

Mrs. Hills' and Mrs. Teichert's Classroom Disclosure

Welcome to a new school year! We are looking forward to an exciting year with many learning experiences for your child in first grade. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with you and your child and are committed to helping them experience a rewarding year!

Mrs. Hills will primarily focus on teaching Language Arts and Mrs. Teichert will concentrate on Math, but because proficiency in number sense and becoming a good reader is at the heart of these early years, these core concepts are integrated across all curriculum areas, and they will be emphasized throughout the day. We will work closely together to ensure success and continuity in your child's learning and in the classroom environment.

Please find included in this disclosure some very important guidelines, rules and policies that will help our classroom function well and also some helpful information for the school year:

Contact Information/Availability:

Communication is a key part to a successful year. If you have any questions, the best way to reach us is by email.

Mrs. Hills will be at Quest Academy from 8:00-12:00. Email: rhills@questac.org

Mrs. Teichert will be at Quest Academy from 11:00-3:00. Email: lteichert@questac.org

Quest Academy: www.questac.org 801-731-9859

(The office staff is willing to take a message, and we will call back as soon as possible)

First Grade Schedule:

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Minimum Days: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

P.E.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lunch

11 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Afternoon Recess

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Classroom Management

Classroom Rules:

1. Be respectful to others.
2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
3. Raise Hands
4. Be an active listener.
5. Self start and stay on task.

Clip System:

Our classroom has a discipline chart with different colored sections. Your child has a clip that begins each day on green and will remain on green if they have obeyed the classroom rules. They may "clip up" for exceptional behavior. If your child breaks a rule, they receive a warning and must move their clip to yellow. Clipping down to red means he/she has broken a rule and has had 2 warnings. Being on red requires the child to complete a "Stop-Think-Do" form which is a review of what needs to be worked on to improve behavior. The form must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to school the next day. For serious or multiple infractions, your child may be referred to the office and a parent will be contacted.

Fuzzies:

In addition to our clip system, our classroom will also be using a system where students have many opportunities to earn "fuzzies" for good behavior and wise choices (helping others, completing work, being quiet in the hallways, etc.) and lose fuzzies for undesirable behavior (not following directions, talking during quiet time, etc.). At the end of the week, students may turn them in for a reward of their choosing from our selection of incentive coupons.

Curriculum:

We will be learning exciting new things together as we focus on the new Common Core curriculum. The curriculum includes ideas, concepts, and skills to provide a foundation for later learning. More information can be found at www.corestandards.org or click on the link found on the "Curriculum" page on our class blog. At Quest we also have Technology Standards that we will be learning. Both the Common Core Standards and our Technology Standards are on our blog.

Pink (Outstanding)
Purple (Way to Go)
Blue (Good Job)
Green (Ready to Learn)
Yellow (Slow Down)
Orange (Think About It)
Red (Parent Contact)

Take Home Communication Folder (blue folder):

Each night your child will bring home his/her blue Take-Home Folder. One pocket will include papers that can remain at home (completed assignments, letters to parents from me or the school, etc.). The other pocket will include papers that need to be completed and sent back to school (homework, permission slips, questionnaires, etc.)

*It is imperative that this folder be **checked each night** by a parent, as it will help to maintain communication between you, your child, and our school/classroom.*

*Also, please **check our blog regularly** to stay updated on current classroom events and other updates.*

**Because we are a technology school, much of our schoolwork is technology-based. In addition, our teaching strategies include the use of very hands-on, engaging, or manipulative-based learning strategies. While we will be using worksheets, etc. to some extent, this is not our primary method of learning, so please don't be alarmed when you do not see a lot of paperwork coming home. Please be assured that your child is definitely learning!*

Homework:

Homework will be assigned and posted on our class blog by Monday of each week. Please print the homework pages out for your child. They will be used to reinforce what we have been learning in class. This is a great way for your child to get additional practice on what they are working on in class, and for you to see what they are learning and how well they are understanding it. Your child should work on their homework for at least 10 minutes each night followed by 20 minutes of reading. Our class homework will include Word Study (see below), Fluency, Math and Reading each night. Homework should not be overwhelming, especially in 1st grade. Homework is due back each Friday (place in their blue take home folder).

Reading:

Every child is to read 20 minutes a day. In class, we will be leveling your child to their independent and instructional reading level. Each student will receive a login and password to an online e-book program, called Raz-kids, that they can practice their 20 minutes of reading each night. Raz-Kids also provides an opportunity for your child to record their voice while reading. This will help them to hear themselves and become fluent as the year progresses. In addition, your child may be bringing home a take home reading book. As soon as you have signed off that they have read the book fluently, we will send home a new book. We will let you know when to expect this folder to begin coming home.

High Frequency Words:

First graders at Quest are required to read, write and spell 100 high frequency words. We will learn them each week and your child will be assessed on them weekly.

Word Study ("Words Their Way"):

At Quest we use a differentiated word study program to teach spelling, phonics and vocabulary. This program allows us to teach to your child's academic level in Word Study. Your child will be assessed at the beginning of the school year to see what pattern he or she is on and placed in a group. Every Monday, your child will learn the new word study pattern for the week. You will print this from the blog each week. Your child will be required to do a daily sort each night at home. This is very crucial in the research of this program. The Sorts and directions will be posted on the blog.

Math:

In first grade we work on Addition and Subtraction Fluency, so your child will be practicing Math fluency daily and we also use the *My Math* program from McGraw Hill. Math homework is assigned for review and so that you can see what we are doing in class.

Technology:

Students will have access to the PC and MAC lab, as well as use of laptops and ipads in-class.

Physical Education:

P.E. is held in either the gym or outside. We do exercises, run laps, practice P.E. skills, and play games. Your child needs to wear appropriate clothing and footwear, as per the school Uniform Policy. If you feel your child should not participate in P.E. activities on a particular day, please submit a short note, stating the reason, with your signature. All students will be expected to participate unless excused.

Grading:

Students will be assessed informally as well as formally. Tests could be given on all days of the week. However, most spelling, vocabulary, and High Frequency tests are given on Fridays. We will also be tested quarterly online with Star Math and Star Reading. Some other assessments include the Quantitative Spelling Inventory, for differentiated word study groups, and we use the Fountas and Pinnell leveling system to determine your child's reading level. The results of those tests will be provided at the parent teacher conferences.

Access to Aspire Gradebook:

Aspire Gradebook is a great way for you to stay updated on what assignments your child has turned in for the current term. We will update Aspire Gradebook by Monday evenings. Please check it weekly to ensure your child is not behind. In first grade we don't have many entries other than spelling/high frequency tests, and homework that is entered weekly. Most of your child's grades will come from assessments given throughout the term. For those of you not familiar with Aspire Gradebook, please go to our school webpage www.questac.org, click on the Gradebook link and enter your child's username and password.

Make Up Work:

It can be very overwhelming for a student to fall behind, so please help your child develop good habits and complete their homework on time. Late work will lose 10% of the score achieved for each day late, up to 50% on the 5th day and beyond. If your child was sick, they have as many days to make up their work as they were gone, without losing any points.

Donations:

In order to enrich your child's educational experience, we ask for voluntary donations of supplies. Needed supplies are found on our class blog ("supply list" under "Parent Information"). Additional donations for fieldtrips may be requested at a later time, and we will give notification regarding fieldtrips when they approach.

Additionally, donation of your time is critical to the class and we love to have parent volunteers! A sign-up sheet will be provided on back to school night.

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 his/her birthday. Your child's birthday will definitely be acknowledged! (We love to make a fuss over birthdays!) If you do choose to bring something to school to celebrate your child's birthday, please make arrangements with us prior to the school day on your child's birthday – either the morning of your child's birthday *before class begins*, or preferably before. Once class begins, it is very difficult to be unexpectedly interrupted. There are 27 students in the class.

*To avoid any hurt feelings, please mail any birthday invitations to classmates' homes; please do not pass them out before or after school. If your student brings birthday invitations to school, we will instruct him/her to place the invitations in students' file folders, which students empty at the very end of the day, and ask that students not open the invitations until they are at home.

School Wide Policies:

***Dress Code Violations:** Please pay close attention to our school dress code. If your child is in violation, they will receive a "violation ticket". One copy comes home to you, one is for me, and the last is turned in to the office at the end of each day. After three dress code violations, the administration will issue the student a lunchtime detention.

***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 them immediately put it in their backpack to ensure they will have it the next day. If your child is missing their name badge, they will need to clip down on our clip chart and 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 purchased, the student will receive lunchtime detention.

Read and Review Form

We (parent/guardian/student) have read and reviewed both the Parent/Student Classroom Disclosure and the Quest Academy Parent Handbook (on the school's website), and agree to adhere to all rules, policies, requirements, and guidelines. We acknowledge that we can access another copy on Mrs. Hills' and Mrs. Teichert's blog if needed.

I, _____ (student's name), understand and agree that

1. I am expected to be on my best behavior and to follow all classroom and school rules.
2. I will be expected to be responsible for all my classwork, homework, and projects.
3. I will be prepared to learn, including being prepared with all necessary materials and a positive attitude for learning.
4. I will do my best work, including my best on classwork, homework, and tests.
5. I will be respectful to my teacher and to all other students.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please print, sign, and return this form on the first day of school or at Back to School or complete the form online.