

PARENT/SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy enrolls families, not just students. Parents, legal guardians, grandparents, and all other family members play an integral role in each student's educational experience. In addition to requiring the School and its parents to enter into annual contracts for a student's enrollment, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has found it helpful for the School and parents to enter into a commitment to the mission of the school: Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college preparatory experience of lasting value. We affirm our Marist mission **to work with God to form Christian persons, upright citizens, and academic scholars**. This commitment articulates the reasonable expectations we have of each other and confirms and clarifies the partnership between the School and the parents. Set forth below—over two pages—are the details of this partnership.

I. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As a private, Catholic school, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy is governed by a Board of Trustees, which secures the future of the school. It does so by:

- Setting basic policies, always keeping in mind the Catholic and Marist mission of the school;
- Hiring, supporting, and evaluating the President;
- Undertaking strategic planning;
- Evaluating the performance of the School;
- Providing leadership in the financial support of the School.

Parents expect that the Board of Trustees will:

- Exercise fiduciary responsibility and accountability;
- Regularly and clearly communicate the vision, direction, and progress of the School to the community.

The Board of Trustees expects that parents will:

- Understand and support the Catholic and Marist mission of the School;
- Support the financial stability of the School to the best of their ability;
- Share a commitment to work productively together in the interest of our students.

The Board entrusts the daily operations of the School to the President, who supervises and evaluates the principals on both campuses. As such, the President is the final arbiter of all disputes.

II. PARENT/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

No school can succeed in fulfilling its mission unless parents share that commitment. By enrolling their child at Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, parents agree to read, understand, and endorse the School mission, policies, and contract.

Parents can expect that the School will:

- Provide a challenging, coeducational, Catholic education in the Marist tradition;
- Establish positive, professional relationships with students, characterized by mutual respect, warmth, and good will;
- Keep parents informed of their students' progress;
- Make every effort to respond to parent inquiries within 24 hours;
- Live the mission of the school and model integrity, academic curiosity, responsibility, and creativity;
- Help students to develop their God-given talents, to look for opportunities to serve/help others, to know and to do good;
- Be teachers to all students at all times and be dedicated to teaching faith, ethics, and character formation;
- Develop and sustain partnerships with parents that support each student's well-being and increasing autonomy;
- Enforce standards of student behavior in a fair, firm, compassionate, and educationally sound manner.

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The School can expect that parents will:

- Provide a home environment that supports the development of positive learning attitudes, habits, and values that are consistent with those of the School;
- Maintain regular contact with teachers, moderators, and coaches;
- Show support and encouragement by participating in a positive manner in School events;
- Recognize that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to collaboration, open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be achieved;
- Develop students' moral values by modeling integrity, civility, honesty, and respect for the value of each individual;
- Understand that religion classes are taught from a Roman Catholic point of view, while respecting the faith tradition of families;
- Support the participation of students in daily prayer and school-wide liturgies, as well as required class retreat days and Christia service opportunities for students in grades 6-12;
- Support consequences for behavior deemed unacceptable by the School;
- Help students capitalize upon successes and learn from setbacks and failures as part of an individual's growth process;
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their education, choices, actions, and communication with teachers and staff members, appropriate to their age;
- Respectfully seek to secure information and resolve problems through appropriate channels of communication (i.e., teacher/moderator, coach, department head, assistant principals, vice principals, principals, head of school, in that order);
- Reference the Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy website for policy information and updates on campus events.

The quid pro quo of the partnership with parents is that School personnel are expected to treat parents as experts about their own children, who have something crucial to contribute in our work with the student. Conversely, parents are expected to treat our teachers as professionals who know what to teach and how to teach it. In the NDPMA community all students, parents, and school staff members must be treated with respect even when someone is upset about an issue.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy believes that a positive and constructive partnership with a student's parents or guardian is essential to the fulfillment of the School's mission. Parents who do not support the mission, or fail to be civil, and/or become disruptive in their relationship with the School, jeopardize that relationship. Thus, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy reserves the right to discontinue enrollment or not to re-enroll a student if the School reasonably concludes that the actions of any parent or guardian make such a positive, constructive relationship impossible, or otherwise interfere with the School's accomplishment of its mission, including its educational purposes.



Mr. Daron Gifford
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Mr. Andrew J. Guest
Head of School

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