



CLASSICAL

CHARTER SCHOOLS

THE ROLE OF FAMILY

Introduction

Classical Charter Schools believe that parents and families are an indispensable component in our scholars' academic and behavioral success. We have accordingly created mission-aligned rules, organizations, and systems that enhance school-family-scholar communication and support in those areas where scholars need it the most.

The journey of becoming a Classical Charter Schools parent starts during the enrollment process, when parents of accepted scholars are required to attend one of several orientations run by the Operations Manager of their scholar's school site. During this orientation, parents learn about the school's mission, policies, and procedures and how by supporting or reinforcing these concepts at home, they ultimately are supporting and contributing to their child's development and academic success. Parents are encouraged to fully consider what saying "yes" to a Classical Charter Schools education really means. Ideally, they then leave the orientation with an understanding that the job of making their child-scholar successful needs to be a joint effort of both the school and the parent.

The '5 Non-Negotiables'

The '5 Non-Negotiables' are designed to give parents a clear vision of their responsibility, ensuring that they're doing everything they can to support the school and their scholar. Our experience demonstrates that parents who are most invested in the school's mission produce the most successful scholars. We believe that the following elements represent those areas on which parents must focus in order to ensure their scholar's academic success and that they are "non-negotiable":

- Scholars must arrive at school on time, every day, ready to learn.
- Scholars must wear a complete, neat and clean CCS uniform every day.
- Parents provide a supportive environment for their scholars to complete homework.
- Parents must ensure that their scholars get a good night's sleep.
- Parents must support the school they chose!

Classical Charter School will support families in ensuring these expectations are met consistently. Families will receive consistent communication regarding scholar attendance, homework completion and uniform

compliance and resources may be provided to support those in need of assistance.

Family Communication

Classical Charter Schools utilize the Jupiter Education learning platform as the primary method of communication with families. Upon enrollment, families will be provided with instructions that outline the process for creating a Jupiter account. In addition to communication between staff and families, the Jupiter platform also provides families with essential data such as student attendance records and behavior logs.

Family Advisory Council

As noted, Classical Charter Schools recognize the pivotal importance of the parental/familial voice in contributing to a school's culture and a child's education. And we recognize that frequent and relevant communication is necessary for their being able to do so. To this end, a Family Advisory Council (FAC) has been created, whose primary goal is to develop and enhance collaboration among CCS families and between the families and the school.

The FAC is governed by a president, vice president, and a secretary, and FAC meetings are held once a month. Parents attend meetings to discuss school-wide issues, upcoming events, and initiatives to improve our scholars' achievement through parent involvement. Deans plan our monthly Parent Academy or workshops; the FAC is encouraged to attend and share their ideas for future sessions. The FAC serves as an accessible and positive network for parents to obtain and share information, one that fosters a culture of open communication and mutual respect.

Parent Academy

Parent Academy is planned and hosted by the Deans at each school site. Parent Academy is a monthly meeting or workshop that offers support and education to families within the Classical Charter School community. The mission of the Parent Academy is to provide families with the resources they need to support and teach their children while they attend Classical Charter School. Every month, the Deans host a Parent Academy meeting or workshop centered around a specific topic designed to support their parenting, which in turn help scholars become better citizens. Example of topics that have been addressed include:

- Addressing Testing Anxiety
- Structures and Routines at Home
- Supporting the Mental Health of Your Scholar
- Financial Planning

Deans and FAC members also invite community organizations and trained experts to take part in workshop presentations when appropriate.

Community Gatherings

Six times across the school year, Deans host Community Gatherings in which the Classical Charter School community celebrates scholar successes (and parents' sacrifices). The community unites for a presentation

during which scholars recite their work, receive awards, and highlight the “Character Pillar” of the month. Scholars and classroom communities are recognized for their alignment with the mission of CCS by being highlighted in front of their school community. Families are also invited to attend Community Gatherings to celebrate with their scholars.

Family Day

Every June, we invite all the stakeholders in the school together for a celebration. The school day ends at 1pm. Parents, scholars, teachers, and staff enjoy outdoor activities, contests, and games for the rest of the afternoon. This event brings a festive end to a year of hard work and success!