



Parent-School Learning Compact

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

As an institution, it is expected that:

1. United Community School will be a purposeful place. Our goal is 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.
2. United Community School 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.
3. United Community School 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.
4. United Community School 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.
5. United Community School will be a celebratory 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

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

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

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

7. Teachers will provide for intergenerational connections. Elementary students will regularly visit local senior living centers and middle school students will participate in service learning assignments.

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

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

10. Teachers will keep parents informed. They will send class newsletters on a regular basis and will communicate important issues concerning students' academic and behavior progress in a timely manner.

As parents, it is expected that:

1. Parents will have confidence in United Community School teachers.

2. Parents will choose to bring their children to United Community School only if they truly support the philosophy of this institution.

3. 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 school leaders.

4. Parents will actively support the school committees and organizations. Parents will attend requested parent conferences. They will respond to the teacher's request for help, if able. They will be active participants in their child's education.

5. Parents will complete a survey detailing their skills and talents that might enrich the school.
6. 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.
7. Parents will make an effort to build a positive school community by getting to know other families in the school and by being positive forces in their communications with each other.
8. Parents will volunteer (classroom, preparing materials, field trip chaperones, class celebrations) throughout the school year to help create a community of learning.
9. Parents will attend school-sponsored events.
10. Parents will be responsible for seeing that their child is prepared and on time for school each day.
11. Parents will commit themselves to being lifelong learners and will make efforts to attend parent learning sessions that will help them better understand the school's philosophy and instructional processes. They understand that these efforts will help them to assist their children with learning.

As students, it is expected that:

1. Students will exercise their right to an excellent education.
2. Students will interact with peers and adults in a respectful manner.
3. Students will be good role models for their peers.
4. Students will represent the school positively on field trips and outings.
5. Students will cooperate with others, follow school rules, and respect the rights of each child.
6. Students 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.
7. Students will assist in communications by taking home and delivering to school all notes, permission slips and other correspondence.