

Discovery Charter Schools Parent Agreement

Discovery Charter Schools are a school of choice. As such, we hope that your choice to apply/enroll in Discovery is based on our educational philosophy and parent participation program. Parent participation is at the heart of our program and we depend on parents to make Discovery's educational program a success. We recognize that parent participation is a big commitment, yet we do not want to deter any family that values our educational philosophy and program from applying to and/or attending a Discovery Charter School. If your family is unable to meet the participation agreements below, but committed to participation, the school administration will work with you to create a participation plan for your specific situation.

Discovery Charter School asks that all families commit to supporting the program in the following ways:

Health and Safety:

1. TB: To help maintain a safe and healthy school environment, we will submit TB verification prior to participating.
2. Background Check: To ensure a safe school environment for the children attending Discovery, we agree that prior to participation, each volunteer will submit to be fingerprinted and have a background check made by an agency authorized by the Discovery Board. Results of such background checks will, at the discretion of the Executive Director, be a basis for determining the scope and terms of participation.

If you are unable to submit to the background check, the school administration will work with you to develop an individual participation plan where you can support the school outside of the classroom. Unfortunately, without a background check you will not be able to work on campus, in the classroom, or attend field trips. However, lack of a background check will not prevent your child from attending a Discovery Charter School.

Classroom and School Wide Participation:

3. Weekly Commitment: To ensure that the developmentally-based small group learning environment of the Discovery program can be effectively implemented, we agree that we will participate in a regularly scheduled shift of up to two and a half (2.5) hours per week for our first child and two (2) hour shifts for each additional child (with a maximum of 6.5 hours per family).

To ensure the safety of the students, in the 6-week interim period between the start of school and the start of regularly assigned work shifts, returning families agree to work a single one (1) hour work shift in order to cover drop off, recess and lunch periods. New families to Discovery will receive training during the interim period in lieu of this one hour coverage commitment.

In the event of family needs such as pregnancy, family emergency, or illness, we will schedule a meeting with the Executive Director to discuss alternative participation schedules.

4. Support Job: To help take care of the many tasks that need to be done at our school and to allow the Discovery teachers more time to focus on teaching our children, we will serve in at least one support job in addition to the regularly scheduled work shift. Examples of support jobs are crossing guard / traffic control during morning drop off, gardening committee, year book coordinator, office support, etc. Some of these jobs require weekly work while others require monthly or ad hoc work.
5. Campus Work Day: To help ensure that our child's school has an environment conducive to learning, we will participate in at least one Work Day per year. This Work Day may be one of the regularly scheduled workdays or special projects may be assigned at the staff's discretion. Campus Work Days are usually scheduled on various Saturdays throughout the school year.
6. Field Trips: To support our children in learning by taking part in field trips, we will participate in a minimum of three (3) field trips per year per child as a driver or chaperone. We agree that if we normally work on a day and time when a field trip is scheduled, we will be expected to drive or chaperone.
7. Sub for shifts: To provide a consistent learning environment, in the event that we are unable to work on our scheduled shift, we will arrange for an approved Discovery volunteer (with TB verification, fingerprints, and background check on file) to substitute for us. We will notify the teacher of any substitution. We are responsible for any missed recess coverage, including absences due to field trips.

School and Class Meetings:

8. Required Meetings: To ensure that we will be effective partners in our child's education at Discovery, we understand that we are required to, and will, attend Parent Academy 101 (annual parent training) and **all** classroom parent meetings. There will be a minimum of five parent class meetings each year.
9. Conferences: To ensure that we will be effective partners in our child's education at Discovery, we will participate in all parent conferences. Typically there are three parent conferences each school year.

Parent Education:

10. Positive Discipline: To ensure that we will be effective partners as classroom aides and on yard duty we will attend the mandatory Positive Discipline class held at Discovery. This requirement is for new families joining the school only.
11. Parent Ed: To demonstrate our commitment to life-long learning at Discovery, our family will participate in a minimum of three (3) Parent Education Meetings during each school year. This requirement may be satisfied by attending Parent Education meetings (including Positive Discipline classes) at Discovery or by attending other Parent Education events off-site, with approval of the Executive Director.

School Policies:

12. Confidentiality: In order to respect the privacy of the students, parents, and staff, we agree to abide by the confidentiality policies of Discovery. What happens in the classroom is confidential and should only be discussed, when necessary, with the teacher or school administration. Any other "outside" conversations are a violation of each student's right to privacy and detrimental to building a positive school community.
13. Attendance Policy: We have read and understand the Discovery Charter School Attendance Policy.

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ ("Student"), I/we desire to have Student enrolled in the Discovery Charter School ("Discovery"). We recognize and agree that parent participation is important for the education of our children. We further recognize and agree that such participation is an integral component of Discovery's educational philosophy and is necessary for the successful functioning of Discovery's educational program. In signing this Agreement, we agree to support the Discovery educational philosophy and program as outlined above.

The Executive Director of Discovery has the authority and responsibility for the administration of this Agreement, including how and when we participate in the classroom or in other forms of participation.

In the event of inappropriate conduct by any of us on campus or during a school-sponsored activity, the Executive Director has discretion to make an alternative plan for any volunteer's participation.

I/We understand that the Parent Agreement is signed on behalf of all individuals volunteering on behalf of this student and I/we will communicate its content and expectations to all such volunteers.

I/We also understand that the Parent Agreement will be renewed annually to reflect ongoing commitment to our participation.

I/We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____, have read and understood the Discovery Charter School Parent Agreement. We agree to comply with the terms of the Parent Agreement as set forth herein.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date