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Aurora Quest K-8
Engage. Grapple. Persist.

Principal Communication

October 23, 2026

Communication Summary

1. A Community Built on Kindness, Respect, and Communication
2. Costume Parade at Quest

Dear Aurora Quest K-8 Families,

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I hope you have had a wonderful week and have found a few moments to enjoy the beauty of fall with your families. As we approach November, I want to take a moment to share how grateful I am for the care, involvement, and commitment our families bring to Aurora Quest each day. Our school is more than a place where students come to learn; it is a community built on relationships, shared values, and a collective desire to see every child succeed.

A Community Built on Kindness, Respect, and Communication

As we move into November, with shorter days, colder weather, and the many demands of our daily lives, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of kindness, respect, and common courtesies within our Aurora Quest community. We recognize that everyone experiences stress, frustration, and moments when things don't go as planned. During these times, it can be easy to lose sight of how our words, tone, and interactions impact others. One of the things that makes Aurora Quest such a special place is the strong partnership between our families and staff. Maintaining that partnership requires all of us to approach one another with patience, empathy, and the assumption of positive intentions, even when we may not agree.

Open and respectful communication is essential to supporting our students. Our staff strive to respond to family communications within 48 hours, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as they balance the many responsibilities of the school day. At times, a thoughtful response may require additional time to gather information or connect with others. Our teachers also make an effort to communicate with families when they notice concerns in the classroom, whether those concerns are academic, behavioral, or social-emotional. These communications may come through email, TalkingPoints, or a phone call. Often, teachers are simply sharing

observations about what they are seeing at school so that we can work together to better understand and support a student. These conversations are not intended to be punitive or critical of students, but rather an opportunity to strengthen our partnership and collaboratively address concerns before they become larger challenges.

When concerns do arise, families should begin by communicating directly with the staff member involved, asking clarifying questions, and seeking to understand the situation before drawing conclusions. We recognize that there will be times when families are frustrated, disagree with a decision, or have concerns about an interaction. Those feelings are valid, and we want families to feel comfortable advocating for their children. At the same time, we expect all members of our school community to communicate respectfully, even when navigating difficult conversations or disagreements. This expectation extends to interactions with every member of our staff, including classroom teachers, educational assistants, office staff, administrators, and our before- and aftercare team. If a concern cannot be resolved through direct communication, our administrative team is always available to help facilitate a productive conversation and work toward a resolution.

Finally, I want to offer a gentle reminder that the people who work in our building are human beings first. They are parents, spouses, caregivers, friends, and community members who have families, responsibilities, and lives beyond our school walls. Our staff care deeply about our students and work incredibly hard each day to create a safe, supportive, and challenging learning environment. Just as we ask our staff to extend compassion, patience, and understanding to students and families, we ask that the same grace be extended to them. We can hold high expectations, address concerns, and advocate for our children while still treating one another with dignity and kindness.

As we head into the weekend and prepare for a new month, I encourage all of us to look for small opportunities to extend a little extra kindness, offer a word of encouragement, or simply give someone the benefit of the doubt. These small gestures make a meaningful difference and help create the welcoming, caring school community we want for our children. Thank you for your continued partnership, for the trust you place in our staff, and for the many ways you contribute to making Aurora Quest a wonderful place to learn and grow. I am grateful to be part of this community and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the weeks ahead.

Costume Parade at Quest:

Halloween is in the air. Students are already gearing up for Trick-or-Treating. To celebrate at Quest, we will be participating in our Annual Quest Halloween Costume Parade on Thursday, October 30th at 2:00 PM. Students will be allowed to dress up in costumes that adhere to the following guidelines:

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- Students should wear their costumes to school and be prepared to wear them all day.
- Costumes should not distract from learning, either your child's or another's.
- No Halloween masks may be worn.
- No face paint.
- No costumes with sound effects, lights or other components that may disrupt the learning environment.
- Costumes should be modest, tasteful and appropriate for a school environment.
- Costumes must permit students to sit and participate in the learning process for the day.
- Students with P.E. should wear or bring shoes that are safe for P.E. activities.
- Because we have younger students on our campus, we ask that scary characters not be part of the day. (Scream, Chuckie, Jason, etc.)
- Toy or facsimile weapons are not allowed. (swords, guns, knives, etc)
- Students whose costumes do not meet the standards will be asked to call home for a change of clothing.

At 2:00 PM, Quest Kindergarten students will begin leading the annual Quest K-5 Halloween parade outside. Parents are welcome to attend by lining up along the sidewalk in front of the school to see all of our ghosts and goblins. While we anticipate that this will be a quick parade, we are at the mercy of small feet walking.

For any student not able to participate due to religious beliefs or parent preference, we will have supervision on the playground during the parade.

Wishing you and your families a restful, warm, and wonderful weekend!

With appreciation,

Dr. Kelsey Haddock
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