

# WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE QUEST PULL-OUT PROGRAM 2019 - 2020

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## *GETTING STARTED:*

Classes begin the week of Monday, September 9, 2019.

Information on Curriculum Night for Pull-out Quest classes will be provided by your child's Pull-out Quest teacher.

The Pull-out Quest class schedules may vary from those of the regular classroom. Details for the start and end times for your child's Pull-out class will be emailed to Pull-out Quest parents as soon as they are available. If your child does not ride the bus, please see that she/he arrives and departs from Pull-out in a timely manner.

Most children have to make some adjustments when they first enter the Pull-out Quest Program. Parental support and understanding can contribute to a happy adjustment. Please take some time to review this document to get insight into some ways that parents can be supportive of their children in the program. If there are ways the Quest teachers can help you, please do not hesitate to call on them.

## *REGULAR ATTENDANCE*

More than any other factor, regular attendance seems to contribute to a satisfactory adjustment to the Pull-out Quest program. Since the class meets just once a week, irregular attendance makes program continuity difficult. When students are absent they miss instruction, research, and guest speakers. Some of these cannot be duplicated later.

When students have a high absence rate, they don't form important friendships with classmates. They often feel unprepared for class activities. They lack the lead-up experiences for a project and feel uncomfortable in groups that have already met and chosen responsibilities. For these reasons, it is very important that children attend every class unless illness prevents coming to school.

Sometimes a special event at the home school is held on the child's Pull-out day. The Pull-out teachers understand that some events require special consideration. In these cases, the child can be excused early or some other arrangement can be reached. But once the commitment is made to enter the Quest program, regular attendance is expected.

## *ADJUSTING TO PULL-OUT QUEST*

Your child will be adjusting to a challenging program. Higher level thinking skills are expected and students are meeting new classmates without the comfort of close friends. Sometimes these situations - and others - will be expressed by the child as problems. Most children adjust quickly; others may take several months before they are comfortable in the new setting. The overwhelming majority of students who attend regularly for four to six months remain in the program and perform well.

The Pull-out Quest teachers are eager to work with the child and the parents to make adjustments easier. The teachers will need to know soon if a child is not adjusting well. If you think your child is not looking forward to the Pull-out Quest day, contact the teachers. Encourage your child to talk to the teachers, too. Usually the teachers can reassure the child and they can also make accommodations in the classroom which aid the child's adjustment.

### *REGULAR CLASSROOM MAKE-UP WORK*

Sometimes Pull-out Quest students comment about "make-up" work required from the regular classroom teacher. This is especially true for grades four and five. The classroom teachers are concerned about students who miss important instruction. It is not common, but Quest teachers sometime ask students to complete some work outside of class. All of this requires coordination, understanding and flexibility on the part of the student, the Quest teacher and the home school teacher. Usually a satisfactory agreement is reached among the three parties and no unreasonable burdens are placed on the child.

Generally, Pull-out Quest students are high-achieving students who are performing beyond their peers. Unless new material is introduced on their Pull-out Quest day, Quest students can miss a day a week without affecting their regular classroom progress. If the student is already demonstrating mastery, there is little value gained from producing even more evidence of mastery. However, new material will need to be introduced to the child upon return to class. We appreciate that this requires extra effort from regular classroom teachers. That is why we make every effort to schedule children from the same school/grade level/teacher on the same day. We also try to communicate with the homeroom teacher so that there is an understanding of the goals, purposes and units in the Pull-out Quest program.

If there are particular assignments due on Pull-out Quest day, it is the responsibility of the child to work out an accommodation with the regular classroom teacher. Among the most common assignments are such things as book reports, spelling tests or project notebooks. Usually students arrange to turn in these assignments the day before or the day after the Pull-out Quest day. Almost always, regular classroom teachers are accommodating to the child and are supportive of the Quest program. If your child is having difficulties in this area, please communicate with the regular classroom teacher, the Quest teacher, your building principal or the Quest administrator. We want to help you resolve this before it becomes an issue which affects the child's continuation in the Quest program.