

QUANTUM LEAP

Quantum Leap is an educational laboratory that reconnects at-risk youth to their education. This laboratory of people and ideas has created several programs which are currently in session.

The Quantum Leap Classroom at MAUHS

The Quantum Leap Classroom serves at-risk students through smaller, more individualized classes, using a combination of learning styles and techniques. Within this unique environment, students take control of and have a powerful voice in their own education. Continuous support and guidance is provided throughout the semester. At the conclusion of each semester, the Quantum Leap Classroom Exhibit gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of and to showcase their achievements in a formal setting. This semester's exhibit will be on January 5, 2007.

The Quantum Leap Academic Mentoring Program at MAUHS and MAUMS

This program combines academic tutoring with mentoring. It serves students who are struggling to succeed in at least one of their academic classes. These students are challenged with issues ranging from attendance, lengthy discipline history, different learning styles, varied abilities to focus, and needing assistance with organizational skills. Most of the time academic mentors meet with students one-on-one, though occasionally they might meet in pairs or a mentor might spend time in the classroom helping others along with the student. This program helps students make a positive connection with an adult while assisting them with their academic studies.

Project Leap

This after-school program aims to offer a safe and dynamic learning environment in which every participant is challenged to discover and share his/her own creative leadership potential to build a lively, fun and unique group experience. Through active engagement in a variety of experiential activities, this program encourages participants to take intellectual, creative, athletic, and social risks – risks that will lead to a deeper sense of confidence, and broader sense of individual freedom, worth, promise, and responsibility. On campus activities are enhanced by mini-excursions that grant students the opportunity to explore, appreciate, and serve our local community.

Quantum Leap Projects

This program connects community members, professionals, business people, non-profit organizations and people of different trades to youth at-risk of dropping out of school. Examples of past and current projects are:

Learning how to prepare, cook, and serve a gourmet meal at Pangaea Restaurant

Designing and planting a flower garden in the courtyard of MAUHS

Writing and acting in their own play under the tutelage of a professional director where District Court was their theater stage.

Preparing, cooking, and eating meals from around the world with international students from Bennington College

Designing and making a quilt with The Quiet Valley Quilters Guild

Designing and constructing a public art installation for The Bennington Museum

Teacher-Training Program

Since its inception, Susan Sgorbati and Daniel Michaelson, Co-Directors of Quantum Leap have trained over 200 teachers, mentors, social workers, lawyers, medical professionals and students in conflict resolution skills. All of the staff of Quantum Leap are expected to receive mediation training. The Bennington College Master of Arts in Teaching and Certification program offers Quantum Leap assistantships each year to deserving students. These are scholarships to support future teachers who want to learn more about working with youth at-risk.

For more information, please call or email:

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