

## **Community School of Davidson Covenant of Learning**

The purpose of this Covenant of Learning is to establish a commitment between home and school. This covenant is to be based upon mutual trust and the shared vision that the Community School of Davidson will be a community of learning and committed to excellence. It is imperative that parents and school be true partners in educating our children.

### **❖ *As an institution, it is expected that:***

Community School of Davidson will be a purposeful place. Our mission will be to provide students with the skills needed to become literate and well informed about themselves and the world around them. Our top priority will be for every student to be linguistically empowered, confident in the use of language and able to communicate ideas. We consider literacy to include competency in reading, writing, speaking, listening, numeracy and the arts. We will engage every child in the exploration of global curricular themes.

Community School of Davidson will be a communicative place where all members speak and listen carefully to each other. As the school grows, time will be set aside for teachers and students from various grade levels to work together. Parents will be involved in an honest, open climate of authentic discourse.

Community School of Davidson will be a disciplined place. Students will discover that life is a balance of freedom and constraints. Children will be taught to live within limits. Individual rights will be respected but the rights of the group will also be served.

Community School of Davidson will be a caring place. It will offer a people-centered environment. Opportunities will be provided for parents, teachers and students to know one another.

Community School of Davidson will be a celebrative place. Opportunities will be provided for parents, teachers and students to meet regularly and affirm their common goals and celebrate their successes. We promise classroom performances and/or art opportunities each year as a way for our students to celebrate their learning.

### **❖ *As teachers, it is expected that:***

Teachers will accept the empowerment to be flexible. They will be committed to people, not paperwork. They will in turn empower students to explore and discover.

Teachers will accept ownership in the overall direction of the school itself. They will work together on a weekly basis in preparation for teaching, in renewing and enhancing their instructional skills.

Teachers will remain informed and be able to relay their knowledge to effective classroom instruction. They will create a climate for active, not passive, learning.

Teachers will serve as models to their students by being open and authentic.

Teachers will be committed to individualizing instruction. They will provide for flexibility in grouping to serve the potential of each student in all areas of development including cognitive, social, emotional and physical.

Teachers will extend the classroom to the playground, libraries, museums, zoos, theaters, and local businesses.

Teachers will provide for intergenerational connections. Elementary students will visit a local nursing home/retirement center on a regular basis and middle school students participate in required service learning assignments.

Teachers will focus on the whole child and will actively employ a variety of instructional strategies that address a variety of learning styles.

Teachers will address behavioral concerns in a respectful and nurturing manner without the use of extrinsic reward systems.

Teachers will keep parents informed. They will send class newsletters on a regular basis and will communicate important issues concerning children in a timely manner.

❖ ***As parents, the first teachers, it is expected that:***

Parents will have confidence in the Community School of Davidson teachers, realizing that they continuously work to keep the interest of all children at the forefront.

Parents will only choose to bring their children to our school if they truly support the philosophy of this institution.

Parents will contact the teacher first in cases of uncertainty or disagreement. They will make every effort to work out problems with the teacher before involving the school leaders.

Parents will actively support the school committees and organizations. Parents will attend requested parent-teacher or student let conferences. They will respond to the teacher's request for help. They will be active participants in finding solutions.

Parents will complete school surveys and an interest inventory detailing their skills and talents that might enrich the school.

Parents will examine and discuss items and work that are brought home each day with their child. They will make sure that their child understands that the learning done at school extends into the home. All homework activities will be done as requested by the teacher.

Parents will make an effort to build a positive school community by getting to know other families in our school and by being positive forces in their communications with each other.

Parents will volunteer (classroom, library books, preparing materials, field trips, phone calls, weekend/summer workdays, parent advisory board, phone calls, class celebrations) throughout the school year to assist us in creating a community of learning.

Parents will attend school sponsored programs and seminars.

Parents will be responsible for seeing that their child is prepared and on time for school each day.

Parents will commit themselves to being lifelong learners and will make efforts to attend parent learning sessions that will help them better understand our school philosophy and instructional processes. They understand that that these efforts will help them to assist their children with learning.

❖ ***As students, it is expected that:***

Student will exercise their right to an excellent education.

Student will interact with other students and adults in a respectful manner.

Student will be good role models for younger students.

Student will represent the school positively on field trips and outings.

Student will cooperate with others, follow school rules and respect the rights of each child.

Student will cooperate with parents in preparing for school each day. They will gradually take on more responsibility for their daily preparation of work and projects.

Student will assist in communications by taking home and delivering to school all notes, newsletters and other correspondence.

**Community School of Davidson**  
**Covenant of Learning Signature Page**  
*(Please Bring to August Conference)*

Parents, please keep the Covenant of Learning to share and discuss with your child. Please return this Signature Page to the classroom teacher/advisor.

We, the undersigned, agree to follow the expectations set forth in this covenant. We enter this agreement in good faith and trust. If necessary, we will extend this document by adding a personal plan of action specifically designed for the student below. Our intent will always be to act in the best interests of this child.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_