

# Quest Forward High Schools: Where Students Deeply Engage in Their Learning

At Quest Forward High Schools students actively learn and engage in the work they do by:

- asking questions and seeking answers;
- investigating and solving meaningful problems;
- exploring and defining their interests, strengths, and career path;
- discussing and debating ideas with peers;
- collaborating with people at school and in their community;
- creating products to express original ideas, knowledge, and skills;
- reflecting on what they do, think, learn, and need to do to improve; and
- taking actions to improve their work and skills.

Students take ownership of their learning by planning and making decisions about what and how they learn. These skills and habits enable their success in higher education and their careers, and have a lasting effect on their ability to achieve their goals.

“ I think active learning is the best way to make information accessible and digestible. Students are not just sitting down and taking notes off of a screen... they are learning to work with others, get their hands dirty, ask questions, and relate to different disciplines across the curriculum. ”

Mara Armenta

Science teacher at Quest Forward High School, Santa Rosa



### QUEST FORWARD HIGH SCHOOL'S PROJECTS ENHANCE LEARNING

We bring concepts to life through projects that help our students learn and grow:

#### Putting Predictions to the Test

Students use stoichiometry to predict the amount of reactants and products in chemical reactions. As they learn about new concepts, students put their stoichiometry skills to the test by making bath bombs. They determine the mass of the reactants, convert grams to moles, and predict the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that will be emitted when their bath bomb reacts to water. After the experiment, students compare results to predictions and learn from any discrepancies.

#### Creating a Utopian Society

Students create a detailed utopian society based on the themes and ideas that they uncover while reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. They choose from an existing governmental/economic system or create their own. All aspects of a society are considered, including class system, laws, personal freedoms, values, natural resources, and imports/exports. Students are encouraged to think critically and creatively about the world around them, and to consider what they would want in an ideal society.

#### Developing a Viable Habitat

While studying biomes and habitats, students create viable habitats for their chosen plants and animals. Over the course of a month, they discover the biotic and abiotic components needed to create a thriving habitat. Students conduct research, learn where their organisms live, recognize what they need to survive, and develop a suitable habitat. Identifying patterns in habitats allows students to draw conclusions about their own habitat and form ideas on how to improve it.



#### ABOUT QUEST FORWARD HIGH SCHOOLS

Located in Omaha, Nebraska, and Santa Rosa, California, Quest Forward High Schools provide students with the skills they'll need to succeed in college, career, and life. Our approach to academics empowers thoughtful, creative, and community-oriented students to discover and determine the right path for their future success.