

Green Acres School – 2020-21 Community Agreement

*Green Acres School challenges and inspires students to live and learn with intellect, curiosity, determination, joy, and **compassion** (Green Acres Mission Statement).*

At Green Acres, it is **compassion** for our fellow community members at this time of pandemic that I ask us to draw upon. Our ability to consider the challenges we face as individuals; families and as a community is our strength. As progressive educators, we offer our children a learning experience that is highly responsive to their individual needs, focusing on each child's academic, social, and emotional well-being and growth.

I invite you to recognize the importance of our shared responsibility for keeping our community safe. As we have all learned, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus with potentially serious health effects for which there is presently no vaccine and no certain method for eliminating the risks of transmission. The pandemic requires us to take additional actions to mitigate COVID-19 related risks to the health and safety of our entire community, including staff, students, household members, and caregivers.

In light of this recognition, we need your commitment to the expectations and protocols the School will put in place to mitigate the risks associated with an in-person and on-campus educational experience for as long as COVID-19 is prevalent in our community. These are summarized below and will be spelled out in detail in the 2020-21 Community and Staff Handbooks in one or more sections plainly marked as related to COVID-19. Complying with these expectations and protocols requires significant changes in our conduct on and off the School campus, along with a commitment by all Green Acres community members – staff, students, household members, and caregivers - to adhere strictly to public health guidelines. **Universal adherence to these expectations and protocols is essential to Green Acres' on-campus operation during the pandemic.**

Green Acres School will be adaptive and responsive to the changes that inevitably will come this 2020-21 academic year. The School therefore reserves the right to update its plans and the terms of this COVID-19 Agreement to reflect such changes, which may be informed by public health guidance, conditions as they develop over the year, or governmental regulation. All families and staff are encouraged to closely follow information provided by Green Acres.

We invite you to sign this Agreement, before your student(s) return to campus, to acknowledge the shared responsibility of you and your student(s), household, and caregiver(s) for reducing the risks posed by COVID-19 for as long as it is prevalent in our community. You acknowledge as well that learning on campus during this time entails increased risks to health and safety to Green Acres students and staff and all who come into contact with them, that there is no certain means of eliminating those risks, and that the School is providing all students with the option to learn off-campus during this period. Finally, you acknowledge that we increase the risks to ourselves and the members of the Green Acres community when our actions, on- and off-campus, increase our risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

