

# Mrs. Chidester's Classroom Disclosure

## 2014-2015

Hello- and welcome to fourth grade!!! I am so excited for this year! I love fourth grade because the curriculum is EXCITING and the students are BY far the BEST in the school! I am thrilled to be your teacher this year! Please read this document carefully and make sure you understand everything before signing! Inside is everything you will need to know to make this year a successful one! You may want to keep this document in a safe and handy place to refer to throughout the year. You can always come to me with concerns or questions!!

First, a little bit about me! I was born and raised in Northern Utah on a ranch my family has owned and operated for over 100 years. I am the second oldest of six children. I have been married to my best friend for 16 years and I have three AMAZING children. As a family we enjoy camping, bike rides, and long drives! We also LOVE to travel and see new things. We live in Roy where we stay very busy with soccer, tumbling, and Community Theater. My children are all completely different in personality, interests, and temperaments which can make family life busy and exciting! I believe that communication is a key factor in a successful classroom. Please feel free to contact me at any time!

Email: bchidester@questac.org

Classroom Blog: <http://qacblogs.org/becky.chidester/>

Phone: School- (801) 731-9859

## **Expectations:**

For Myself:

- ✓ I will be prepared to teach every day: I will plan lessons that are engaging, meet the needs of my students, and meet the requirements of the school and the Utah State guideline. I will make sure that all materials are organized, appropriate, and ready for student use each day.
- ✓ I will leave outside stress outside of the classroom so that I can focus on each student and their needs. I will not let my mood affect the classroom community.

- ✓ I will keep parents and students informed about classroom happenings, upcoming assignments, and school happenings.
- ✓ I will treat EACH student in a kind respectful way.
- ✓ I will laugh at my own mistakes.
- ✓ I will respond to questions, complaints, criticisms, and concern in a timely manner and with respect.
- ✓ I will be an example to my students.
- ✓ I will do my best every day because my students deserve my best!

#### For Parents:

- ✓ Parents will communicate with me any questions, concerns, complaints, or criticisms!
- ✓ Parents will take time to check the blog and email to keep informed about classroom happenings and upcoming assignments.
- ✓ Parents will be involved in the classroom and their student's education by asking questions, volunteering, and helping students with projects and homework when appropriate.
- ✓ Parents will review their student's planner each night and initial when homework is complete.
- ✓ Parents will treat other parents, students, and school personnel with respect and kindness.
- ✓ Parents will be an example to their student.

#### For Students:

- ✓ Students will come to class prepared. This means ready to learn with all assignments completed.
- ✓ Student's will copy homework assignments into their planner each night and return their planner completed and signed by parents each morning.
- ✓ Students will treat each other, school personnel, parents, and others with respect and kindness.
- ✓ Students will keep me informed of their needs by asking questions to clarify assignments and new concepts.
- ✓ Students will do their best on every assignment because every assignment has a purpose.
- ✓ Students will laugh at their own mistakes.
- ✓ Students will do their best every day!

# Classroom Policies:

## Absences

Student work will be left on top of their desk while they are absent. It will be the student's responsibility to meet with me to go over material and questions on the work. Class work missed is to be completed as homework and turned in by the date specified; otherwise the assignment(s) will be considered late and graded accordingly. The number of days your student has to make up absent work is equal to the number of days he or she has missed. If you plan to pick up your student's work at the end of the day, please notify the office by 9 a.m. to give me time to get the assignments put together before the end of the day.

## Planners

In order to help students get their homework assignments done, students will be given a Planner to be filled out every day. All assignments are written on the Planner Board. If a student does not have his/her planner, then a blank piece of paper is to be used to write down the information. Please be sure to initial your student's planner each night so that I know that the student completed all assigned tasks.

## Class work/Homework Assignments

Students are expected to be responsible for completing and turning in all class work, homework assignments, and any projects on time. Students are expected to be prepared with all their materials. **Students will not be allowed to call home if they forget their work.** Students should pack their backpacks at night with all the materials needed for the next day. Organization is the key to success! (Note: Any class work not completed will be homework.) Homework will vary with lessons.

## Late Work

Points will be deducted for any late work, whether class work or homework. Missing work reports will be given out each Monday. All missing work will be due on or before Friday. **Any work not completed by Friday will receive a score of 0!**

## Birthdays

Administration has asked that students not bring in any food-type treats. Please do not feel "obligated" to have your student bring in anything for their birthday. Your child's birthday will still be acknowledged. To avoid any hurt feelings, please

mail birthday invitations to classmates' homes. Do not have your child distribute his/her invitations before or after school, as this may also cause hurt feelings. Each child's birthday will be celebrated in class by the teacher! Students with summer birthdays will be celebrated on an UN-birthday!

### **Website - Classroom Information**

**<http://qacblogs.org/becky.chidester/>**

This is where you can keep on top of your student's assignments. I also post notes to parents, classroom activities, mini lessons, review material, and anything else you need to know. I will also post when I am reserving time to be able to help your child after school. Arrangements can always be made with me for extra after school help. You can access my website from the Quest Academy website, under Faculty. Parents will be required to "follow" my blog this year to receive up to date emails and notices about classroom happenings.

Also, if you have any questions, feel free to email me as I check my emails at home, in the evening, or call me at the school!

### **Classroom Discipline**

Students will be required to maintain a respectful presence in the classroom at all times. As a teacher I believe in creating a positive classroom environment that focuses on each student's strengths and encourages respectful behavior. Students will be able to earn behavior bucks for positive choices! Students may receive "fines" determined by the teacher for disrespectful behavior or inappropriate choices. At the end of each month students will be able to spend their behavior bucks at the class store. Behavior bucks will not be replaced if lost or stolen.

### **Tests**

Tests are used a gauge of my teaching as well as student learning. Tests will be announced in advance in class. Tests will be given as needed, but usually at the end of each unit in math, science, reading, and spelling. Tests will be graded and returned to students within three days.

### **School Calendar**

Please be sure to check the school calendar for "Early" days and "No School" days. Early Day dismissal is 1:00 p.m. You can obtain a copy from the Quest Academy website.

### **Uniform Policy**

Per Quest Academy Policy (See Parent Handbook). Please be sure your student is in compliance with the school uniform policy.

### **SIS Grading Program**

Grades will be posted on a weekly basis. Be sure to check your student's progress. You can obtain a user name and password during back to school night. I update SIS on the weekend so Monday will be the best day to check your student's grades.

If your student has a Zero it means the assignment is missing. The grading program we use does not allow "E" for excused or "M" for missing.

### **Grading Policy**

Students will be graded in each subject, based on total points. I will follow the Quest Academy Grading scale which states:

Numeric Mark:	Percent:	Numeric Mark:	Percent:
4	96%	3.7	92%
3.5	88%	3.2	84%
3	80%	2.7	76%
2.5	72%	2.2	68%
2	64%	1.7	60%
1.5	56%	1.2	52%
1	51%-0%		

## **Curriculum:**

### **Language Arts**

We will cover spelling, writing, vocabulary, grammar, etc. Students are expected to write in their best handwriting. All work must be neat and able to read. Students may be asked to redo an assignment that is not legible. We will focus on non-fiction

texts this year. All curriculum standards are from the Common Core and can be viewed at <http://www.uen.org/core/>.

### **Reading**

Students will be expected to read, at home, a minimum of 20 minutes a night. Reading to a parent/guardian or even a younger sibling can be counted as part of the 20 minutes.

### **Utah History**

In Utah History we will study the geography, people (past and current), and government of Utah. We will spend time debating the policies, history, and decisions made throughout the state as well as focusing on current event that pertain to Utah. In addition to the Utah History curriculum, we will be doing 2-3 projects. A letter with all the requirements and due date for each project will be sent home. We will also be completing our "AMAZING UTAH" map as a class. Please see the attached letter explaining this activity and SEND IN YOUR PICTURES!!!

### **Science**

We will be covering five areas: Weather, Water Cycle, Rocks & Minerals, Fossils, Utah Wetlands, and Plants & Animals. We will be doing some hands-on activities, Power-Point/Keynote presentations and models. There may be some activities that will need to be done as homework.

### **Math**

We will be doing timed multiplication tests. Students need to know their multiplication facts. It would be great if you could help your student with knowing their facts through 12's. This is in addition to the regular Math curriculum. Math will focus on task based projects, and real world application of learning.

### **Technology**

Students will have access to both the PC Lab and Mac Lab. We will have computer class twice a week. We will also be utilizing laptops, in the classroom, as we have rolling computer labs (COWs). Be sure to fill out the Internet Usage form; otherwise, your child will not be able to have access to our computers.

### **Physical Education**

P.E. is held either in the gym or outside. We do exercises, run laps, practice P.E. skills, and play games. Therefore, your child needs to wear appropriate clothing

and footwear as per the uniform policy. If you feel your child should not participate in P.E. on a particular day, please write a note stating the reason. All children will be expected to participate unless they have a note excusing them.

### **Projects**

**Please! Please! Resist the temptation to "Do" your student's project.** Help, give guidance, go over the directions with them, but Don't Do. Allow your student to do the work. This is another way of learning, by doing and feeling a sense of accomplishment.

# Amazing Utah Project



Dear Parents and Students;

As part of our fourth grade core curriculum, we will be studying Utah; it's history, geology, geography, people past and present, and government. As part of this study I am asking you to get involved. As you and your family travel around the state I ask that you point out the natural and historical landmarks to your student. If time allows, take a picture of you and your family by the landmark and send it to school with your child. I will post these pictures next to our map of Utah. I will have your student explain where they were, what they saw, and mark the map with an "I've been there flag." I feel that this will help us make real connections to the history and geography of Utah. I am very excited to see how many different examples of geography, history, and Utah culture you and your families can find. Some examples are: mountains, valleys, arches, different cities and towns within Utah (large or small), lakes, wetlands, wildlife refuges, historical markers, ghost towns, farms, and anything else that you see along the way! Thanks for your help and support. I can't wait to see your pictures!!!

Mrs. Chidester





## Volunteer Information

I love to have parent volunteers in the room! I can be a much more effective teacher when I have volunteers to share the load. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the Volunteer Info form. It would be great if you could come in regularly on a certain day of the week or at a certain time. Doing so will help me plan activities that need a helping hand! If not, that's o.k., any help would be appreciated. So if you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form with the best days and times for you to work in our classroom.

If you are unable to volunteer in the classroom, that's o.k. I may have things to be sent home. Let me know if this is where you can help.

Examples: Help with hands-on Science activities. Help with monitoring Math centers. Last year I had a parent come in every Friday to do Art projects, some of which incorporated Utah History activities, Science activities, or just some type of art activity. I will also need a parent who can spend one hour per week giving fluency tests.

I am looking for someone to be our "Room Captain" (formerly known as Room Mom). This position would be the liaison between our classroom and POQA. You would also be in charge of our class parties. We will have three parties, TBD at a later date.

Please be sure to fill out the Volunteer Information form.

Thank You!!

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### **Name of Person volunteering:**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am available to help (list day(s) and time available)

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Read and Review Form

We (parent/guardian/student) have read and reviewed both the Classroom Handbook and the Quest Academy Parent Handbook. (On Quest Academy web site)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that:

(Student's Name - Please Print)

- 1) I will be expected to be responsible for all my class work, homework, and any projects. This means being prepared, turning in all my work on-time, and making sure I don't forget my stuff at home. No excuses allowed.
- 2) I am expected to be on my best behavior, which means following all of the classroom and school rules.
- 3) I will be respectful, not just to my teacher, but to everyone including my classmates.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please Sign and return the first day of school!!!**

# Mrs. Chidester's Class Supply List 2014-2015

Head phones or Ear buds in a bag with student's name

2 Glue Sticks

Pencil box or Bag (labeled with name)

Scissors

3-70 count spiral notebooks (1 Vocabulary, 2 Spelling) Feel free to label, cutify, or decorate any way you choose!

2 two-pocket folders with prongs, one of which needs to be green

Colored pencils

Ruler: inches and centimeters

Inexpensive calculator

24 pencils (classroom supply)

8 thin black expo markers (classroom supply)

2 reams of copy paper

2 packages wide ruled filler paper

2 Clorox wipes

2 boxes of Kleenex

3 binders (1 needs to white) just empty last years..... :) Just choose smallish CHEAP ones!

\*If your last name starts with A-J please bring paper towels, and Ziploc sandwich bags.

If it starts with K-Z please bring a bottle of hand sanitizer, and gallon sized Ziploc bags.

"Notice: The items on this list will be used during the regular school day. They may be brought from home on a voluntary basis. Otherwise, they will be furnished by the school.