



## **THE SCHOOL & PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2022-2023**

*Goodwater Montessori School Montessori School is a learning community that seeks to educate the whole child. We take seriously our commitment to serve not only children enrolled in the School but the entire family. Children thrive when home and school work in harmony, with both environments sharing the same educational values and expectations. Choosing to attend Goodwater means families agree to a set of expectations related to the School's mission, operating principles, and policies. Those principles and policies are described here.*

### **Mission of Goodwater Montessori**

To provide an exceptional Montessori education to all children and their families, encouraging a life-long love of learning and active participation in their communities and the world.

### **Vision**

To develop conscientious citizens who approach their world with confidence, creativity, and collaboration.

### **Values**

Diversity, Independence, Joy, Passion, and Respect.

### **Q. What can parents/guardians expect of the School academically?**

As a Montessori school, we are different from traditional schools. Our first commitment is to the multi-dimensional development of your child. Montessori children do amass a great deal of factual knowledge in school. However, our aim is for each child to be far more than a repository of this information: we guide each child to think for him/herself. Cognitive development and a solid academic foundation are important, yet they represent only one dimension of our aspirations for your child. Equally significant is your child's social, emotional, spiritual, and physical development.

Children are given choices and a great deal of freedom—within limits—during the school day. The choices a child makes, and the accompanying responsibilities, influence the emerging character of your child. By choosing her/his own work or shaping it to a considerable degree and following that work through to completion while working independently or in cooperation with others, the Montessori child identifies her/his interests and develops her/his individual gifts.

Significant emphasis is placed upon community service. Younger children learn by serving their small community, e.g., classmates, classroom, and family. As they grow, children reach out to the larger community and experience the many rewards of helping others. The children gain awareness and

appreciation of others, of the challenges faced by others and, equally important, of their own strengths and abilities to help others and affect the world around them. Community service is an integral and important part of their lives and stays with them well beyond their Goodwater Montessori School years.

We treat each child with dignity and respect and expect that she/he will treat all others in the same manner. We treat each child as an individual and strive to develop each child's unique gifts—within the context of the classroom and the community. With freedom comes responsibility, and each child learns to balance her personal freedom with a clear sense of responsibility to her/himself, to others, and to the community as a whole.

**Q. What is the School's most basic expectation of parents and guardians?**

We expect you to make continuing efforts to both understand and embrace the Montessori approach and to work in partnership with the School. We find that our most constructive relationships with families begin before admission. To that end, we help parents learn about the Montessori approach by providing information and opportunities for parent education as part of the admission process—so that parents can make an informed decision in choosing to enroll their children—and continue to provide more opportunities throughout a family's years at the School. Once children are enrolled, the School expects parents to attend regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences and parent education events, and to familiarize themselves with the philosophy, policies, and procedures contained in the Goodwater Montessori School Parent Handbook and other School publications.

**Q. What contribution can parents/guardians make to create a positive School community?**

You can demonstrate respect for all adults and children, the School, and the School's programs. Be a role model for your children. Show respect for them, their classmates, parents of classmates, teachers and other School staff—in short, for everyone associated with the School. Respect begins with civility and deepens into trust. Our most fundamental behavioral guidelines for the children are "Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the environment." We expect the same from adults, parents, and School staff, at all times and in all relationships within the School community. This includes speech and outward behavior. Support your child by speaking of her/his teachers, classmates, and School in positive terms. Respect and abide by the School's policies and procedures. Honor your commitments. Look for ways to make a positive contribution to the life of the School. Through your behavior you contribute to your children's moral development and to the culture and climate of their School, which they experience on a daily basis.

**Q. How can parents/guardians create consistency between home and School?**

You can learn as much as you can about Montessori principles as they apply to preparation of your child's home environment as well as the way we parents you, as a parent, interact with your children. This begins with the general principle: "Never do something for your child that he can do for her/himself." Allow your child to engage in all of the simple tasks of practical life that a child can do

for her/himself at each stage of development. Montessori education may also entail learning a communication style different from the way in which you were parented. Children develop a love of learning and become responsible, independent, and capable when parents' values and expectations are consistent with those of the School.

**Q. What are parents/guardians responsibilities regarding communication between home and School?**

We expect to maintain an active, direct, and respectful two-way communication between the school and parents. Read communications that are sent home: these may include letters, newsletters and calendars. Inform the School in a timely fashion of pertinent changes in your child's life. Active communication involves parents sharing observations and concerns about their child with the child's current teacher. In matters large and small, remember the principle of respect: even when there is disagreement, disagree respectfully. For more detailed communication guidelines, please refer to the Goodwater Montessori School Parent Handbook.

**Q. What can parents/guardians expect in terms of communication from the School?**

We aim to maintain open, honest, timely, and respectful communication with you about your child and about information affecting the community. You should expect to receive weekly email communication from your student's Guide as well as a weekly school-wide email.

There are two regularly scheduled parent-teacher (or in the case of older students, parent-teacher-student) conferences each year, accompanied by written summaries, as well as a year-end written report. If needed, additional conferences can be scheduled.

**Parents and Guardians of Goodwater Montessori School Students will agree to the following in order to support the education of their child(ren):**

- I will read all communications from the school including the weekly emails from Guide(s) and the school-wide emails. I understand I am responsible for knowing the information within.
- I will communicate with my students' Guide(s) when I have concerns or questions about what is happening in the classroom or with their academic progress.
- I will take the time to learn and understand the Montessori model and the classroom expectations for my student(s.)
- I will bring my student(s) to school and on time daily unless they are ill or have an emergency.