



# QUEST ACADEMY

INNOVATION • PASSION • MASTERY



## Ram P.R.I.D.E

Quest's plan to safely reopen in Fall 2020

Quest families!

Over the past weeks and months, we have attended various online trainings presented by State leaders, health professionals, and educational representatives. The purpose of many of these meetings has been to discuss protocols for reopening schools this fall.

As discussed in previous communications, Quest Academy is currently planning a normal school opening on August 20. Our hope is to provide safe, on campus learning amidst the current pandemic, as well as to offer e-learning opportunities for families who have high-risk students or reservations about returning.

With guidance from State officials and health department representatives, we have created a plan for reopening Quest so all students have the opportunity to participate in face-to-face learning with educators and their peers. Please note that we understand the complexity of the situation and the importance of implementing guidelines with students' health and safety at the forefront. We have been consistently watching infection rates and trends, and are implementing the following guidelines in an effort to keep our community, staff, and students safe.

Quest's plan for reopening can be summarized by the acronym PRIDE. Quest takes pride in providing amazing computer science curriculum, in personalizing learning, in offering STEM programs, and doing whatever it takes to ensure student learning and growth continue...even during a pandemic. Now, Quest takes PRIDE in implementing State requirements and recommendations established for protecting staff, students, and our community. PRIDE stands for **Physical Distancing**, **Respiratory Output**, **Improved Hygiene**, **Disinfecting & Cleaning**, and **Extra Caution**.

 <p>hysical Distancing</p>	<p>Classrooms and cafeterias modified to maximize distance between students</p>	<p>Staggered dismissal times; designated doors for entry/exit of buildings; directed student movement</p>	<p>Physical distancing signs/posters; limited large group gatherings</p>
 <p>espiratory Output</p>	<p>Cloth face masks and face shields provided for every Quest employee and student</p>	<p>Visitors and volunteers required to wear face coverings and complete temperature checks</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of air flow and filters</p>
 <p>mproved Hygiene</p>	<p>Handwashing guidelines taught and reinforced with instructional posters</p>	<p>Hand sanitizing stations available as students transition to different areas</p>	<p>Minimized sharing of supplies and no self-serve cafeteria options; use of water fountains discouraged</p>
 <p>isinfecting &amp; Cleaning</p>	<p>Custodians provided additional hours to ensure proper disinfecting of school</p>	<p>Classrooms and high-touch areas cleaned and disinfected between periods as needed</p>	<p>Purchase of two disinfecting spray machines per building</p>
 <p>xtra Caution</p>	<p>Students should stay home when feeling sick or exhibiting symptoms</p>	<p>Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms; symptomatic students will be isolated until picked up</p>	<p>Assigned seating; accommodations for high-risk students and staff</p>



As Quest employees prepare to implement these changes with fidelity, we ask for your assistance in reinforcing and discussing these changes with your children (greater details for each area of PRIDE are provided in the following pages). As we've learned from recent months, we need to have a mindset that anticipates and even expects change. Quest employees, students, and families will need to be flexible, as State or health department mandates may require changes due to increases in COVID-19 cases in the surrounding community. Changes could range from a need to decrease the number of students allowed on campus to full-time e-learning.

In addition to full-time on-campus instruction, Quest will provide an e-learning model. One of the factors that made e-learning so successful this past spring was that ALL students participated in e-learning. There was no juggling of on-campus instruction with at-home instruction. The challenge has been developing a model that meets the needs of both these situations without stretching our educators too thin. We thank everyone who participated in previous surveys and who shared feedback regarding their e-learning experiences this past spring. Those shared insights, coupled with a need to develop a sustainable, working model for Quest educators, were used to develop two separate e-learning opportunities: an elementary model and a jr. high model. For both models, a Quest Chromebook will be issued to students. Also, we ask that students come dressed for success! As Quest Rams, students will be expected to wear their Quest uniform shirt. They will also be expected to follow all behavioral expectations as outlined in our handbooks and policy manuals. Students learning from home should also have a designated learning place that is, to the greatest extent possible, void of distractions. The ideal situation would be a chair at a desk or table in the home.

[Elementary E-learning Video](#)

[Elementary E-learning Document](#)

[Jr. High E-learning Video](#)

[Jr. High E-learning Document](#)

With no vaccine available, we are aware that COVID-19 continues to be a risk in our communities. We are confident, however, that adherence to the following information will optimally mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our school setting. As we each do our part to implement practices that are known to keep individuals safe and reduce the spread of sickness, we can provide a learning environment that continues to meet the needs of our amazing students!

As always, thanks for your support and trust.

Dr. Dave Bullock

School Director

Nicki Slaugh

Jr. High Principal

Angelee Spader

Elem. Assistant Principal

# Physical Distancing

## **Classrooms and Cafeterias**

Both classrooms and cafeterias have been modified to ensure maximum distance between students. Bulky Furniture, and items deemed nonessential, have been removed from classes to increase physical distancing and to allow for greater separation of classroom desks. Additional tables and seating have been procured for our cafeterias. Also, plastic dividers will separate students as they eat. In Q2, jr. high students will have the option of eating outside.

## **Entry and Transitions**

In an effort to decrease congestion at entry points, grades will be assigned certain doors to enter and exit. Teachers will train students regarding this protocol during their children's first days of school. As students prepare to transition from one area of the school to another,



they will line up systematically and in small groups, rather than all students lining up simultaneously. Jr. high students will be dismissed from class in staggered groups to increase physical distancing in the hallways. Also, visits to lockers will be limited.

## **Signs/Posters and Limited Large Groups**

To help reinforce and remind staff, students, and our community of physical distancing protocols, signs and posters will be visible throughout hallways. Posters will also be found in other visible, high-traffic areas. Large group gatherings will be limited and discouraged. If assemblies are essential, then physical distancing guidelines will be followed.

# Respiratory Output

## Face Coverings

Because face coverings are one of the most effective measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, all students and employees will be given a mask and face shield. When physical distancing is not feasible, employees and students should wear face coverings.

As students enter the building each morning, they will need to wear masks. Teachers will monitor classroom situations and inform students when taking their face coverings off would be appropriate. Please note that accommodations will be made for employees and students with respiratory issues. In such instances, a face shield may be the best option for those individuals.

In addition to completing temperature checks, all visitors and volunteers will be required to wear face coverings from the moment they exit their vehicle. They will also be required to complete a symptom check.

Students are more than welcome to wear masks other than those provided by the school. Furthermore, masks do not need to be school colors. With the variety of mask designs that are available, we hope Quest students will find something that is tailored to their personalities, interests, or color choices. We do ask, however, that mask designs/art align with Quest standards.

## Air Flow

Rest assured that Quest maintenance crews will regularly check and replace filters for the units responsible for circulating air and maintaining comfortable room temperatures.



# Improved Hygiene

## Handwashing

Though handwashing has always been taught and encouraged at Quest, added emphasis will be placed on its importance and the health benefits that accompany this practice. Posters with instructions for proper handwashing have been placed near sinks. Quest Employees will work diligently to ensure all Quest students understand best handwashing procedures.



## Hand Sanitizing

Quest has always used hand sanitizing stations. These stations are located in high traffic areas, as well as in shared spaces (library, lunch room, computer lab, etc.) Additional stations have been purchased and placed in areas throughout the school to maximize accessibility.

## Additional Precautions

Sharing of any supplies or items between students at Quest will be minimized. As in the past, technology devices will be assigned to individual students. If, for some reason, a device or item (e.g. sewing machine) needs to be used by multiple students, it will be thoroughly disinfected/cleaned between each use. Additionally, students will no longer self-serve in the cafeteria. Instead, gloved and masked employees will serve them. Disposable cups with water will be available during lunch, instead of water fountains. Students will be asked to bring water bottles from home rather than using hallway water fountains.



# Disinfecting and Cleaning

## Custodial Considerations

Custodians at Quest have been given additional working hours to thoroughly disinfect classrooms, bathrooms, and shared areas of the school. Though door knobs will also be disinfected regularly, most doors will remain open during transition times to limit contact with them.

Quest has always used disinfecting solutions and high-pressure washing machines for cleaning bathrooms. Four additional disinfectant sprayers have been purchased for use during and after each school day. These commercial-grade machines are specifically manufactured for schools and can be used to disinfect tables, chairs, doors, restrooms, and other items and areas that will need daily attention.



## Teachers

Quest educators are committed to keeping their learning environments clean and disinfected. As young students rotate to teacher tables for small group instruction within their classrooms, all surfaces for that



particular area will be wiped down and prepared for the next group of students. Jr. high tables and chairs will be cleaned and disinfected between transitions.

# Extra Caution

## Stay Home When Sick

It's of great importance that families keep their children home when they feel sick or when they exhibit symptoms of illness. Symptoms related to COVID-19 include *loss of smell or taste, runny or congested nose, vomiting, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough, or diarrhea*. If you have any of these symptoms you should be tested for COVID-19. Our "stay home when sick" philosophy is not limited to COVID-19. Students with symptoms of other



illnesses should remain at home and take advantage of Quest's e-learning opportunities. Symptomatic students should not physically return to school unless their symptoms are not due to a communicable disease as confirmed by a medical provider. Staff and families should notify the school immediately if

they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Anyone who has been exposed, should be quarantined at home for 14 days. When school officials have been notified, they will work closely with the local health department to determine the next steps.

## When to Return to School If Diagnosed with COVID-19

The following criteria should be met in order to return to school. First, individuals should be free of any fever for 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers). Second, at least 10 days should have passed since symptoms first appeared.

## Other Precautions

Students will be assigned seats in classrooms and in the lunchroom, as this can be helpful in contact tracing. Parents of high-risk students should contact the school so appropriate accommodations can be made. Accommodations are also available for high risk employees.



## Possible Scenarios for the 2020-2021 School Year

There are three possible scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. Currently, the State and Health Department have announced that schools will be open for on-campus learning, or Scenario 1. Though Scenarios 2 and 3 are also possibilities, the school would only move to those models after close consultation with State and local authorities. A decision to move to either scenario would take into consideration the effect of COVID-19 in the school as well as in the surrounding community.

<b>Scenario 1 On-Campus Learning</b>	<b>Scenario 2 Hybrid Model</b>	<b>Scenario 3 E-learning Only</b>
<p>Students are welcome to attend school with the above guidelines and protocols in place for reopening</p> <p>E-learning is available for families who choose to keep their children home</p> <p>Families need to give teachers a 3 day notice if they want to switch from e-learning to on-campus (or vice versa)</p>	<p>Quest administration will work closely with State and County entities to ensure the percentage of students on campus meets recommendations and requirements</p> <p>Students will rotate days they are on campus and days they work from home</p> <p>Full-time e-learning is still available</p>	<p>Students participate in full-time e-learning. Educational services will meet children's needs and State requirements</p> <p>Jr. high students will attend each period remotely</p> <p>Elementary students will log in each day for attendance and instruction</p>

## Thank You, Quest Families!

Though the upcoming school year will be different from past years, we want you to know of our dedication to making this year "Ram-markable"! Please know that we will keep you updated with changes to any required procedures or protocols. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for choosing Quest. Thank you for trusting us with your amazing children. Thank you for your support, kindness, and dedication to educational excellence! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Quest Administration