The best schools partner committed educators with devoted parents. 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.

In an effort to begin FWCD parent-school relationships well, the School provides this articulation both of our guiding principles and of our desired path to mutual respect between school and home. At FWCD, our philosophy, mission and core values together provide a clear set of the School's expectations. Fundamentally, the School's faculty, staff and administration are motivated by the desire to establish significant connections with their students as they engage and challenge those students in the learning process.

We share this extended articulation of expectations, of ourselves as FWCD educators and of you as FWCD parents, in hopes of facilitating our relationship with you from year to year. Consider this document a sort of “Handbook for Parents and Faculty/Staff at FWCD.” 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

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Fort Worth Country Day Philosophy

Fort Worth Country Day offers an advanced curriculum, comprehensive in its emphasis on the humanities, science and math, the arts, and athletics. The School values diversity in its community and encourages openness of thought and freedom of inquiry. Through its program, the School seeks to develop enthusiastic, thinking, well-rounded and responsible citizens equipped for success in college and in life.

The School sees education both as a personal journey requiring guidance and as a systematic process built upon knowledge, experience and hard work. Collectively, these components promote understanding, imagination and reason in our students.

The mission, purpose and core values of Fort Worth Country Day 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 support and teacher performance. Student success requires the community to work together with trust and confidence.

The mission of Fort Worth Country Day 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.

The purpose statement of FWCD, “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. In Lower School, we use the acronym PRIDE (Politeness, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, Excellence). The core values of Fort Worth Country Day set forth a standard of conduct that is the foundation of a productive life. These values provide an ethical compass and give purpose to the education we provide.

In sum, FWCD is a community of learners united by our common mission, purpose and core values. All of our actions and communications as members of this community, as students, faculty, parents, staff, administrators and alumni, are expected to reflect our commitment to those core values.
The Relationship between School and Parents at FWCD

Fundamentally, the relationship between FWCD (teachers, administration and staff) and our parents should begin with a presumption of good will. Parents love their children. They want and need to look out for their children’s best interests. The School, for its part, hires and furthers 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 between its faculty and staff and its parents.

Effective school-parent partnerships include:
1. Mutual respect and a presumption of good will.
2. Clearly defined responsibilities.
3. A shared commitment to productive and consistent communication.
4. A common vision of the goal to be reached: engaged and challenged students connected with teachers in a process of developing responsible college-ready and world-ready citizens.

Elaboration of Expectations

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

Parental Expectations of FWCD

1. Expect the School to assume good will from you as parents.
2. Expect administrators and teachers to be accessible and responsive to you as parents 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 pedagogies.
5. Expect the School to keep parents 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.

FWCD’s Expectations of Parents

1. The School expects you as parents to assume good will about our work with your children and with you.
2. The School expects parents 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 and core values.
4. The School expects parents to provide a home environment and experience beyond school that supports the development of positive learning attitudes and habits (creating a quiet place to study; not “overbooking” a child; modeling civility, honesty and respect; and providing active supervision).
5. The School expects parents to involve themselves in the life of the School (volunteering, communicating, attending events and conferences, etc.).
6. When concerns arise, parents seek information directly from the School, consulting with the adult at FWCD who is closest to the situation (advisor, teacher, coach, administrator, etc.). These concerns could be personal (such as issues about your child) or communal (such as a rumor you hear in the community).