

2017-2018

Sixth Grade Science Disclosure Statement

Quest Academy Charter School

Mrs. Beckman

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**Contact Information:**

Mrs. Beckman Email: [bbeckman@questac.org](mailto:bbeckman@questac.org)

Phone: 801-731-9859

Blog: <http://qacblogs.org/brandy.beckman/>

**Course Description:**

The theme for Sixth Grade Science is Scale, with Relative Position as an underlying concept. Sixth graders should begin to relate to the incredible size and distance of objects in the solar system, galaxy, and universe, as well as compare their world to the miniscule scale of microorganisms. Students will also understand how relative position affects such events as the appearance of the moon and the changing of the seasons. Students will experiment with heat, weather patterns, and ecosystems.

**Objectives:**

- Students will understand that the appearance of the moon changes in a predictable cycle as it orbits Earth and as Earth rotates on its axis.
- Students will understand how Earth's tilt on its axis changes the length of daylight and creates the seasons.
- Students will understand the relationship and attributes of objects in the solar system.
- Students will understand the scale of size, distance between objects, movement, and apparent motion (due to Earth's rotation) of objects in the universe and how cultures have understood, related to and used these objects in the night sky.
- Students will understand that ecosystems are an essential part of our world.
- Students will understand the attributes of weather patterns.

**Rules and Procedures:**

Students are expected to follow the classroom rules which are as follows:

1. Be in your seat before the bell rings.
2. Be respectful of teachers, other students, the classroom and yourself. Nice Matters!
3. Raise your hand before speaking.
4. Do not leave your seat without permission.
5. Use quiet voices at all times.
6. Follow all flexible seating rules as discussed in class.

**Uniform Policy:** Per Quest Academy Policy (See Parent Handbook). Please be sure your student is in compliance with the school uniform policy. Any student not in compliance, parent/guardian will be called to bring a change of clothing, shoes, etc.

**Hall Passes:** Students will receive 4 Hall Passes at the beginning of each quarter. They may use these hall passes as they wish to make a trip to their locker or the restroom or to excuse a tardy to class. Once the hall passes are gone, they're gone until the next quarter.

**STEM Fair:** Each sixth grade student will **be required to participate** in the STEM fair. The STEM Fair is usually held in February or March of each year. More information will be given to the students, as the time for the fair gets closer.

**Homework:**

Assignments are the backbone of instruction at any grade level. Assignments are worked on in class after instruction has been given. On occasion, students will not complete the assignment prior to the dismissal bell. If that is the case, the unfinished assignment becomes homework and is generally due by the next class date unless otherwise specified.

**Late Work and Absences:**

Assignments are considered late when they are not turned in on the given date. Students that are absent have the same amount of absent days to make up the assignment. For example: 2 days absent = 2 days to make up assignment without

any deductions, the late deductions will begin after the 2 days. Special arrangements will be made for long term excused absences. Missing assignments will impact the student's citizenship grade.

It is the responsibility of the student to pick up any work that was missed assignments.

### **Citizenship:**

This year a student's citizenship grade will be just as important as their academic grade. Citizenship will start out as an "S" for satisfactory. It is possible to earn an "H" for honors for exceptional behavior. However, the citizenship grade can also drop to an "N" (needs improvement) or "U" (unacceptable) as well. This would be for any behavior issues, tardy to class, homework not turned in, etc. The citizenship grade will be based on PRIDE:

**P – Person Responsibility** – Take charge of your learning (minimal tardies and absences, being prepared, work completion, missing assignments).

**R – Respect** – Treat others the way you would want to be treated (respect, others, self, and property).

**I – Integrity** – Act with honesty in all you say and do (speak the truth, no cheating, plagiarism, etc.).

**D – Discipline** – Use self-control to be your best (no gum, be uniform compliant, follow Quest policies and rules).

**E – Engagement** – Be an active learner (participate in class discussions, complete projects and collaborate in groups).

### **Grading:**

The grading scale is new this year because Quest Academy is moving to mastery based grading. The scale is as follows:

#### **6th-9th Grading Scale**

A	100%-87%	The student demonstrates mastery of the standard (can apply and teach).
B	86%-80%	The student demonstrates proficiency of the standard.
C	79%-70%	The student is approaching proficiency.
D	69%-51%	The student is well below proficiency.
F	< 50%	The student does not attempt to meet the standard.

Understanding where students are in relation to mastery of Common Core standards helps teachers and parents know if students need additional help, if students are proficient, or if students need further enrichment. At Quest Academy, student's grades are determined by student performance on various grade level assessments. Students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery and proficiency of standards. For example, if a student receives a below proficiency score, he/she will not only be retaught, but will also have the opportunity to raise his/her score by retaking the assessment multiple times throughout the term. We are excited for the implementation of this model and for the opportunities that will be offered our students for academic growth.

Students will need to achieve a grade of 87% or higher to have "mastered" the topic of study. So the grades you see online may look slightly different than in previous years. Please contact the office with further questions regarding mastery. Students can retake assessments as many times as needed until the end of the quarter to achieve mastery.

### **Checking Grades:**

Parents or guardians can check students' grades by going to the school website (questac.org). Click on For Parents, then Aspire Gradebook (SIS); Type in the username and password. This will allow parents access to grades, missing assignments, citizenship, attendance and report cards. **Schoology** is another place to check your student's homework assignments and upcoming assignments.

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**Requested Supplies: Colored Pencils, Pencils, Glue Stick, Lined Index Cards, Spiral Notebook (College Ruled 70 pages)**

**Donations: Boxes of Kleenex, Expo Dry Erase Markers, Paper Towels, Reams of Copy Paper**

I look forward to an exciting year of discovery with your student.

**PLEASE visit my blog for the google form you need to submit to indicate that you have read and understand the disclosure statement.**