GreatHearts®
Arlington

Arlington Archers: New Family Orientation

Module 3: Parent Partnership

Table of Contents: Parent Partnership

1. A Partnership in Education
2. Parent Service Organization
3. Volunteer Requirements and Opportunities
4. Communications
5. Community Investment

Topic 1: Partnership in Education

It is our joy to partner with you in the education of your children. Already in this journey you have applied to our school, persevered through the lottery, secured a spot, and registered. You may have attended an Information Night or Meet-the-Teacher Day, or become active members of our Parent Facebook Group. And this is just the beginning of our beautiful partnership!

We will need you to stay connected and engaged as we join together to pursue the mission of Great Hearts Arlington.The Academy exists to cultivate the hearts and minds of our students in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. Your children will be facing a new and exciting challenge this year and they will need the emotional and physical support of the adults in their lives. This module outlines ways we can partner together on behalf of your children.

Topic 1: Partnership in Education

Practical Partnership Tip #1: Create the conditions for your child to be ready to learn.

- Full night’s sleep
- Nutritious breakfast
- Clean and dress code compliant uniform
- Backpack loaded with homework, planner, and books

Together, these four conditions ensure that your child walks in our doors ready and confident for school.

Topic 1: Partnership in Education

Practical Partnership Tip #2: Create the conditions for homework completion.

- Focused and organized workspace
- Stretch breaks between subjects
- Use and monitoring of take-home folder and student planner
- Early and regular communication with teachers
- Utilization of in-person and web-based curricular supports--e.g., Spalding videos

Topic 1: Partnership in Education

Practical Partnership Tip #3: Stay Positive!

- Assume good will on the part of faculty, staff, and administration.
- Engage in proactive communication with teachers.
- When your student is struggling, stay empathetic, but refrain from commiseration.
- Become familiar with and follow the Academy's procedures and guidelines.
- Let us know early if something is amiss.

Topic 2: Parent Service Organization

The transformative education offered at Great Hearts Arlington will only be possible through the generous and passionate commitment of a Parent Service Organization (PSO). Parents and guardians join a community of like-minded families dedicated to the success of Great Hearts Arlington and its students.

Every parent at Great Hearts Arlington is an automatic member of the PSO, and there are no dues or fees associated with membership. The PSO serves as the mechanism through which we recruit and organize our parent volunteers. We encourage participation at any level. In our first year the PSO started with only the most essential committees. As the school grows, so too has the PSO.

Topic 2: Parent Service Organization

Great Hearts Arlington PSO Mission Statement:

The Parent Service Organization of Great Hearts Arlington is a community of parent volunteers that provides a support system to enrich the students' academic experience. We volunteer our time in service to sponsor and promote social activities. We provide programs to benefit and support the faculty and administration who are working to fulfill the Great Hearts mission to cultivate the hearts and minds of students in the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Topic 2: Parent Service Organization

Purpose and Objectives:

- Support the Great Hearts Arlington mission.
- Develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement.
- Enhance the educational experience by supporting and organizing academic and enrichment activities.
- Express appreciation for teachers and staff.
- Organize social events to unite the community.

Topic 2: Parent Service Organization

Areas of Service:

- Lunchroom: Support a vital part of daily campus life.
- Copy Room: Support instruction through copying, cutting and stapling materials for a variety of assignments and projects.
- Front Desk: Help welcome visitors and support Academy operations.
- Teacher Appreciation: Encourage faculty by organizing initiatives that show appreciation and support.
- Academy Culture: Help build a thriving intellectual and aesthetic community.
- Social Committee: Plan community-building opportunities outside of school.
- Classroom/Grade-Level Coordinators: Coordinate needs and events on behalf of specific grade levels.

Topic 3: Volunteer Requirements

Great Hearts Arlington is committed to the safety of all our students.

All volunteers wishing to serve on campus must fill out our volunteer paperwork, including a consent to background check. Once paperwork is filed and background checks are cleared you will be able to volunteer on campus. More information on volunteering opportunities will be shared in the coming months.

If you are interested in volunteering please visit the PSO webpage.

Topic 3: Volunteer Opportunities

Parents support the school in a wide range of ways. No matter what your talent or schedule, your help will make a difference. If you are interested in ways to volunteer and want to know more about the Parent Service Organization, please click on the button below or contact ArchersPSO@gmail.com.

Topic 4: Communication

School Communication:

Weekly Newsletters. You can expect weekly newsletters from the school. This is your main source of up-to-date school-wide communication!

Website. The website is valuable source of basic Academy information such as contact information for administration and faculty, the school calendar, dress code guidelines, the Classics to Keep list, archived Newsletters, and the like.

Email. Email from faculty or administration is typically reserved for topic or time-sensitive communication specific to your child.

Topic 4: Communication

Parent Communication:

As members of a charter school community there will ample opportunity for productive inquiry and discussion.

In-Person Events. Throughout the school year parents will have the opportunity to interact with faculty and administration during events such as *Meet the Teacher Night*, *Curriculum Night*, *Coffee With the Headmaster*, and the like.

Email. Proactive communication via email is an important means of asking questions and raising concerns. Please visit the website for contact information for faculty and administration.

Topic 4: Communication

Parent Communication, continued:

Appointments and telephone calls. From time to time it will be necessary to schedule an appointment with a member of the faculty or administration. As good willed and open communication is an important part of academy culture, parents and guardians are encouraged to meet first with the person who has direct responsibility for their question or concern.

Surveys: Great Hearts Arlington thrives on feedback. While we hope you won't wait until a survey to address a question or concern, we sincerely value and seek your feedback. Please make every effort to respond to family surveys.

Topic 4: Communication

Social Media:

Many families find our Facebook pages to be wonderful tools for connection. Families will use them to support their students with a variety of concerns such as acquiring used uniforms or arranging carpools. These are wonderful uses of social media and we encourage our families to stay connected.

However, as we value good willed and open dialogue, we ask that families refrain from using social media to raise concerns or ask questions about faculty, curriculum, or Academy policies. A true partnership requires direct, clear, and respectful communication, and for this reason we ask that you utilize the many communication pathways detailed above.

Topic 5: Community Investment

Community Investment is our annual parent giving campaign. Community Investment bridges the gap between the base funding Great Hearts receives in governmental support, and what it costs to deliver this robust, classical liberal arts education. It also allows for campus investments and improvements. Community Investment is a fund that remains with the Academy and goes to support teacher salaries, health benefits, professional development, classroom and athletic supplies, specialized instruction (such as art and music), and building/property maintenance.

For more information on how charter school are funded, please see this Informative document from the Texas Charter School Association.

Topic 5: Community Investment

Your Community Investment gift directly supports the Academy's operating budget.

Community Investment:

- Helps cover the gap between what we need to deliver the top-tier education that our children deserve and what we receive from public funding
- Helps support our highly qualified and dedicated faculty
- Maintains a smaller student-to-teacher ratio for more individualized attention
- Ensures that programs like art, music, and foreign language are offered on a daily basis
- Allows us to offer our students a private school education in a public school setting

Topic 5: Community Investment

How do families participate?

The funding gap is a minimum of 1,200 dollars per student. **Knowing that each family's situation is unique, we encourage families to give as they are able in order to fill that gap**. Every family's participation, at any level, is vital to supporting our teachers and students and the educational priorities of our academy. 100% of your gift stays at your school.

For additional information or assistance, please contact Stacy Feeley, Director of Community Engagement. Please visit our website if you are interested in setting up a recurring or one time gift.

Questions?

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Great Hearts Arlington! While we have endeavored to provide meaningful information about how families may partner with the Academy, we recognize that there may be unanswered questions. If there is something you would like us to address, please submit your question to ArlingtonInfo@GreatHeartsTXSchools.org.

Go Archers!

In partnership,

The Great Hearts Arlington Upper School Team