

# Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome and hello Quince Orchard High School cougar families! Whether you are arriving at QO from a private school or new to the area, the QO administration, PTSA and Booster Club recognize the importance of extending a hand of friendship and making a commitment to you and your new QO student to feel welcome and comfortable at Quince Orchard High School.

Many answers to your questions can be found on the QOHS website;  
<http://www.qohs.org>

**What does the QOHS PTSA do?**

The QOHS PTSA (parent, teacher, student association) supports and speaks on behalf of students in the schools, community and before government agencies that make decisions affecting children. The PTSA sponsors student recognition awards, supports academic and career guidance efforts, awards scholarships, coordinates an annual Health Fair and Book Fair, College Fair, mock SAT/ACT, used AP book drive, monthly staff appreciation events and more. The QO PTSA also holds informative sessions monthly on a variety of issues of interest to QOHS families including financial/banking topics, tutoring assistance and smart driving efforts. The PTSA depends on volunteers and the support of staff **JOIN THE QOHS PTSA and GET INVOLVED!** <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/QOHS/parents/PTSA>

**What is Edline? Do I really need to check it?**

All students are entered into the Edline database.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/QOHS/academics/edline.aspx>

This is a terrific tool to track grades and keep up with assignments. Both parents and students use this site and most teachers are very good at having their class material current. <http://www.edline.net/Index.page>

## What should I do if my child is absent?

Students are to submit a note to the attendance office within three days following the absence. Include a phone number to be reached on the note. The attendance secretary will process the note. The note should include the student's full name, ID #, grade, date(s) of their absence, reason for absence, parent/guardian's work, cell and home phone numbers and parent/guardian's signature. Information regarding unexcused/excused tardies, early departures and extended absences can be found at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/admin/attendance.aspx>

## How does my child get involved at QOHS?

**Cougar spirit** is contagious! QOHS has great pride in its athletic program, drama program, art/music programs, marching band and the fifty plus clubs and organizations offered at QOHS, each with its own sponsor.

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/orgs>

Check out a team and how they are doing by going to the team schedule page and looking up each sport. All coaches can be contacted with questions about the upcoming season via email. Check the coaches contact information sheet for details.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/athletics/index.aspx>

Be sure that your son or daughter participates in an extracurricular activity. Clubs and organizations offered at QOHS are diverse and rewarding in every way. QOHS parent, Jean Murphy says, "Be a QOHS family for life. Be sure to continue to attend sporting events and other activities even after your child graduates. You'll be proud to wear the red and black!"

Your Cougar child may come home and tell you they are part of the **Red Army at QOHS!** Please stay calm because this means that your son or daughter has caught the QOHS cougar spirit, will wear their favorite red shirt (purchased or handmade) and cheer for their favorite sports team and marching band in the QO stands! Join them in the parent's bleacher section and catch the Red Army craze too!

## What is an AP class?

Many students take AP (advanced placement) and/or Honors classes at QOHS. These advanced level courses are more challenging than on-level courses and are weighted higher into the GPA by one point up to a grade of C. These courses are unique and

require the student to show special ability in the subject. These are courses for which an Educational Testing Service advanced placement test is administered in the spring of the year. A qualifying score on an AP test gives the student college credit or advanced placement standing in that subject in many colleges and universities.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/signature/ap.aspx>

On-level courses are available for all subjects and are appropriate for many students.

QOHS students will have guidance from their counselors in their course selection.

Various levels of courses are provided to offer students opportunities to stretch themselves to learn and achieve as QOHS strives to offer the highest academic challenge appropriate to each student.

### How do I contact my child's counselor?

Counselors can address student-specific concerns. Concerns that are related to a specific class should be discussed with the teacher first. Counselors can also provide general advice regarding course selection and are important resources for upperclassmen as students consider college and life after QOHS. The counseling staff will assist students in considering various options and will help facilitate the admissions process. Parents may call the Counseling Department to schedule a meeting with their student's counselor at (301)840-4650.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/departments/counseling>

### Do kids take the school bus to QOHS?

Yes, all students of QOHS (unless they are within walking distance) take the Montgomery County school bus. By later grades, the students seem to find rides with older students, have parents drop them off at school and eventually may drive themselves in their junior and senior years. Those juniors and seniors who wish to park a private vehicle at school may apply for a parking permit to park in the student lot. A permit is valid for one semester and is required before a student is allowed to park on school property. A fee of \$37.50, as set by MCPS will be charged per semester. Applications for a parking permit may be picked up from the main office or a security team member.

### Why does my child need to complete SSL hours?

"Student Service Learning" involves the active participation of students in thoughtful service. Students address local and/or global needs to learn about their communities and themselves. SSL hours (75 hrs) are a graduation requirement in the state of Maryland. <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/ssl>

There are many ways for your student to enjoy, learn and earn their SSL hours!  
<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/ssl/ssloppportunities.aspx>

### What does the Booster Club do?

The main objective of the Booster Club is to raise funds to support and promote ALL school-sponsored extracurricular activities, such as drama, music, debate, and newspaper, as well as interscholastic athletic programs. Support means financial aid to pay the total or partial cost of needed materials, awards, equipment, goods, and/or services.

The QOHS Booster Club obtains funds by collecting dues, operating our concession stands at sporting events, producing the Fall student directories and by organizing other fundraising events such as Moo-la Madness, After Prom and the QOHS Spring Mulch sale. The Booster Club encourages ALL of its members to volunteer their help in some small way!

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/orgs/boosters/index.aspx>

### Can my child play a sport at QOHS if he/she fails a class?

A student must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average with no more than one failure in a marking period in order to participate in any athletic contests or to participate in or attend any practices during the next marking period. A student may not hold an office in a club or school organization nor participate in any way in an activity where he/she represents the club or organization in the name of Quince Orchard High School if this average is not maintained. This does not apply to students entering QOHS from a non-MCPS school or who are entering high school for the first time. Students who do not maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one failure during the fourth marking period will not be eligible in the Fall of the following school year.

### Can students bring their cell phones to school?

Students are to keep their cell phone away and off during the school day except during their lunch break. Lunch break is an appropriate time to contact your child. Ipods, cell

phones and other electronic devices must be completely turned off and out of sight during class time. Failure to comply will result in the confiscation of the device! This applies to testing breaks as well as all testing sessions. If you need to reach a student during periods 1-4 or 5-7, please contact the QO main office for assistance.

### Do all kids get lockers at QO?

All students are assigned a hall locker with a built-in lock. A student is responsible and accountable for items left in his/her assigned locker. Lockers are school property and are subject to search by school authorities. Many students choose not to use their lockers and carry their backpacks around from class to class.

### What is Homecoming?

Homecoming weekend includes an all-school dance, football game and a student organized parade that usually occurs in early October. The dance requires tickets that must be bought at school in the weeks prior to the dance. Many students choose to attend! The Homecoming Parade this year will be on Friday, October 1, 2010 after school. Groups of students, siblings, parents and neighbors will line the QOHS front circular driveway to watch the class floats and take their chances at catching candy being thrown from the floats. A FUN time for all! Friday night is a thrilling time to watch our QO football team play on home turf and listen to the cheers of the Red Army, Poms, Cheerleaders and the QO Marching Band! The Homecoming dance will be held that Saturday night, October 2, 2010 at QOHS. The attire is semi-formal. Groups of students enjoy dinner out and arrive at QO to enjoy an evening of dancing to the hip-hop DJ sounds, viewing the class corners which are theme decorated and judged and making QO cougar memories. Do not let your QO student miss this great event!