



UNITY ACADEMY - OF CHICAGO -

Family-School Partnership Agreement

"O our Lord! Grant that our spouses and our offspring be a joy to our eyes, and cause us to be foremost among those who are conscious of You!" (Surah Furqan 25:74)

At Unity Academy, we believe that when the school and home work in harmony, children thrive spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. **Our goal is to build a true partnership with families rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and open communication** - all in the service of the holistic growth and success of our children.

We understand that every family is on a unique journey, our intent is not perfection but progress. Nonetheless, we have a 360° approach to educating children and require parents to commit to partnering with Unity Academy to raise children. In an effort to align the school and the family, all parents are required to sign this partnership agreement for the upcoming school year.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY & PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Unity Academy is most effective when families are engaged and involved. We invite parents to join us for workshops and volunteer opportunities throughout the year to support their child's education and contribute to our broader school community.

Parent Workshops

The school conducts several mandatory and optional parent workshops during the school year. **I understand the value of this service and agree to attend parent workshops.**

Volunteering

Our school's success depends on the voluntary efforts of community members and parents. There are several means of offering support, such as being a field trip chaperone, helping to set up/decorate for an event, helping to clean up after an event, being a guest speaker in the classroom, cooking with students, reading to students, preparing snacks for an event, serving in an auxiliary committee, etc. **I**

understand the need for family engagement to sustain a community school and agree to contribute and track via [Google Form](#) at least 10 hours of my time volunteering for the school this year.

EXPOSURE TO MEDIA

We believe that strong relationships and intentional time together are the foundation of healthy development. We encourage families to carve out daily moments of connection such as during meals, walks, shared reading, or acts of worship - and to minimize passive screen time, especially on weekdays. While we recognize that habits take time to shift, we recommend a gradual move toward less than 30 minutes of screentime on weekdays and no more than 60 minutes on weekends, always supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

Deep and Sustained Involvement with Your Child

Unity Academy encourages parents to build strong, nurturing bonds with their children through meaningful everyday activities such as cooking; going on hikes or walks; sharing meals; reading out loud daily; doing chores and/or learning practical life skills; practicing prayer, Quran or supplications; and developing a close relationship. These shared moments help children feel connected, understood and guided by their parents, rather than turning to devices to fill emotional or developmental gaps. **I understand and agree to engage in deep and sustained involvement with my child to foster a strong relationship and serve as their primary influence.**

Protection from Exposure to Media

Children thrive when their environments are rooted in purpose and connection. We ask parents to carefully monitor all forms of media and limit the use of devices such as phones, tablets, TVs, and video games. Instead, we encourage family-led recreational, creative, and/or hands-on activities during leisure time. **I understand the importance of monitoring media usage and agree to protect my child from overexposure to screens and media that conflict with our school's values.**

Given that many children are already accustomed to regular screen time, it is our guidance that parents gradually reduce their child's screen time to less than 30 minutes per day on the weekdays and less than 60 minutes per day on the weekends, supervised by a parent. (Family movie nights could be an exception.) **I understand how short-term limits support long term changes to help children rediscover play, creativity, and family time and agree to gradually reduce or eliminate my child's reliance on electronic devices.**

Modeling phone use

Children notice and imitate adult behaviors, including how we use our phones. Excessive or unconscious device use in front of children can normalize habits that we are trying to prevent. We encourage parents to be mindful of their own screen time,

especially social media, when in the presence of their children. **I understand my own impact and influence on my child's development and agree to model mindful screen habits.**

Ban on social media

Former U.S. Surgeon-General Dr. Vivek Murthy has said: "Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content, to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends. We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis – one that we must urgently address." Unity Academy prescribes that the children who attend our school at any age or grade level have ZERO access to ANY social media platforms. **I understand this policy and agree to ensure my child has zero access to social media platforms in alignment with school expectations.**

Visibility

Children are most protected and accountable when their digital access is in shared, visible areas, not in bedrooms or isolated spaces. While we promote minimal screen use overall, any necessary use should happen in open family spaces where parents can remain aware and engaged. **I understand the importance of distancing our children from anything that will tempt them to sin and agree to ensure all device use by my child occurs in visible, shared areas of the home.**

FAMILY & SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Unity Academy partners with families to cultivate a consistent, spiritually nourishing environment for children. This includes upholding Islamic values and practices at home, prioritizing Islamic holidays, and minimizing contradictory secular influences. A home that mirrors the school's spiritual environment supports your child's spiritual, social, and emotional development.

Parental Role Modeling & Conduct

Parents are expected to model positive Islamic behavior and spirituality so that children are brought up in an Allah (swt)-centered environment. We expect parents to practice their Islamic obligations and stay away from forbidden actions, especially to avoid mixed messaging and contradictions between home and school.

Further children, especially in their early years, learn primarily through observation. That is why parents are expected to model positive behavior and not expose the child to anything that might teach misconduct, including speaking to one's spouse in a way that is not appropriate (such as yelling, using foul language, insulting, etc.) Marriage is a primary pillar in parenting so it is important that spouses display respect and proper

conduct with each other, especially in front of the children. **I understand my specific role in ensuring our home environment is rooted in Islamic values and agree to do my best to model respectful, consistent, and faith-aligned behavior for my child at home**

Identity

Unity Academy commits itself to helping children cultivate a strong and healthy sense of pride and confidence in their Islamic identity. We encourage families to place greater emphasis on Islamic holidays, and to deprioritize celebrating secular or other holidays. **I understand the value and impact on my child's sense of self by celebrating our religious traditions openly and committing to prioritize our traditions above secular ones.**

Positive Social Influences

Parents are responsible to facilitate an environment that fosters an Islamic lifestyle for our children. We encourage families to be intentional about the people, gatherings, and environments their children are exposed to and shield them from negative influences at social gatherings. It is critical that parents are aware of and vet any individual who may play a role in influencing their child inside or outside the home. **I agree to guide and moderate my child's social environment to ensure it supports Islamic values and positive character development.**

PHYSICAL HEALTH

As stewards of our children's well-being, we are entrusted to care for their bodies with intentionality and balance. Supporting healthy routines around sleep and nutrition help children grow, learn, and fulfil their God-given potential.

Sleep

Sleep is crucial for children's overall health and well-being and development. It is vital for consolidating memories and learning new skills, contributing to optimal cognitive function and academic performance. Additionally, adequate sleep supports emotional regulation, mood stability, and behavior control, helping children navigate their daily lives with mindfulness and positivity. Therefore, prioritizing sufficient and quality sleep for children is essential for their optimal growth, development, and overall health. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends each age group sleep the following hours (including nap if any):

- 3 years old: 11-14 hours
- 4 years old: 10-13 hours
- 5 years old: 10-13 hours
- 6-7 years old: 10-12 hours
- 8-9 years old: 9-11 hours
- 10-12 years old: 9-10 hours

- 13 years old: 8-10 hours

Establishing a consistent bedtime routine and creating a sleep-friendly environment—including no screen time before bed—can help ensure children get the sleep they need. **I understand these guidelines and commit to ensuring my child receives age-appropriate, consistent, and restful sleep.**

Nutrition

Ensuring your child receives proper nutrition is vital for their growth, development, and overall well-being. Here are a few tips to promote good nutrition:

1. Offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats to provide essential nutrients.
2. Limit sugary snacks, processed foods, and sugary drinks, opting instead for healthier alternatives.
3. Lead by example by making nutritious choices yourself and creating a positive food environment at home.

By prioritizing good nutrition, you are setting your child up for a lifetime of healthy habits and optimal growth. **I understand the value of, and agree to, establishing healthy habits and supporting my child in developing consistent, nutritious food choices and healthy routines.**

APPROACH TO COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIP

At Unity Academy, we believe strong partnerships between families and staff are built on mutual respect, trust, and open dialogue. We ask that all communication between families and staff reflect our shared values.

As Parents...

- We assume best intentions and approach conversations with curiosity and a desire to understand.
- We work together to gather full context and evidence before drawing conclusions about student or staff behavior.
- We do not treat a single perspective—including a child's—as the full story without seeking clarity and corroboration.
- We avoid accusatory or adversarial language and instead aim for collaboration, even when addressing concerns.
- We commit to addressing student issues thoughtfully, avoiding overgeneralization or escalation that may harm trust or misrepresent the issue.

Unity staff will...

- Respond to family concerns with care, honesty, and a commitment to resolve issues in partnership.
- Share timely, clear communication about student progress and behavior.
- Listen without defensiveness and remain open to feedback.

Together, we can create a school environment where all students are supported and all voices are heard with dignity.

COMMITMENT

We understand that the above guidelines and expectations are critical for the character building of individual students and the school community as a whole. We also understand that this document outlines our sincere intention so that we can have a common orientation and targets. This document is not intended to find fault or denigrate any person or family. All families are on a journey of growth, and we pray that by committing to this agreement, we can support each other on this journey.

By signing, we agree and commit to this family-school partnership agreement.

Parent/Guardian 1

Parent/Guardian 2

Date
