

# FWCD

FORT WORTH COUNTRY DAY

## Principles of Good Practice: Parent-School Relationships

Dear Families and Prospective Families,

The best schools are a partnership of committed educators and devoted parents and guardians. All children benefit when the adults in their lives collaborate. Fort Worth Country Day actively seeks to establish and sustain that partnership in principle and in practice.

As part of our effort to generate strong parent-school relationships from the day a family joins the FWCD community, the School provides this document, an articulation of both our guiding principles and our desired path to mutual respect between school and home. At FWCD, our philosophy, mission, core values, and inclusivity statement together provide a clear set of the School's expectations.

What follows are expectations, of ourselves as FWCD educators, and of you, as FWCD parents and guardians, designed to facilitate our relationship with you, as parents and guardians, from year to year. Thank you for reading; thank you for joining us in our high expectations; and thank you for entrusting your children to us.

Sincerely,



Eric Lombardi  
*Head of School*



# A Presumption of Goodwill: The Relationship between School and Parents at FWCD

Fundamentally, the relationship between FWCD (teachers, administration and staff) and our parents and guardians depends on a **presumption of goodwill**. Parents and guardians love their children. They want and need to look out for their children's best interests. The School, for its part, hires and supports wonderful educators and "school people." As educators, we, too, are charged with looking out for your children's best interests.

Fundamentally, then, Fort Worth Country Day as a school community seeks to establish and sustain effective partnerships among faculty and staff and families.

**Effective school-parent partnerships** include:

1. Mutual respect and a presumption of goodwill
2. A shared commitment to productive and consistent communication
3. A common vision of the goal to be reached: engaged and challenged students, connected with teachers in a process of developing responsible college and world-ready citizens prepared to go "from here, anywhere"

## Elaboration of Expectations

Fort Worth Country Day is an environment of high expectations. Those expectations apply to the leadership, the teachers, and the staff of the School, as well as to students and their families. We seek parents and guardians who, likewise, will have high expectations of us as educators.

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## Parental Expectations of FWCD

1. Expect the School to **assume goodwill** from you as parents and guardians.
2. Expect administrators and teachers to be **accessible and responsive** to you as parents and guardians and to model honest and respectful dialogue.
3. Expect teachers to **engage, challenge and connect with** your student.
4. Expect administrators and teachers to be **professional educators**, current in their subject areas and knowledgeable of best practices.
5. Expect the School to **keep parents and guardians well-informed** through reports, letters, conferences, meetings, publications, electronic communications and informal conversations.
6. Expect FWCD Trustees and staff to be good **stewards of the School's financial resources and mindful of the School's long-term prospects**.

## FWCD's Expectations of Parents and Guardians

1. The School expects you as parents and guardians to **assume goodwill** about our work with your children and with you.
2. The School expects parents and guardians to be **open communicators** with us as a school. We seek parental perspective on a child as a person and as a learner.
3. The School expects parental support for its **mission, purpose, core values and inclusivity statement**.
4. The School expects parents and guardians to provide a **home environment** that supports the development of positive learning attitudes and habits.
5. The School expects parents and guardians to **involve themselves** in the life of the School as much as possible (volunteering, communicating, attending events and conferences, etc.).
6. When concerns arise, parents and guardians seek **information directly from the School**, consulting with the adult at FWCD closest to the situation (advisor, teacher, administrator, etc.). These concerns could be personal or communal.



# Mission, Purpose, and Core Values

FWCD's mission, purpose, core values and inclusivity statement unify the School community and guide everyday decisions and institutional policies.

Together, these guiding principles capture the School's high expectations for student achievement, parent and guardian support, and teacher performance. Student success requires the community to work together with trust and confidence.

FWCD's **mission** is to foster the intellectual, physical, emotional, and ethical development of capable students through an academically rigorous college-preparatory program that integrates the arts and athletics.

FWCD's **purpose** — "Inspiring the passion to learn, the courage to lead, and the commitment to serve" — summarizes our goal of developing well-rounded and responsible citizens.

Some of the most important expectations for our community are enumerated in our **core values: integrity, kindness, courage, respect, responsibility and scholarship**. FWCD's core values set forth a standard of conduct that is the foundation of life as a citizen of the world. These values provide an ethical compass and give purpose to the education we provide.

FWCD's **inclusivity statement** is a commitment to proactively promote diversity and inclusivity in our community. The statement promotes, supports and compels, calling on us all to be a welcoming and accessible school community to our community of Fort Worth's most capable and motivated students. The statement reads:

*At Fort Worth Country Day,*

*We believe that understanding and respecting differences not only inspires compassion and empathy, but also fosters intellectual curiosity and creativity.*

*We embrace the diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives that comprise and enhance our learning environment.*

*We commit to sustaining and growing an intentionally inclusive community.*

In sum, FWCD is a community of learners united by our common mission, core values and inclusivity statement. All of our actions and communications as members of this community, as students, faculty, parents, guardians, staff, administrators and alumni, are expected to reflect our commitment to those shared values.

