



PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Introduction

UPCS is committed to excellence in education and providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children. We encourage and expect the dedicated support of our parents to continue to achieve this goal. UPCS is counting on all our families to contribute to ensuring an excellent educational experience for our children.

Parents are partners in schooling by virtue of their role as the central provider and overseer of their child's learning and development. Parents are expected to be actively involved in all aspects of their children's education. One of the most important things we can do for children is to allow them to see parents and teachers working together. This helps children realize that there is a bond between home, community, and school. Additionally, parents who work with the school come to understand their child's education better. Research clearly shows that student achievement and school success is positively impacted by parent involvement.

Parent involvement can take many forms including, participation in decision making at the school; representation on committees and groups; and involvement in school and classroom programs. Parent participation contributes to better outcomes for all students; enables the school to respond more effectively to student and family values; develops a partnership between parents and teachers; and enhances the strength and vibrancy of our school.

The development of the parent participation policy is expected to provide a clearer definition of parent participation in schooling, the steps taken to fulfill the parent volunteer hours, and the results of lack of participation.

Policy

Adopted/Ratified: 10/13/10

Revision Date: 2/8/12, 3/23/18

Board Policy: Community Relations # 101

Parents are expected to participate in the operation of the school by completing tasks that are directly related to the school program under the direction of school staff to meet the needs of students. To this end, the school requests that all families complete a minimum of 30 hours of their time or the equivalent each school year to assist the UPCS in achieving its mission. Parents may choose from a variety of tasks and activities. Tasks can be shared with other family members and/or friends.

The classroom teacher has full discretion as to their use of volunteers and the time and duration of in-class volunteer participation, subject to the Classroom and School Observation and Visitation Policy.

Classroom volunteers are there to benefit the entire class and are not in class solely for the benefit of their own child. Classroom volunteers must follow the instructions provided by the classroom teacher. Classroom rules also apply to parent volunteers to ensure minimal distraction to the teacher. If a volunteer is uncomfortable following the direction of the teacher the volunteer may leave their volunteer position for that day.

Information gained by volunteers regarding individual students (e.g. academic performance or behavior) is to be maintained in strict confidentiality. Questions or comments concerning a child's academic performance or behavior must be done in a separate meeting between parent and teacher, as arranged with the teacher. Student discipline is to be left to the teacher, even for a parent volunteers own child, with the exception of light reminders to students to stay on task.

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