



## A Creative, Liberal Arts Charter School

Established 2009 by the REACH Parent Foundation

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## The REACH School Philosophy and Expectations

The following information is from the REACH Parent-Student handbook and is important for families considering enrollment. We ask that parents and students read this document regarding the environment based on being Responsible, Resourceful, Respectful, and Responsive.

**Mission:** The REACH School supports the emerging child in becoming a whole person through integration of strong academics, creative arts and community involvement in an environment that fosters acceptance and respect for self and other.

**Vision:** Our vision is accomplished through the dedication of skilled teachers, program leadership, involved families, enriched activities, collaborative relationships with the school administration and committed financial support.

This handbook is a source of reference information for parents and the students at REACH. We welcome suggestions from the REACH community to make the handbook as helpful as possible. Changes to the handbook will be communicated during the year via the website, e-mail, newsletters or mail.

### The Implicit Curriculum

The implicit curriculum in any school is what is taught and learned about values. REACH staff and teachers have received training and are launching an implicit curriculum patterned after the River School in Napa. Parents will be invited to learn about the implicit curriculum so that conversations at home enhance learning at school. Both on site and online instruction will be provided.

At REACH the implicit curriculum is planned and practiced by teachers, staff and students through communication, policies, discipline and decision making. Through collaboration with teachers, parents and students, the REACH school embodies a nurturing learning environment that emphasizes academic competence, creative expression, and personal and social responsibility.

REACH is a school that supports students to participate fully in their own learning and to take full credit for both good and bad choices. The REACH school creates an atmosphere in which behavior once thought of as negative is, instead an opportunity for growth, responsibility and problem solving. To be human is to make mistakes. Learning what to do when a mistake is made is a part of the REACH curriculum.

In order to accomplish the REACH Mission and Vision, the collaborative community of students, parents, and staff intend to develop:

### Students who are:

1. Responsible
  - Willing to see oneself as cause, instead of victim
  - Take responsibility for their choices in actions and in academics

- Become self-motivated, competent, life-long learners
- 2. Respectful
  - Respect the diversity of opinions by examining issues from multiple perspectives.
  - Value the uniqueness and contribution of each individual
  - Work collaboratively with peers and teachers
- 3. Resourceful
  - Demonstrate proficiency in the core academic subjects
  - Solve problems independently, collaboratively, and creatively.
  - Communicate written and spoken ideas clearly and effectively
- 4. Responsive
  - Listen and respond to others with compassion
  - Make choices from an understanding that the world is interdependent and interconnected.

### Staff members who:

- Model the values of responsibility, respect, resourcefulness, and responsiveness that we expect of our students
- Empower students to grow academically, creatively, and personally.
- Are willing to grow personally and to work collaboratively

### Parents who:

- Support, promote, and model the values embodied by the implicit curriculum
- Actively participate and contribute their time and resources to the REACH School.

**Discipline** = *activity, exercise, or a regimen that develops or improves a skill*. At REACH the *skill* is contained in the four R's. The *exercise or regimen* is the communication or reminders about the four "R's" and is both oral and written. After oral reminders students will be asked to complete a learning opportunity form (green slip) that will allow for focused conversations between students, teachers, and sometimes the Director. Written communication to parents is also a part of the process. While most conversations are about the need to be reminded of ways to be responsible and respectful, resourceful and responsive there are times a parent or guardian will need a phone call for more urgent issues. The implicit curriculum is designed to assist all students to relate in ways that enhance the learning environment and the community. Parents are encouraged to use similar language and adopt a learning opportunity environment at home.

### Resourceful: Parents Supporting the School

Parent participation is vital to the life of the school. Parent (and Grandparent) volunteers are recruited to assist in the classroom, work in the office, drive on field trips, attend off campus events, and develop social activities. This participation brings the whole family to the school experience and enriches the social networking that supports the REACH community and the community at large. Together we can make the world a better place!

We ask that for each child attending REACH that a family volunteer five hours a month. The volunteer work not only enriches the school environment but the services provided directly support learning activities and helps keep class size at a reasonable level. Working parents can volunteer in many other ways that can fit a busy schedule. The Volunteer Sign up Bulletin Board is directly ahead when you walk into the REACH Office.

## Family Acknowledgement

I have read the information about The REACH School environment and how the four R's contribute to the community of students, families and The REACH School. My signature below indicates confirmation that I acknowledge the expectations of enrollment in The REACH School.

Parent/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this page to the REACH Office.