

Quest Academy

Mrs. Bischoff's First Grade Class Disclosure

Welcome to first grade at Quest Academy! I am so excited to get to know you and your child as we work together this year. I have a huge philosophy that as parents you are the expert on your child and with my education in teaching as we work together and communicate effectively we can provide the best learning environment for your child. I want to give your child the most beneficial learning opportunities to reach their full potential as a first grade student. The following are some key elements, rules, policies, and guidelines that will help our classroom to function at its greatest potential:

Home Visits: A large emphasis of my degree was focused on Early Childhood Education. I had the opportunity to student teach at the preschool on Weber State's campus where we participated in home visits. The first week of school is when we went over to the student's home and talked with them and got to know them on a personal basis to help ease their nerves over attending school for the first time. While this is not preschool, I strongly believe that a quick home visit over the summer will help your child ease into First Grade, and get them excited about school. I have seen multiple examples of how a home visit truly helped students feel more comfortable with their teacher as well as the idea of First Grade from these home visits. I would like to arrange a quick 3-5 minute home visit with you to give you and your child a few things to fill out for me to bring back to our back to school night. I simply want to meet you, answer any questions and get your student excited about First Grade and having me as their teacher. With my classroom being a detective theme I will have a "Top Secret" folder with your student's name on it with different items to get them excited and with the items to fill out for me. Please check my blog regularly over the summer for dates and times!

Curriculum: We will be learning lots of fun things as we use the Utah State Core Curriculum. You can find more information about the core on my blog under the curriculum tab.

Classroom Rules: My classroom rules are simple. Each rule has actions to go along with it so that the children remember them throughout the day. If a child isn't following a rule another classmate can simply remind the student what the rule is with the action. This will result in students monitoring their own behavior and helping their peers to remember them. If students are not following rules they will be moving down their clothespin on the behavior chart (See Classroom Management Plan). We will also repeat these classroom rules each day so students know of their importance. I also expect an overall feeling of respect and acceptance of everyone in the class. Students will be taught that fair is that everyone gets what they need to be successful which may not be the same for everyone.

1. Listen when your teacher is talking.
2. Follow directions quickly.
3. Keep your hands and your feet to yourself.
4. Raise your hand to speak or to stand.
5. Be safe, be kind, be honest.

Homework: All homework will be posted on my blog the Friday before it's due. Homework will be posted a week's worth at a time and due every Friday. Students will have a blue homework folder that they will take home each day the back pocket of the folder will say take home the front side will say return to school. The items in the return to school pocket will have either something important that will need to return to school so please check their homework folders daily. For their homework each child is required to do 20 minutes of reading, spelling word sorts, and my choice of a math assignment.

Since we are a technology school, much of our school-work is technology-based. In addition, my teaching strategies include the use of very hands-on, engaging, or manipulative-based learning strategies, including singing for reading, math, etc. Please do not be alarmed when you do not see a lot of paperwork coming home – please be assured that your child is definitely learning! While we will be using worksheets, etc. to some extent, this is not our primary method of learning, and you will not be receiving a lot of paperwork from school. In addition to checking the Take-Home Folder, please check the blog regularly to stay updated on current classroom events and other updates.

Make-Up Work: Work missed can be turned in within one week of returning. Each student will be held accountable and responsible for all assignments. Any assignments turned in later than one week will not be given full credit.

Classroom Management Plan: My view on discipline is to take preventative measures so that each student knows what is expected and discipline won't be necessary. I will also follow Quest's love and logic way to handle situations that arise. Students will repeat classroom rules each day and I will expect these rules to be followed. I will be using a behavioral chart where students will start on green and have the opportunity to go up to purple and then blue is the top. Students also have the opportunity to go down to orange and then red which is parent contact. When students get to blue they get a super "sleuth" or student note home describing the good behavior that was shown that day. When a student gets to red **THEY** will be calling home to talk to their parent/guardian about what they did and what they will be doing to make up for what they did.

I also will have a mystery student and a mystery walker that I will reveal if that student is behaving well that day. If not they will get another day to try again. The mystery walker will be for walking in the halls, the mystery student will be for in the classroom.

Name Badge Violation: Each student at Quest Academy is given a name badge at the beginning of the year and is required to wear it. These badges need to remain at school each day. If your child forgets to remove their badge at the end of the day, please have him/her immediately put it in his/her backpack to ensure it will come to school the next day. If your child is missing his/her name badge, he/she will need to get a temporary badge at the office. If the badge is lost or broken, a new one can be purchased at the office for \$5. If after three days the badge is not returned to school or a new badge has not been ordered, the student will receive lunchtime detention.

Technology: Students will have access to both the PC and MAC lab, as well as use of laptops in-class. Please be sure to fill out the Internet Usage form, otherwise your child will not have computer access. Your child will be assigned to a specific laptop

computer and a specific computer in the computer lab. If your child breaks or damages any computer equipment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, while the student is using the computer, you will be billed for any replacements or repairs, as per the Internet Usage Policy. We have had several parents billed for replacements and repairs in the past, and I strongly encourage you to have a serious discussion with your child about the importance of respecting school property. I will also be teaching the children the correct way to handle our technology equipment.

Volunteers: I truly believe that I can't do my job to the fullest without help from wonderful parent or guardian volunteers! I have a list of things that you can choose from to do. I want everyone to feel welcome in my classroom as well as comfortable with what they help out with. If you don't want to work with students in small groups, or whatever it may be I can have you help with other things. The list will be at back to school night for you to sign up.

Friday Friend: To go along with volunteers I know that there are many parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, the list goes on, with an interesting career, hidden talent, or knowledgeable in one specific area. If you would like to share or you know someone who does; I would like to incorporate a Friday friend every short day. This will be where a volunteer comes in as an expert to teach my students about a different topic. These could include firefighters, veterinarians, scientists, engineers, doctors, farmers, etc. If you have an awesome career or hidden talent and you would be willing to tell us about what you do or what you know I would love your help!

Birthday Book: The administration has asked that we do not do any food type treats for birthdays, so instead I would like to do birthday book. On your student's birthday (or half birthday) I would like a parent or guardian to come into the class and bring their child's favorite book to read to the class. This will be at the end of the day. After sharing the story if you would like to donate the book to the class to help build up our classroom library and allow your student to read it while in class you may do that as well. Donating the book is not required but by choice. I would like to celebrate summer birthdays on the student's half birthday during the school year. If you would like to do something else please talk to me I'm happy to listen to alternative ideas.

Mystery Item: Your child will also bring in one item to share with the class on their birthday which they will hide in our mystery box. Then the students will ask questions to guess what is in the box after 10 questions your child will reveal the mystery item to the class. This will go along with our mystery detective theme as well as meet a common core standard of asking and answering questions as well as listening so your child will be receiving a grade for their participation.

Detective of the Week: We will also have a detective of the week. When your student is picked for that week they will be given a poster to tell us all about them. They will also get to bring in their favorite story from home to read with the class. They will also be given Curious George the monkey to take home on Monday and write about the adventures they go on throughout the week and return him on Friday.

Uniforms: Per Quest Academy policy (see handbook) please make sure your student's attire matches this policy and dresses appropriately. I expect students to be dressed appropriately for the weather which includes warm clothes for the winter i.e. coat, hat, gloves, and appropriately attire in the warmer months etc.

Availability: I am available by appointment before school and after school till 3:45. I am also available by appointment at a different time. There will also be a parent teacher

conference once a month that I will be available. My contact information is below as an alternative way of contacting me.

School Calendar: Please check the school calendar for “early days” and “no-school days.” Early-day dismissal is at 1:00 pm. You can obtain a copy of the school calendar from the Quest Academy website (www.questac.org).

I am very excited to get to know you and your student. Please let me know if you have any concerns, questions, or comments. Thank you for all you do as parents or guardians! I could not do my job without your support. I know we will have a great year together and look forward to working with you.

Contact Information:

If you need to contact me my email is qbischoff@questac.org

You can also reach me on my cell phone until 9pm at 801-814-5709.

Thanks again!

Mrs. Bischoff

As a parent or guardian, or student we have read this disclosure thoroughly and understand Quest Academy and Mrs. Bischoff's rules and policies of what is expected of me as the student or parent.

You may either sign and return this bottom portion at back to school night or go to my blog and fill out the Google Form and sign it that way.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

