

Dear Parents & Students-

I am THRILLED to work with you this upcoming school year! I am so passionate about the importance of becoming a 21st Century Communicator!!! I embrace the use of the ENGLISH language (in all of it's forms) and truly believe that the more your student understands about the following, he/she will be better prepared to meet the demands of their future.

- READING/ COMPREHENSION
- PROCESSING INFORMATION
- ARGUING EFFECTIVELY
- WRITING
- USE OF FIGURATIVE/LITERAL LANGUAGE, GRAMMAR, SPELLING, VOCABULARY
- COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS
- PRESENTING

There are really only a few things you and your student need to know to be successful in my class:

- **LEARNING IS A PROCESS!**- Please embrace this idea. Each day we will be engaging in different activities, discussions, exercises, etc. to ultimately MASTER A STANDARD of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE. Please encourage the development of the SKILL/STANDARD. A student's "grade" will reflect their understanding and proper application of these skills/standards. GONE are the days of just doing an assignment, taking a test, doing extra credit and getting an "A". A student will be expected to demonstrate that they have a TRUE understanding of a concept, not just an ANSWER.

This is such a POWERFUL PERSPECTIVE on EDUCATION! I think all of you would AGREE that we learn to become good at something by DOING IT OURSELVES! Maybe the first time making a cake doesn't go so well, but THE MORE YOU DO IT, THE BETTER YOU BECOME AT IT!

FOR ALL STUDENTS TO HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE DURING THE LEARNING PROCESS, I EXPECT THE FOLLOWING:

MASTERY:

Students will receive a grade based on MASTERY of skills/concepts. Students will be given the opportunity to continue working on a skill/concept until mastered. MASTERY is the GOAL for ALL students. Their final grade should be a reflection of their understanding and ability to use skills/concepts in day to day operations.

6th-9th Grading Scale

A = 4	The student demonstrates mastery of the standard (can apply and teach).
B = 3	The student demonstrates proficiency of the standard.
C = 2	The student is approaching proficiency, but needs help
D = 1	The student is well below proficiency, even with help.
F = 0	Refusal to try.

Students will demonstrate that they KNOW a concept or standard, or that they DO NOT UNDERSTAND and still need help. **“A” Grades** are given to students who not only prove knowledge through an assessment, but are able to apply and assist using the concept. Grade level proficiency will be reflected by a **“B” grade**. A **“C” grade** means the student is still working on understanding the concept and will have as many opportunities as he/she is willing to try to master the standard. This responsibility will fall on the student and will require extra instruction and/or tutoring from myself or our ELA TA. No student will receive an **“F”** unless they refuse to do the work.

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, students 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.

- **ASSESSMENTS:**

Weekly assessments will be given to students to determine the level of understanding a student has for the skill/concept/ or Core Standard(s) that have been an area of focus for

the week. Students are encouraged to discuss and/or study these concepts both in class and out of class. I encourage daily conversation or practical every day use of the concepts we are learning (let them speak, share, write, do the talking at the store, make a phone call to schedule an appointment or order dinner, plan, present opinion and/or point of view on global, national, state, and local issues, etc.) . This is truly the BEST way for a student to reach MASTERY! This allows students to use their understanding of the POWERFUL use of LANGUAGE and COMMUNICATION in real world scenarios and day to day application.

IF WE TALK TO THEM AS IF THEY ARE ALREADY SUCCESSFUL...THEY WILL BE!

STUDENTS MAKE SURE TO:

- **BE ON TIME TO CLASS:** I start setting the tone for our time together before we enter the classroom. Tardiness interrupts our class and takes valuable time away from you and fellow students.
- **BE PREPARED FOR CLASS:** Students should bring the following to class with them each day:
 - Reading book
 - 3 Ring Binder with LINED PAPER and 8 tab dividers
 - Pencils (more than 1 in case one breaks) with ERASERS
 - Pen (Black or Blue)
 - Red Pen or Pencil
 - Ear buds or head phones.
- **BE PREPARED TO LEARN!** This means be prepared to READ, LISTEN, PARTICIPATE, PRESENT, ETC. What we do as a class, I expect all students to be involved. You do not HAVE to learn, but you MAY NOT interrupt learning for others. Excessive talking, disrupting discussions with unrelated comments and outbursts are not acceptable.
- **RAISE YOUR HAND** when you have a comment or question. There is only 1 teacher and several students. This is expected from all students to maintain a positive and professional learning environment.
- **KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!** We have a “no touch” policy at Quest. I expect that students will be respectful of my classroom and the surroundings, including the tables and learning materials of fellow students.
- **DO THE WORK!** Assignments are not worth points, but it is necessary for them to be completed in order to be assessed. Consider your “assignments” as PRACTICE to PREPARE for the TEST! Students should be working DAILY to improve their EDUCATION!

- **ABSENCE:** I realize that there may be times when it is necessary for a student to miss class. PLEASE MAKE ATTENDANCE A PRIORITY! I won't hold a class back because a student or two missed class. In the event that a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to stay on top of their learning. Assessments will still be issued whether or not a student is in attendance. If you miss material in class, it is up to you to make sure you don't get behind.
- **LET YOUR STUDENT LEARN TO COMMUNICATE:** This is the perfect opportunity to allow your student to learn to communicate effectively. Even if they feel nervous at first, PLEASE let them work through it! As parents and teachers, it is our hope that these students will have the confidence to approach others to discuss ideas, conflicts, questions, etc. I am a mother of 5 so I understand the desire to help our children, but when it comes to discussing their "class related" questions or concerns I want the students to try to do it on their own FIRST! Please feel free to e-mail or call to discuss legitimate issues with me. I don't want to discourage parent/teacher communication, but I do want to encourage student/teacher communication so they can learn to do things on their own. Ultimately that is the GOAL!
- **DISCIPLINE:** None of us are perfect (including myself:) so I understand that sometimes we just need to be reminded to get back on track! I will follow the following protocol for day-to-day classroom management and appreciate your support and reinforcement:
- **RAM PRIDE is our Quest Academy Code of Conduct.**
Students are expected to be good citizens. Students will be notified if they need to improve, but also PRAISED for good behavior and citizenship.

Personal Responsibility - Take charge of your learning (minimal tardies and absences, being prepared, work completion, missing assignments etc.)

Respect - Treat others the way you would like to be treated (respect others, self and property)

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

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

Engagement - Be an active learner (participate in class discussions, complete projects and collaborate in groups)

We are a GOOGLE school. Students will be enrolled in Google Classroom. Students will have access to all of their work as well as grades and progress through Google. Information and codes needed to access these will be given the first week of school.

Once you have read this disclosure please click on the link under FORMS to submit a Google Form indicating that you have read and understand the expectations of class. I look forward to a WONDERFUL year!

Mrs. Jill A. Schofield