

## **Quest of the Keys Author Visits Ouachita Parish Schools, Encourages Students Involved in National Pilot of Character Development Program**

Scotty Sanders, author of “Quest of the Keys,” and founder of the Quest of the Keys non-profit organization, recently visited four schools in the Ouachita Parish that are involved with in the organization’s pilot Quest of the Keys character development program. During his visit, Sanders spoke with more than 350 students who are participating in the program.

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Students at several Ouachita Parish schools, including West Monroe High School, Ouachita Parish Junior High, Good Hope Middle School, and Learning Tech, recently welcomed a special guest, author Scotty Sanders, to their campuses. A West Monroe, Louisiana native now transplanted to Dallas, Texas, Sanders is the author of the popular Young Adult fantasy novel, “Quest of the Keys,” and founder of the Quest of the Keys non-profit organization. During his visit, Sanders interacted with more than 350 students and educators who are involved with the Quest of the Keys organization’s pilot character development program.

Fueled by his passion to encourage and empower the next generation to live well, Sanders originally penned his fantasy novel with the hope that the education system would use it as a teaching tool for personal development. “That is why I am excited about the prospect of educators incorporating “Quest of the Keys” into the curriculum,” Sanders explained. “By doing so, the curriculum will promote personal growth, continuous learning, responsibility, leadership development, integrity, honor and clear purpose.”

Students and educators at the Ouachita Parrish school Sanders visits certainly caught his vision.

“Quest of the Keys has challenged me to never give up no matter the obstacles in life,” said 8th grader Skylar.

“Always do your best so that you don’t have to live with regret,” added 9th grader Deshondra.

Mrs. Brumley, a teacher at Ouachita Parish Junior High, said, “I wish I had learned these principles when I was younger.” Another educator at Good Hope Middle School added, “Quest of the Keys has truly inspired my students.”

Sanders, who has taught the keys found in Quest of the Keys all over the world...from Fortune 500 companies to fifth graders... left inspired by his visit to the Ouachita Parrish schools. “My book, “Quest of the Keys,” was birthed out of my desire to give young people an opportunity to discover their purpose, unlock their potential and live with passion,” he said. “I am very impressed with the students’ engagement and intelligent questions,” Sanders said. “One of my favorite things in life is to speak to young people and see them encouraged.”

Quest of the Keys was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from State Farm to help launch the pilot character development program. The Quest of the Keys non-profit organization was founded to provide character development resources to a greater number of schools and other institutions. This pilot program in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, will allow progress monitoring of students to give educators the information they need to successfully implement the program in their own schools and programs.

Corie Williams, the District Coordinator for Quest of the Keys and a Curriculum Coordinator for the Ouachita Parish School Board, is involved in the implementation of the curriculum as well as analysis of benchmark data that will measure the impact of the program on students. The goal is to have the program ready for full implementation in schools, afterschool programs, and other youth development organizations nationwide by school year 2017-18. The full character development program will include a game app, videos and many other resources. "We are excited about the teachers who are committed to this pilot," said Williams. "I am hoping as we utilize their expertise, it will allow us to positively impact students in Ouachita Parish and eventually throughout the world with this character development program."

Other partners of the Quest of the Keys initiatives are Energy Hydraulics, SkyRider Communications, Worlds of Wow and LifeCatalyst.

For more information about the Quest of the Keys organization, go to [questofthekeys.org](http://questofthekeys.org).

#### About Quest of the Keys Organization

Quest of the Keys is a nonprofit organization that provides character development resources to schools and other institutions. Their mission is to provide relevant character development resources to empower the next generation. There are over 17,000 Quest of the Keys books in print, thousands of e-books have been distributed and an audio book is available through Amazon. Approximately 35 schools over the United States are presently using the books and hundreds of educators have read Quest of the Keys in preparation for classroom use.