

# The O.R.B.I.T.T. Program

---

*Elementary and middle school students*

## The Program

The O.R.B.I.T.T. (Opportunities to Realize Better Ideas Through Thinking) Program is a cost effective, center-based enrichment program one full day a week during the academic year for academically gifted elementary and middle school students. It is cooperatively funded among rural schools.

Student selection is based on multiple criteria: test data, teacher and parent input, peer nomination, and prior program success. Class sizes are limited to approximately 12 students, with one full time instructor, a classroom aide, college student interns, and volunteer parents.

The curriculum is individualized and is driven by specific instructional goals and objectives appropriate for the gifted learner. Student assessment is ongoing and regularly shared with the home school and parents. Students engage in a variety of learning activities, e.g., historical simulations, independent study projects, creative dramatics, problem solving, and real-world authentic learning. To encourage the growth of leadership skills, students are given the option of developing solutions to community problems through a grant application process.

## Results

Majority of participants in 1999, 2000, and 2001 achieved proficiency levels in research skills, problem solving skills, critical thinking skills and communication skills. Testimonials of exiting students and their parents provides evidence of long-term benefits.



## Learning Standards

**English Language Arts:** All ELA standards are addressed.

**Mathematics:** Apply technology skills....and ...address real-life problems and make informed decisions.

**Social Studies:** Understand major ideas and...variety of perspectives.

### Contact

Elizabeth Giatas Quattrone  
C/o ORBITT Pprogram  
Dunkirk Middle School  
620 Maurauder Drive  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
E-mail: [egq@netsync.net](mailto:egq@netsync.net)