

Excerpt from Spectrum School Handbook Regarding Parent Commitments

Parent Responsibilities

Home/School Communication

If you have concerns, questions, issues, or confusion related to something that happens in school, as your first point of contact please connect with your child's teacher or the teacher/staff member most directly involved with the situation. Spectrum teachers are responsive and accessible by email or phone. Many times what children bring home is limited in scope, and it is important you give the teachers a chance to address your concern.

We would like all parents to bear in mind that not every conflict that occurs between children is bullying. Social learning is developmental. Learning to care and share takes time. Learning to take responsibility rather than blaming takes time.

Please do not hesitate to escalate serious concerns to the principal. If it involves a staff member, the principal will mediate a solution-finding conversation. If there is something that merits a mediated conversation with the principal, we ask you to contact the Board president.

It is recommended that you stay in close contact with the school by:

- Attending scheduled conference days: Beginning Year intake/Goal setting, ProcessFolio Nights, Winter and Spring Progress Conferences (see most current school calendar on website) **These have shifted to VIRTUAL**
 - If you desire a more in-depth conference or a conference at any other time, write a note to the teacher or leave a message for your child's teacher at the office requesting a conference.
 - To make parent- teacher conferences more effective, they must be scheduled when the teacher does not have a class or other responsibilities.
- ~~Attending Curriculum Night in the fall-(COVID- moot point)~~
- ~~Attending the Spectrum PTO meetings, joining committees, and/or volunteering at the school.-(COVID- moot point)~~
- **PLEASE by** Reading the weekly eBlasts and other emails and social media posts
- Reading all information that comes home with your child ~~in the Wednesday folders~~
We have not been doing folders as frequently – most teachers send email and post in the weekly eBlast
- Helping your child talk about and reflect on his/her school day.
- Visiting our web site at www.spectrumschool.org

Expectations of a Spectrum Parent/Guardian

Having your child attend Spectrum isn't only about having your child attend a private school.

There is an expectation that the parent understands and supports progressive educational approaches. These are not "political" in their orientation except that typical "power" in schools, that is decisions about what to learn, how to learn, and when to learn, are shared with children. Children have choice and voice, therefore parents need to listen in a different way: not for grades or percentages, but for process and the child's sense of ownership and self in his or her learning. Progressive approaches involve a focus on the child, making the child's experience of school more important than a system, curriculum, or grade. Teachers develop a deep understanding of the children and use this understanding in making educational decisions.

As a small private school, a parent's full participation in the work and life of school is critical. It is rare for a school of our size to make in tuition what the actual education and operations cost. This would make tuition prohibitive for many families. Volunteering, fundraising, and participation in community events is what makes a school great.

- A Spectrum parent understands and values progressive educational approaches which include a responsive curriculum, project-based learning, cultivation of creativity, problem-solving, and student choice and voice.
- A Spectrum parent understands and values that assessment is more than a score or a grade, but is an ongoing set of interactions related to student progress and growth.
- A Spectrum parent communicates directly with the relevant teacher or staff member if there is an issue or concern affecting his/her child.