

If you have any questions concerning our Kaleidoscope Programs, please feel free to speak with your building principal or give me a call.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Korostoff