

Parental Commitment with St. Lawrence Academy

Welcome to St. Lawrence Academy! St. Lawrence Academy provides a unique opportunity for our children—an Orthodox Christian education. As an Orthodox Christian school community, we strive to provide for our students a strong academic program, while at the same time giving close attention to their spiritual formation and the development of Christian character. Of course, we also recognize and honor the role of you as parents in the upbringing of your children, knowing that we must work together with you in providing for their education. Every school year our parents make numerous efforts on behalf of our school to help provide an Orthodox Christian educational experience that enriches the lives of our students and helps them to grow in maturity as Orthodox Christians. We value your talents, ideas, and energy! So get involved and let us know how you would like to contribute. We thank you in advance for your commitment to supporting St. Lawrence Academy.

Please read through and sign the following Parental Commitment form.

Our Mission

Our mission is to cultivate the Orthodox Christian formation and education of the whole child – heart, mind, soul, and body – in an inspiring and nurturing environment.

Our Goals

We envision our mission being fulfilled to the degree that we are successful in:

1. Providing a school community that is safe and nurturing, where each child experiences unconditional love and acceptance by God and the teachers who have them in their care, and acquires a deep sense of connectedness as members of the Body of Christ.
2. Cultivating the spiritual formation and growth in Christian virtue of our children, through which they grow in their desire to know, love, and serve God and others; to build meaningful relationships and lasting community; and to reach out beyond themselves with love, compassion, and acts of service.
3. Providing a holistic education through which our children develop a love for truth and for learning that encompasses the education of the whole person – heart, mind, soul, and body – and motivates them to strive for excellence and excel to their full potential in all that they do.

Our Statement of Faith – *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made:

Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

I understand the standards St. Lawrence Academy upholds in all areas including character, academics, and social and spiritual development. I recognize that St. Lawrence Academy is an Orthodox school and approaches education and character development from an Orthodox Christian mindset. I have read the "Statement of Faith" and by my signature below, I agree to support and abide by all of the policies and procedures of St. Lawrence Academy. St. Lawrence Academy exists to serve students and parents who support Orthodox Christian values. I realize that what the school teaches may conflict with what I teach my children at home.

I, _____ and _____, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of

give my/our permission for my/our child(ren) to take part in all school activities, including sports and school-sponsored trips away from the school premises, and absolve the school from liability because of any injury occurring at school or during any school activity on or off campus.

I recognize that the school has the full responsibility and authority for placement of my child(ren) in the proper grade/class.

I understand that I am liable for charges arising from loss or damage to school property (including books issued to my child), regardless of whether such damage was caused by accident or not. I understand that the school is not responsible for loss or damage to personal property.

Attendance

I understand that removing students from school for non-school related events and activities has the potential to hinder academic progress and can negatively impact grades.

I understand that attendance at St. Lawrence Academy is a privilege and not a right; that said privilege could be revoked at any time; that the board, faculty, and principal of St. Lawrence Academy are the determiners of all school policy and thus administratively set the standard for continued attendance at St. Lawrence Academy.

Discipline

I agree to abide by and fully support the school's disciplinary policy as outlined in the handbook. If, after reasonable effort has been made to discipline my child(ren) and to assist his/her academic adjustment he/she does not comply with the standards of St. Lawrence Academy, I agree to withdraw him/her from enrollment and pay for all costs incurred.

I recognize that the school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not respect its spiritual, academic, and behavioral standards, or cooperate in the education process. I hereby

authorize the school to use such discipline, as it considers just and necessary for the good of my child, up to suspension and expulsion. I further agree that I will cooperate and support the school's policies and procedures.

Grievances

If any member of my family should experience trouble arising out of this school relationship or have difficulty with or disagree with a teacher, other personnel, or its policies and procedures, I will register my complaint with the proper school personnel. I agree to adhere to the following procedure:

1. Speak with the parent/teacher concerned;
2. If I do not get satisfaction by doing #1, then I will speak with the principal;
3. In the event a satisfactory resolution is not reached through steps #1 and #2, I will speak with the Mediation Panel, a committee of non-parent representatives, which has been appointed by the Board of Trustees of St. Lawrence Orthodox Christian Church for handling such issues.

Parent Meetings

We understand that at least one parent or guardian is required to attend pre-scheduled quarterly parent meetings. As these are the primary opportunities for the discussion of important school matters, attendance is non-negotiable.

Initial here ___ ___ We agree to attend parent meetings.

Volunteer Hours and Fundraising

We understand that St. Lawrence Academy tries to keep costs (and hence tuition) down so that as many as share our vision can attend the school. To help with this, we (like many private schools) require service hours. While most parents are amazingly supportive and give an enormous amount of time and energy to the school, it is necessary to ensure that the workload for these events is spread equally among all families, since all benefit from the lower tuition the school is thus able to charge.

We agree to participate in and support all school functions and to volunteer a minimum of 35 hours per family in the Parent Volunteer Program (17 hours for single parent families), of which at least 10 hours must go toward the Christmas Tree Lot and 5 hours toward other fundraising efforts. Or pay \$20.00 for each hour not worked by May 15 for non-returning families or by July 31 for returning/registered families. These hours/fees will be prorated for late enrollment or early withdrawal.

Initial here ___ We agree to do volunteer hours.

OR

Initial here ___ We prefer to pay \$700 (or \$350 for single parent families) with our reg. fee or in 10 installments with tuition.

We agree to support the annual Academy fundraising events. In particular:

Nearly Summer Soiree:

1. We will attend the Nearly Summer Soiree unless there are compelling reasons that we cannot.
2. We will help with arrangements/prep/cleanup as required.

Initial here ____ We agree to 1 and 2.

Christmas Tree Lot:

1. We will volunteer at least 10 hours (5 hours for single parent families) of our 35 volunteer hours toward the Christmas Tree Lot fundraiser.

Initial here ____ We agree to volunteer for at least 10 hours toward the Christmas Tree Lot.

By signing this Parental Commitment, we affirm our commitment to wholeheartedly support and uphold all policies and procedures, and the statement of mission and faith as outlined in the school's handbooks or as amended from time to time, and to fully cooperate with school personnel and the Board of Trustees of St. Lawrence Orthodox Christian Church. We support the curriculum, texts, equipment, methods, counseling, discipline, and motives of the school.

We understand our child(ren)'s attendance is contingent upon signing and submitting this commitment form.

We have read and understand the terms set forth in this Parental Commitment and will adhere to this covenant for the duration of my child(ren)'s attendance at St. Lawrence Academy.

Signature of father/legal guardian

Signature of mother/legal guardian

Date: _____

Date: _____

MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH PARENTS