quest pledge

As a valuable member of the Quest Charter Academy community, today I commit myself to growth, achievement and success. I am respectful, responsible, courageous, curious and hard-working. I pledge to use the tools I have been given to realize my talents, fulfill my dreams, and attain my goals. I AM ON A QUEST TO BE THE BEST!

mission

Quest Charter Academy is dedicated to providing a diverse student body with an innovative, world-class education rich in math, science and technology, focused on preparing students to become bold inquirers, problem solvers and ethical leaders.

vision

Quest Charter Academy will have a 100% college acceptance rate for every graduating class.
Without a doubt one of the accomplishments we are most proud of is our class of 2017 – our second high school graduating class. Most of these students had been at Quest since we opened in 2010, and we have had the pleasure of watching them grow into remarkable individuals who we know have great things in store for them. Collectively, this class earned more than $2.1 million in scholarships. While each of our graduates were accepted to college, 49% took advantage of Peoria Promise and enrolled at ICC, and the remaining 51% are at a four-year college/university.

We are also excited about the continuation of the launch of our strategic plan that was created during the 2015-2016 school year. A significant number of teachers, staff, board members and parents engaged in the strategic planning process that resulted in formidable action plans in four key strategic areas:

- We will structure the school day/calendar to enhance/ maximize instruction and programming.
- We will increase family engagement.
- We will provide innovative programs and course offerings to maximize learning for individual students.
- We will provide alternatives to reduce disruptive behavior and promote social-emotional supports for students.

I encourage you to learn more about these strategies and action plans which can be found at the lower portion of our website, www.questpeoria.org. This is all in an effort to move Quest Charter Academy to the next level.

To help our students achieve high academic goals, we implemented a majority of the recommendations that came out of the strategic plan during the 2016-2017 school year which include:

- Restructured the school day to allow for a later start time for students and daily professional development for staff.
- Added the new position of Family and Community Liaison who will work to take family engagement to a higher level through communication, activities and more. This individual will be a constant source of communication and support for all of our Quest families.
- Added a full-time social worker at our Middle School who will support the social-emotional needs of our students.
- Added an RTI (Response to Intervention) Coordinator to track and monitor individual student data and personal learning plans for each student.
- Lowered class size for 5th grade at our Middle School to 20 students in a classroom, keeping students self contained during their first year with us.
- Committed to every student having a Chromebook to use while at school every day through 1:1 technology.
- Expanded academic offerings at the High School.
- Moved the school to using a restorative approach through PBIS, which put the building of relationships with our students first and foremost in all we do.
- Implemented a balanced calendar committee to research and implement a balanced calendar in the 2017-2018 school year.

Quest Charter Academy is committed to ensuring our students, families, staff and Board, as well as this community that worked so hard to make Quest a reality, are highly satisfied. Our mission and vision cannot be accomplished without a talented and dedicated team of teachers. Both Quest Middle and High School are incredibly fortunate to have just that. Our teachers give an enormous amount of time and energy to providing our students with an outstanding education, and their passion and commitment is commendable.

We are deeply appreciative of the support we receive from the many individuals, businesses, groups and foundations both financially and of their time. Know that you are playing a vital role in transforming the education of hundreds of students each year which will in turn improve the quality of life and standards of living in Peoria.

Dr. Nicole Wood
Executive Director

Mr. Tom Fliege
President
Peoria Charter School Initiative Board of Directors
**Student Ethnicity**

- African-American: 73%
- Asian: <1%
- Hispanic: 11%
- Multi-Racial: 8%
- White: 8%
- Am. Indian: <1%

**Staff Ethnicity**

- White: 76%
- African-American: 20%
- Multi-Racial: 3%
- Asian: 1%

**Ethnic Breakdown:**

**Participation**

- Student Attendance: 93%
- Staff Attendance: 98%
- Student Retention: 91%
- P/T Conference: 70%
- Staff Retention: 76%
Annually, Quest Charter Academy will have a 100 percent college acceptance rate. By focusing on student attendance, college and career indicators, our performance as a school and individually on Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments, we will be on track for achieving our target.

We could not be more proud of our second class of high school graduates. The overwhelming majority of young men and women of the Quest High School Class of 2017 had been at Quest since we opened in 2010, and we watched them grow into remarkable individuals who we know have great things in store for them. This group earned $2.1 million in scholarship offers! 51% of our seniors enrolled in a 4 year university and 49% took advantage of Illinois Central College through Peoria Promise.

The Technology Student Association met everyday during the 2016-2017 school year. The goal was to inspire our students to develop leadership qualities and opportunities in technology, innovation, design and engineering. During the year we participated in the State competition in Bloomington, IL, and competed against top Illinois schools. We competed in a broad range of events including: dragster design, Team Problem Solving, Structural Engineering - Truss, Structural Engineering - Bridge, Technology Bowl, and Prepared Presentation. Austin Worley, a Spring ‘17 graduate, finished second in the state in Bridge competition and our freshman team placed second in the Technology Bowl Event.
Our students are progressing and achieving. Quest had a 4% increase in composite score on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments.

- State average increase: 0.7%
- Peoria Public Schools: 1.0%
- Quest Charter Academy: 4.0%

CULTURE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Quest utilizes the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to measure students’ academic performance. NWEA is a research-based, computerized assessment that delivers precise, real-time information about every student’s learning – both achievements and challenges. Taken three times each year (Fall, Winter and Spring), NWEA allows our teachers to differentiate instruction based on students’ academic abilities, pinpoint intervention and enrichment needs, accelerate students’ academic growth and achievement, maximize classroom instructional time, staff resources, and budget, and target instructional and professional development time and resources. Students are engaged with a personal goal for their assessment, and they receive their score immediately when they are finished. Students are assigned a RIT (Rausch Unit scale) score and a projected RIT target based on the average growth by same students at the same level. These RIT scales use individual item difficulty values to measure student achievement independent of grade level. The NWEA assessment is based on a national average of 50%. NWEA considers a rating of 50% or more to be good, a rating of 60% or more to be excellent, and a rating of 70% or more to be outstanding. Therefore, Quest students’ growth of 57% in reading is approaching excellent, and 44% growth in math is just short of good progress.

Student Satisfaction

- 92% of students report they are encouraged to learn and ask questions
- 94% of students report they are asked to work hard in class
- 70% of students say they provide constructive feedback to peers in class
- 95% of students report that students show each other respect
- 85% of students report they feel safe in their classrooms
- 80% of students report they feel safe in the hallways
It is our vision that students, families, staff, our Board of Directors and the community have a positive and engaging experience at Quest Charter Academy. We know everyone makes a choice to be a part of the Quest family and it is essential that our customers are not just satisfied, but raving fans. This includes students and staff being successful in their work while growing personally and professionally. It includes high levels of family engagement and participation and a culture which is built on and grounded in our core values of respect and responsibility. The following are some highlights of initiatives and accomplishments that contribute to our positive culture:

- Engage in a shared leadership model where everyone serves on a team, led by teacher leaders.
- Lead through a system and structure of a senior leadership team across both campuses.
- Lead through the system and structure of an instructional leadership team at each building.
- Held leadership retreats to build culture – 1/3 of staff serve in a leadership role.
- Involved staff in budget creation and budget tracking.
- Decreased the number of discipline suspensions and expulsions.
- Achieved enrollment targets in October and December, and decreased the loss of students over the year.
- Implemented ongoing positive incentive systems for students driven by teacher leadership.
- Created a new student success team for social-emotional and academic interventions and acceleration.
- Completed strategic planning initiatives for our 3-year plan and goals.
- Balanced calendar committee researched options for implementation of a balanced calendar in the 2017-2018 school year.
From the conception of Quest, the community sought to support a school that provided opportunities for students to be successful in the STEM career fields. The ultimate vision is that our students will not only have the opportunity to go to college in their chosen field, but will be prepared to enter the global workforce and contribute to the Peoria community if they choose to reside here. By focusing on and choosing an academy in the area of their interest, students will explore career paths and gain experiential learning opportunities through their personal learning plan.

Our community partnerships are the lifeblood of Quest. We believe in partnerships being a two-way street where our students and staff are equal contributing partners giving back to the many community partners that give so much of their time and financial support to Quest.

Our community partnerships include:
- University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP)
- Bradley University
- Illinois Central College
- Eureka College
- Methodist College
- Quest for College and Careers
- Peoria Symphony Orchestra
- Caterpillar African American Network
- Society of Women Engineers
- Junior League of Peoria
- Peoria Area Association of Realtors
Sports are an integral part of our overall educational plan because they help develop mature, responsible young adults. Participation in sports enriches personal growth and development, sets standards for leadership and excellence, and requires dedication and hard work. Quest is a member of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Our sports programs include: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Bowling, Wrestling and Track & Field.

Quest was fortunate to have been invited by Peoria Heights High School to enter into a co-op for football beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Because of its success, Quest and Peoria Heights High School expanded their co-op agreements for bowling, girls basketball and wrestling. Quest will consider additional sports as interest increases and funding allows.
LIST OF DONORS

The Peoria Charter School Initiative/Quest Charter Academy gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses and foundations that have provided financial support and gifts in-kind to Quest Charter Academy from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

PHD Services
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Pogue
Allison J. Putt
Quest Throwback Prom
Random Boutiques
Ransburg Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Rassi
Raymond James & Associates/North Central Division
Razoo Foundation
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Adam Reel
Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Riediger
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Ritschel
Alyssa Rodgers
Derrick Rodgers
Joyce Rosenberger
Glenn R. Ross
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Emily Scott
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Constance Tomczyk
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Sandra Ullman
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Josephine Graves
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Cora Lynn Green
Daniel Haney
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Heart of Illinois United Way
Rachel Heckman
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Michael Kennedy
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Doug Oberhelman
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Zach Oyler
Tyler Padera
Par-A-Dice Gaming Corporation
Robert Park
Peoria Civic Center/SMG
Peoria Heights High School
Peoria Riverfront Museum
As a charter school, Quest receives only 85% of the per pupil funding that the State of Illinois provides to schools. We must raise the additional 15% per student just to level the playing field for our students. We are continually looking to expand our financial support from individuals and businesses to help us achieve our mission and vision. Additionally, by having strong processes and procedures in place, we ensure that we are being fiscally responsible with the dollars allocated to Quest, and we participate in an approach of shared leadership where members of our team are responsible for creating and staying within their approved budget.

**Income & Expense**

**Revenues, Gains, and Public Income FY2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Revenues</td>
<td>$5,391,080</td>
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<td>Transportation Revenues</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Fundraising and Donations</td>
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<td>Food Service</td>
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<td>Student Fees</td>
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<td>Extracurricular Activities Inc.</td>
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<td>Uniforms Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics Revenue</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,212,620</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Direct Student Costs</td>
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<td>Office and Administration</td>
<td>$262,854</td>
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<td>Occupancy of Facilities</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,758,244</strong></td>
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<td>Operating Surplus</td>
<td>$454,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Expense</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Unaudited Financial Statements*
Peoria Charter School Initiative
Board of Directors
Mr. Tom Fliege – President
Mr. Will Ball – Vice President
Mr. R. Rennie Atterbury – Secretary
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Mr. Rogers Turner

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Mr. Glen Barton - President Emeritus
Mr. McFarland Bragg
Dr. Cindy Fischer
Mr. Al Hooks
Dr. Vicky Stewart

Quest Charter Academy
Senior Leadership Team
Dr. Nicole Couri Wood - Executive Director & Interim Middle School Principal
Mrs. Cindy Ardis Jenkins – Director of Development & Communications
Mrs. Barb Clossen – Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Deborah LaHood – Business Manager
Ms. Robyn McCracken – Principal, High School

Middle School Staff
Taj Ardis
Nancy Bucalo
Channing Carroll
Maggie Couri
Kaylee Dowell
Dillon Jenkins
Laura Johnson
Michelle Maarouf
Dorothy Maarouf
Julie Manning
Billy Mosburg
Tyler Padera
Amelia Readeker
Alyssa Rodgers
Gabby Rodriguez
Christina Rose
Niamh Stapleton
Kayla Trammel
Sarah Uttring
Nicole Wagenschutz
Jonathon Walraven
Kaitlyn West
JLeese Williams
Sonya Wilson

High School Staff
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Jordan Adams
Jason Beintum
Richie Benson
Travis Cazel
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Susan Stenger
Samantha Stenson
Trent Trotter
April Troyer
Elizabeth Underhill
Mike Underhill
# The Path to College

## Road to Success – Path to College and Careers

### 5th Grade
- What is a Quest Scholar?
- Bradley - First Robotic Challenge
- Peoria Zoo/Playhouse fieldtrip
- Junior Achievement – Our Nation

### 6th Grade
- Mastering Middle Grades (John Hopkins)
- Bradley - First Robotic Challenge
- Bloomington Trip – STEM Connection
- Junior Achievement – It’s My Future

### 7th Grade
- Mastering Middle Grades (John Hopkins)
- Career Cruising – Matchmaker, Interest and Learning Style
- Chicago Trip – STEM Connection
- Junior Achievement – Economics for Success

### 8th Grade
- Mastering Middle Grades (John Hopkins)
- High School Visit
- Personal Budget
- Springfield Trip – STEM Connection
- Greater Peoria Job Spark (Junior Achievement Career Expo)
- 8th to 9th grade transition

### 9th Grade – Freshman Academy
- Student Success – Full Year Course
- Visit ICC
- ICC Accuplacer Practice
  - [https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice](https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice)
- Career Cruising Matchmaker
- Explore colleges and admission requirements
- Job shadowing & speakers for each Academy
- Career Expos – Rockford and/or Peoria
- Basic Organization & Technology Skills
- Resume Development
- Academy Launch in the Spring
- Junior Achievement – Career Success and Personal Finance
- Community Service (Minimum 10 Hrs)

### 10th Grade
- Academy Pathway Begins
- College visits
- Pathway Fieldtrip
- SAT Prep
- Rockford Expo
- Job Shadowing
- Community Service (Minimum 10 Hrs)

### 11th Grade
- College Awareness Opportunities
- FASA Application Night
- College application essay
- Practice interviewing skills
- College visits
- SAT Camp
- Job Shadowing (Minimum 10 Hrs during Junior and Senior years)
- ICC placement test
- Junior Achievement – Job Shadowing
- Community Service (Minimum 10 Hrs)

### 12th Grade
- Internship/Apprenticeship (when available)
- Capstone
- College Applications
- Scholarship Applications
- Dual Credit
- Community Service (Minimum 10 Hrs)

## STEM CAMP
- All students will participate in 6 days of hands-on STEM related activities.
- Community Partners will play an active role during the camps.
- STEM Camps will run for 3 days following the Fall and Spring breaks.

## COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES
- Scholastic Bowl
- Spelling Bee
- Math Counts
- First Lego League
- First Tech Challenge Robotics
- Technology Student Association
 Quest Charter Academy Middle School
2612 N. Bootz Ave. Peoria, IL 61604
Tel: 309.222.8719 Fax: 309.685.8801

Quest Charter Academy High School
2503 N. University Ave. Peoria, IL 61604
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