



## **WISH COMMUNITY AND ACADEMY FAMILY/SCHOOL AGREEMENT**

### **I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

#### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION**

The philosophy of WISH Community and Academy is that students can best reach their full potential when their parents are meaningfully involved in their education and demonstrate the importance of responsibility, respect, and cooperation. Moreover, to ensure the success of the school and each student, the involvement of *all* stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members) is vital. Accordingly, part of the school's educational plan is an agreement between parents and the school known as the "Family-School Agreement." The intent of this agreement is to encourage parental, student, and staff involvement and cooperation, to ensure student and school success, to empower all stakeholders, and to strengthen family and community partnerships.

#### **SHARED EXPECTATIONS**

Parents send their children to WISH Community and Academy because they value the mission and have high expectations of the school and the benefits their children will receive from it. In turn, the school values the role each family plays and has high expectations that parents will contribute to the team-effort needed to fulfill the school's mission. Excellence at WISH Community and Academy cannot be accomplished or maintained without the active participation of the parents of enrolled students.

#### **PARENT DIVERSITY**

Diversity among parents is a strength that improves the educational program for all. Parents have different philosophies and approaches to their involvement in their children's education. Likewise, parents may contribute in many different ways to the collective responsibility of running a charter school and making its educational program a success. Recognizing that each parent, like each child, is unique in terms of

background, experience, and ability, WISH Community and Academy ask parents to contribute to the school's success by volunteering their skills, time, and resources, to the extent that they are able, above the minimum expectations of the Home-School Agreement.

## **II. TERMS OF THE HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT**

Parents must agree and sign the Home-School Agreement each year as an acknowledgment of WISH Community and Academy's policies and procedures. The Home-School Agreement has the following expectations of parents:

- We recommend that you complete 15 hours/year per family during school hours, weekends, or evenings to participate in a school project, event, or classroom activity in addition to the other expectations of the Home-School Agreement.
- Oversee my child's community service hours, for grades 6-12; ensuring their completion of at least five (5) hours of community service for grade 6, at least ten (10) hours of community service for grade 7, and at least fifteen (15) hours of community service for grade 8, and thirty (30) hours for high school students.
- Be familiar with the Charter to understand the educational plan of the school, the school's operation, and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of parents and their children.
- Participate in the Back to School Night and New Parent Orientation meetings to learn about charter schools, the school's educational program, the Home-School Agreement, and ways in which parents can contribute to the success of both their child and the school.
- Have the opportunity to participate in the selection of parent representatives to the Governing Board.
- Complete and return all required forms, questionnaires, and other requests for information from WISH.
- Support the completion of homework and class projects by their child.
- Assure that each child arrives at school on time, dressed appropriately, and ready to learn.
- Support and reinforce the Student Conduct Code and the Student Dress Code Policy.
- Have the opportunity to attend scheduled student led conferences, parent-teacher conferences, and exhibitions each year for each child.
- Attend back-to-school night, open houses, and other school-wide events.
- Participate as a family, where possible, in extracurricular school events such as book fairs, plays, talent shows, festivals, and fund-raising activities.

- Exercise respect in all forms of communication with all WISH community members including teachers, administrators, staff, and other parents.
- Conduct all communication directly with WISH staff and administration on a specific needs basis and follow the communication protocols established in the WISH student/parent handbook.
- Use the school's dispute resolution process to settle complaints, conflicts, and disputes that may involve the school and/or its various stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, staff, students, and other parents.
- Reimburse the school for school property that is lost or damaged by your child.
- Ensure that your child complies with the school-wide "no littering" policy, which applies to the school grounds and the residential neighborhood surrounding the school.

**As a parent/guardian, I will:**

- Show respect and support for my child, the teachers, and the school.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit place for study and supervise homework.
- Read with my child and model good work habits for my child
- Have all of my child's passwords and monitor their digital citizenship, authentic work, and use of technology.
- Communicate with my child's teacher at regular parent-teacher conferences, by email or on the Bloomz application for elementary school, through Canvas for middle or high school, or by other means if specifically directed. All communication will be professional, appropriate, and respectful.
- Try to assist with at least one or more school or classroom activities and volunteer approximately 15 hours per year.
- Ask questions and get concerns addressed by contacting my child's teacher **directly** through email/communication apps. I will refrain from posting on social media, participating in text chains about faculty/staff members, or engaging in chatter or gossip with other stakeholders.
- Encourage my child to try to communicate with his or her teacher first to resolve any differences in understanding before becoming involved.
- Sign in at the front office and schedule volunteer times and meetings with my child's teacher ahead of time. I will not go to the classroom and try to have (expect) an unscheduled meeting.
- Use a teacher's cell phone number *only* for its intended purpose (e.g., field trip safety, room parent information sharing, etc.) and *only* during acceptable times (7:30-4:30 unless otherwise communicated by the teacher)
- Honor and follow the classroom rules as defined by the teacher. Any questions should be addressed with the teacher directly and privately.

- Honor that classroom events/field trips are under the leadership and guidance of the teachers.
- Make it a priority to have my child attend the school's after school and Saturday academic support sessions when a teacher/administrator has suggested that my child attend those activities to help them find greater success.
- Follow the conflict resolution procedures in the handbook to address my concerns.
- Oversee my child's community service hours, ensuring their completion for grades 6-12.

**As a teacher, I will:**

- Show respect for each child and for his or her family.
- Plan lessons that are interesting, engaging, and meaningful for all students!
- Plan a variety of lessons including hands on, project based, direct, inquiry based, constructivist, small and whole group lessons that align with the CCSS.
- Be professional at all times in my communication, interactions, and attire.
- Provide a safe and comfortable environment that is conducive to learning.
- Provide meaningful and appropriate homework activities, with clear due dates, a rubric, and advance notice.
- Uphold school and classroom rules fairly and consistently.
- Demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude.
- Communicate with parents/guardians during regular parent-teacher conferences, by email or on Bloomz/Canvass, by phone, or by other means within the 48 hour communication guidelines set forth by the school.
- Follow the proper complaint procedures and never gossip about any stakeholder group (students, parents, teachers, board members, administrators)
- Redirect students, families, and colleagues in the best way that I can to follow the guidelines set forth in this compact

**As a student, I will:**

- Show respect for myself, my school, and other people including personal belongings.
- Follow classroom and school rules and follow my teacher's instructions.
- Come to school prepared, try to do my best work, and complete my homework on time.
- Be safe, responsible, kind, helpful and respectful to my classmates.
- Be accountable for and honest about my actions.
- Practice good digital citizenship.

- Advocate for myself in terms of seeking teacher support to help with grades and academic pathways. For grades 6-12 this includes: making appointments with teachers for assistance, coming to office hours to get help with improving grades or understanding a concept, and communicating through email.

### III. MANAGEMENT, OVERSIGHT, EXCEPTIONS, AND NONCOMPLIANCE

Parents, teachers, and students are highly encouraged to fulfill the expectations of this Home-School Agreement. The Principal/Executive Director, in consultation with the Governing Board, is responsible for administering and enforcing the Home-School Agreement, counseling stakeholders who may be substantially non-compliant, and considering exceptions in the form of reduced or modified expectations for families whose particular circumstances may warrant it. Policies regarding non-compliance with and exceptions to the Home-School Agreement shall be applied to all stakeholders in an equal and consistent manner that is nondiscriminatory and preserves the privacy and confidentiality rights of stakeholders. Disputes involving the Home-School Agreement shall be resolved through the school’s conflict resolution process (see link below).

#### AFFIRMATIONS

The Home-School Agreement must be read in its entirety by the parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as their child as an acknowledgment of policies and procedures at WISH Community and Academy.

#### CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

[Complaint Procedures for all Stakeholders](#)

Parent/Guardian signature	Date	
Teacher signature	on behalf of the	Date
Student signature	Date	