



# Tall Pines STEM Academy Parent Contract & Expectations

As an affiliated charter school, our success depends on a well-informed and involved parent body to support the teachers and administration. Therefore, we expect and count on parent participation in the following areas to help our students and school thrive:

- **Support TPSA teachers.** Participate in parent teacher conferences. Promptly, politely, and respectfully respond to communication from teachers, understanding that our teachers are professionals and experts in education. Assume our teachers have your child's and their classmates' best interest in educational, physical, and social-emotional development at the forefront of everything they do. Support consequences that teachers have for student behavior. We strive to develop all aspects of our students.
- **Support TPSA classrooms.** This includes supporting fundraising efforts for classroom-specific projects, volunteering to chaperone field trips, and supporting your child's classroom in additional projects and needs as they arise.
- **Support TPSA in academic and disciplinary matters.** This includes supporting your child in the following areas: completion and return of classwork and homework, regular attendance, and prompt arrival. TPSA welcomes students beginning at 7:30am. Pledges and announcements start at 7:50am. Students' first class begins promptly at 8:00 am. Do not use 8:00am as your target arrival time. If your child arrives late, you will be required to sign them in at the front office, rather than dropping them off at car line. Your cooperation in our academic efforts and citizenship standards encourages your child to obey school rules and solidifies the partnership between school and home.
- **Support the health & safety standards of TPSA.** Understand the health recommendations from our administration are made for the whole school community based on science, the CDC, SCDHEC, and SC Dept. of Education, particularly in regards to protocols for COVID-19, Influenza, and other communicable viruses, infections, and diseases.

In order to insure the safety of ALL of our students while coming to and leaving school in a timely and efficient manner, it is imperative that all drivers respect and abide by the following (please initial next to each):

- \_\_\_ Practice patience and be polite.
- \_\_\_ All traffic safety guidelines and staff direction should be followed.
- \_\_\_ Drop off and pick up students without blocking traffic.
- \_\_\_ Do not exit your vehicle during car line procedures. With the exception of assisting them with a large project, allow your students to exit and enter the vehicle on their own.
- \_\_\_ Do not park in handicapped spaces.
- \_\_\_ Drop off and pick up during scheduled arrival and dismissal times are in the car loop, not the front office.

- **Pay lunch, aftercare, and field trip fees on time.** Timely payments ensure we are able to offer our programs and field trips that make TPSA such a great middle school experience.
- **Stay on top of what's going on at TPSA.** Keeping informed is easy as well as important. Read the emails sent by the school, most of which are time sensitive. Also, it is very important to review papers that come home and return when requested.
- **Volunteer your time and efforts.** You can help make a difference with your time! There are many ways to lend time and skills to TPSA. Grandparents and other adult family members are able to help too if a parent's schedule or situation prevents them from doing so.
- **Maintain confidentiality when volunteering.** Parent volunteers must have a current background check on file and complete volunteer training, and adhere to the following policy *"As a parent volunteer at Tall Pines STEM Academy, I agree that it is my responsibility to preserve and protect the right of privacy of all students. I will protect the confidentiality of students by not discussing them with others. I will only contact the child's teacher if I have pertinent information that must be shared."*
- **Support the PTA and their efforts.**
- **Earn 300 Family Points. Every TPSA family is important.** As an integral part of our TPSA family, we welcome and expect family involvement. Not only does this support the school, it teaches your student that their family supports their education. The Family Points Program ensures that all of our families are contributing to our school year. Parents typically earn points, but we know sometimes schedules and situations make this difficult. Grandparents and other responsible family adults can earn points too. Please remember all volunteers must complete our volunteer training and have a current background check on record. Please see attached paper with details on earning and tracking Family Points.

**KEEP TOP PORTION**

-----**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**-----

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 1 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (If there are siblings at TPSA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 2 Signature