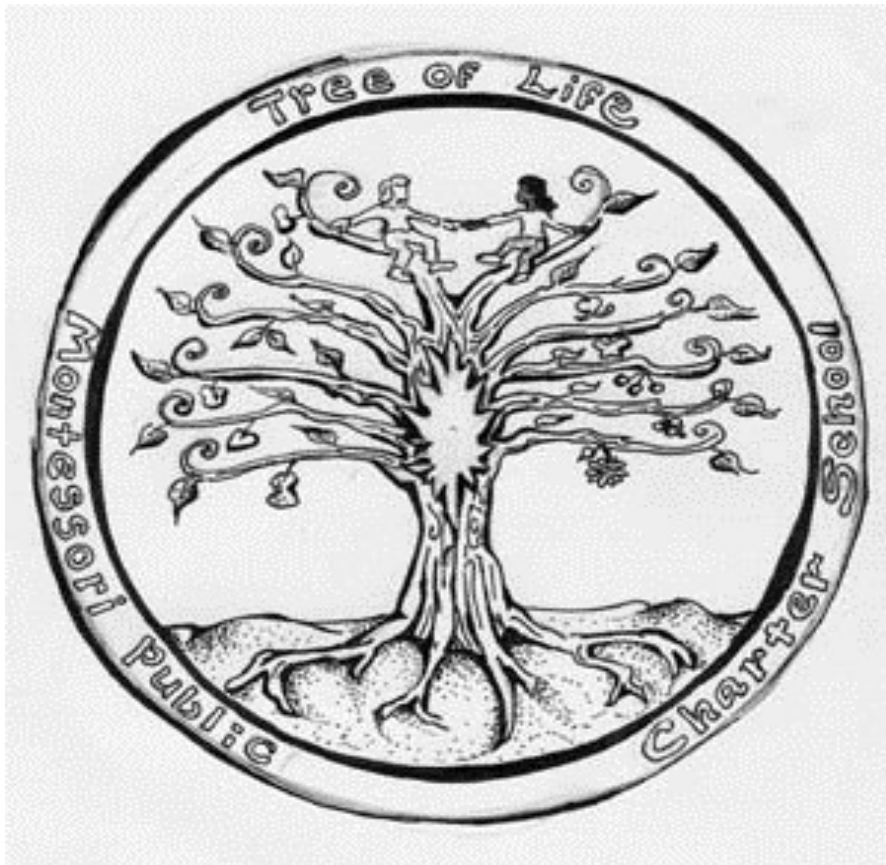


# ***Tree of Life Charter School***

***A Montessori Public Charter***

***Family Handbook 2014-2015***



***Mailing Address: PO Box 966***

***241 Ford Rd.***

***Ukiah, CA 95482***

***Phone: 707/462-0913 FAX: 707/462-0914***

***E-mail: [treeoflifeschool@pacific.net](mailto:treeoflifeschool@pacific.net)***

***Website: [treeoflifeschool.net](http://treeoflifeschool.net)***

## ***Parent/Guardian Participation***

Tree of Life School is a community of families actively working to provide the best quality of life to all of its members. As adult members of this community, parents/guardians have the responsibility of protecting and nurturing the children. To this end, there are three ways by which parents/guardians are expected to participate in Tree of Life School activities: 1. Parent Council participation; 2. Parenting and family support and information meetings; and 3. Family service to the school. **We expect parents/guardians to participate in all three activities!**

### ***Parent Council and Parenting and Family Support***

At Tree of Life, parents/guardians are students too! Learning is a life-long activity. The best way to demonstrate this to our children (since parents are the first educators) is to continue learning and improving ourselves. This is one function of Parent Council, along with school governance, and **all parents and guardians are members of Parent Council.**

A goal of this school is to educate and support parents/guardians so that the children will have the optimum opportunity for development both at home and at school. To accomplish this, Tree of Life School Parent Council will hold a variety of Parenting and Family Support activities monthly, such as discussion groups, speakers, workshops, and family gatherings. Child care will be provided at Parent Council meetings for those who need to bring their children in order to attend. Parent Council also plans school events, elects a representative team to the Board Cabinet, and holds monthly meetings to address family suggestions and concerns.

We understand that there are occasionally calendar conflicts or illnesses that might prevent attendance at a Parenting and Family Support activity. In that event, we will have written materials, or audio or video recordings that can be studied by those who could not attend. We have a Parents' Lending Library available in the office with many good books and recordings you may borrow. The monthly newsletter will also include information to help you have a better understanding of your child's development. We now email most newsletters and bulletins. If you don't have email, you can pick up a copy in the office. It is important to check daily for any notices, notes from staff, or newsletters that your child may bring home. **Please review and sign your child's goal book daily.**

### ***Service to the School***

Service to the community is another aspect of the children's curriculum which can be modeled by its **adult members**. Tree of Life School gratefully acknowledges all of its members who volunteered time, energy, and skills to initially organize and create it! It will grow more beautiful through the years as each family adds its own energy to its growth. By participating in service to the school, parents/guardians become a part of the school's structure and involved in a practical way in their child's education.

It is expected that most families will enthusiastically want to help the school in whatever way they can. Thirty (30) hours per year are expected per family to be performed by the adults (students are welcome to help, but hours are not counted). Service activities are listed on the Family Service Jobs sheet posted on the bulletin boards and in the monthly newsletter. These may include classroom cleaning, grounds and building maintenance, field trip assistance, fundraisers, and promotional activities. Adults who wish to volunteer as specialty instructors (e.g. art, music, bike repair, gardening, sewing, etc.) or classroom helpers, under the supervision of classroom Guides, on a regular basis are required to attend a training session prior to working with groups of children at school.

*"Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them."—Maria Montessori*

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## Enrollment Application

I/We submit this application for enrollment to Tree of Life Charter School for the child whose name appears below.

I/We understand that Tree of Life Charter School is a public charter school using the Montessori Method of education. As an integral part of the educational program, I/we understand that participation in parent education programs and family service to the school community is expected.

I/We understand that Tree of Life Charter School is not structured by traditional grade levels, but by human developmental levels. The decision to move a student to the next level is made jointly by student, parents, and staff.

I/We understand that each student works at a pace and level uniquely suited to that student's capabilities and potential — not in comparison to others. No labels of "gifted" or "disabled" will be used. Each student, with parents and staff, sets individualized learning goals and objectives that build on the student's capabilities and strengthen less developed areas.

I/We understand that curiosity and enthusiasm are the inner motivations for each student's exploration of the universe. Grades, competitions, rewards, and punishments will not be used to manipulate motivation at school.

I/We understand that the student's primary environment is the home. For the optimum development of our children, home and school must jointly offer children environments with many opportunities for developing physical abilities, social skills, intellectual curiosity, emotional awareness, and spiritual connection. I/We understand that parent education programs and materials will be available from the school to coordinate this effort, and that it is my/our responsibility to work on providing a beneficial home environment.

I/We understand that parents and staff are co-learners along with our children at Tree of Life Charter School.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Previous School/Dates of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Parent/Guardian Participation

Tree of Life Charter School is a community of families actively working to provide the best quality of life to all of its members. As adult members of this community, parents/guardians have the responsibility of protecting and nurturing the children. To this end, there are two ways by which parents/guardians are expected to participate in School activities: 1. Parenting and family support and information meetings ("Parent Council"); and 2. Parent/guardian and family service to the School.

### Parenting and Family Support

We are striving to provide the best for our children, so we must continue our efforts to improve our parenting skills and our family time. This school is not only for the children students, but also for their parents/guardians as students. Learning is a life-long activity. The best way to demonstrate this to our children (since parents are the first educators) is to continue learning and improving ourselves.

A goal of this school is to educate and support parents/guardians so that the children will have the optimum opportunity for development both at home and at school. To accomplish this, Tree of Life Charter School will have a variety of Parenting and Family Support activities, such as lectures, discussion groups, workshops, and family gatherings. We can only meet this goal if all families participate!

We understand that there are occasionally calendar conflicts or illness that might prevent attendance at a Parenting and Family Support activity. In that event, we will have written material, audiotape, or videotape that can be studied by the parents/guardians who could not attend.

I/We understand that parent/guardian attendance and participation is expected at Parenting and Family Support activities at Tree of Life Charter School. I/We will do my/our best to attend and participate in all activities. If I/we cannot attend an activity, I/we will take responsibility for my/our own education by studying the written or recorded material from the activity that was missed.

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Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Date

## Parent/Guardian Participation p. 2

### Service to the School

Service to the school community is another aspect of the children's curriculum that can be modeled by its adult members. Tree of Life Charter School gratefully acknowledges all of its members who volunteered time, energy, and skills to initially organize and create it! It will grow more beautiful through the years as each family adds its own energy to its growth. By participating in service to the school, you become a part of the school's structure and involved in a practical way in your child's education.

It is expected that most parents/guardians will enthusiastically want to help the school in whatever way they can. Please indicate below in which areas you feel your expertise and time can best be put to use. Thirty (30) hours per year are expected per family.

I/We understand that each family with a child enrolled at Tree of Life Charter School is expected to give thirty (30) hours of service per year to the school. School service jobs will be posted at the school and noticed in newsletters. Parents/guardians may be telephoned and asked to help with service jobs. I/We have indicated below the jobs for which I/we feel qualified and will make time to perform.

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Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signatures

Date

\_\_\_ Fundraising coordinator

\_\_\_ Field trip driver/chaperone

\_\_\_ Gardening with students

\_\_\_ Lawn/yard maintenance

\_\_\_ Carpentry repairs/additions

\_\_\_ Plumbing repairs/additions

\_\_\_ Electrical repairs/additions

\_\_\_ Painting walls, ceilings

\_\_\_ Deep cleaning classrooms/office

\_\_\_ Window cleaning

\_\_\_ Bathroom cleaning

\_\_\_ Computer technician

\_\_\_ Sewing

\_\_\_ Inventory/organize library

\_\_\_ Making telephone calls

\_\_\_ Event coordinator

\_\_\_ Board member

\_\_\_ Child care during meetings

\_\_\_ Classroom project helper

\_\_\_ Event set up/clean up

\_\_\_ Other: