

Mrs. McBride's Kindergarten Disclosure 2016 - 2017

Welcome to Kindergarten! I hope you had a wonderful summer. I'm excited for this upcoming year and the opportunity to be your child's teacher! As always, the start of a new school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas. I have put together some helpful classroom information to help make this year a successful one. Please read this document carefully and make sure you understand everything before signing.

Birthdays

Administration has asked that students not bring in any food-type treats. One suggestion is that a book be donated to our class library in lieu of 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.

On your child's birthday, they will be the STAR of the Day. They can bring a poster to hang in the class on the day of their birthday celebration to share a bit about themselves with their classmates. Birthdays that take place when we are not at school, summer, holidays, weekends, etc., will be assigned a different day during the school year. I will have the dates posted on my blog.

School Wide Rules

There are five basic rules in our classroom and school:

1. Silent Movement
2. Raise Hands
3. Self Start
4. Follow Directions
5. 12 Inch Whisper

Dress

Please send your child dressed appropriately for the weather and for the school's dress code. Students who are not in school dress code will be required to call home so that a change of clothing can be brought to him/her. This will include socks and belts. The school dress code can be found in your parent handbook.

Homework

My goal is to create a love and desire for reading with all my students. Research indicates that the best thing that can be done at home to help your child become a successful learner is to READ, READ, READ to your child! I encourage 20 minutes of reading to and with your child each day. In addition to reading to your child, there will be one daily homework assignment involving math and language concepts, and one practice book for your child to read. **Your child is only required to spend 10 minutes on practice homework. This includes listening to your child read the practice book.** Of course, if they love it and want more, then by all means, let them do more practice. Please let me know if you would like additional or more challenging work.

Each day, beginning in September, there will be a posted homework practice assignment attached to my blog under the homework section. I believe in short meaningful spurts of learning. **If your child has given their best effort for the maximum time, but hasn't completed the homework, just draw a line where they finished, sign it off and they will get full credit.** We want them to be enthusiastic about learning, not burned out. Each homework page is worth 5 points.

If you feel your child needs extra math assistance, Quest offers a great program to help your student understand math concepts called MobyMax. I will post a link on my blog so you can access this at home. This is not a required homework assignment; it is just available for you to use to help your child succeed. There will be weeks that I will not assign homework due to holidays, short weeks and assessment weeks. I will notify you via my blog, when these weeks occur.

Grading

Grades can be found on Aspire, so please sign up for that through the school. Grades will be updated by Friday of each week. If a child is struggling with any subject, I will work with him/her and keep you

informed through parent conferences to provide students opportunities to improve.

Grading in Kindergarten largely involves the child putting forth their very best effort. Evaluations provide us with information about your child's knowledge and identify areas that may need improvement. I want each child to leave my class feeling like they can accomplish anything they set out to do. Please let me know if there is any concern at any time!

Show & Teach

This version of "show & tell" allows for sharing while learning. My goal is to teach the students the process of discovery. Discovery involves asking questions. I will send home the bucket with one child at a time. The instructions will be on the bucket. Your child may bring only one item and NO toys! Your child should be prepared with three clues. The class will have the opportunity to ask questions before the item is shown. This helps children develop the ability to think, ask questions, speak before a group, and analyze information. I will rotate the bucket so the children will each have opportunities throughout the year to teach us.

Behavior/Rewards

Kindergarten is a chance to learn great social skills. I follow the Love and Logic principles of discipline. Kindergarten children can learn expectations and gain an understanding of following those expectations. It takes some practice for the children to gain the experience, but a classroom set up with clear expectations fosters learning. There are a few rules and dozens of procedures, and we will spend many weeks practicing these. It is important to me that my students love coming to school and feel excited about the new things they are learning. I teach respect by example and I want them to feel loved and respected. It is my goal to teach my students the "good feeling", or intrinsic reward, that comes from making good choices. If a child makes a sad choice, there will be a consequence for their choice. Should a situation arise when your child demonstrates extreme behaviors, I will set up a conference with you.

Classroom Supplies

It is important that your child have all his/her classroom supplies. The class supply list is provided on my blog. Thank you for your generous donations! These supplies are vital to making education successful.

Forgotten Items

If your student forgets his/her backpack, homework, etc. PLEASE, do not bring them to the classroom, as this can be very disruptive. Please leave item(s) in the office with your student's name. Office staff will ensure the items are passed to the student.

School Calendar

Please be sure to check the school calendar for "Early Out" days and "No School" days. You can view/obtain a copy of the calendar from the Quest Academy website.

Contacting the Teacher

Parents may contact me by email or in person after our class is finished for the day. My email address is smcbride@questac.org. I will respond as soon as possible, but please allow at least 24-hours for a response. If your in-person visit with me is expected to last for more than 2-3 minutes, please schedule a time to visit with me, otherwise just stop in, and I will help you as best I can.

Make-up Work

When your child is absent, I will allow them to make up any work they missed, preferably as soon as they return to school so they can keep up with the pace of instruction. If extra time is needed, I can work with you on an individual basis. If he/she misses a test, I will email you so we can schedule a time to take the test.

Extras: I encourage your involvement in your child's education. I have an open door policy, and welcome your involvement through volunteer work. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer some of your hours in the classroom or even do work for me at home.

Please refrain from visiting the classroom for the first 2 weeks of school. It is difficult for some children with separation anxiety to see their parents while making the adjustment to being at school.

RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. MCBRIDE

As a parent or guardian of a student at Quest Academy Charter School, I acknowledge that I have read and shared with my child the *Disclosure Information for Mrs. McBride's Kindergarten Classroom 2015-2016*. I also acknowledge that I can access another copy on Mrs. McBride's blog if needed.

Date Signed _____

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____