



Please review the following compact, sign the last page, and return the last page to your Homeroom Teacher along with the other documents in this packet by Monday, September 19th.

School-Parent Compact

Pride Academy Charter School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during school year September 2011 to June 2012.

School Responsibilities

We, the faculty and staff at Pride Academy Charter School, will support our students' learning in the following ways:

1. We will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
 - **A Fully Integrated Curriculum:** Pride Academy Charter School's curriculum will be aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) to ensure consistent and deliberate instruction of essential skills and benchmarks across disciplines. Furthermore, the Core Values of Pride Academy Charter School -- Peace, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy -- will be interwoven throughout all disciplines to make character education a seamless and meaningful component of our academic program.
 - **A School-Wide Focus on Higher Order Thinking Skills:** Pride Academy Charter School will train all teachers in the delivery of the PACS Learning Cycle, an enduring process in which students continuously demonstrate the four key habits of learning: questioning, seeking, understanding, and responding. Curriculum design, instruction, discipline, professional development, and parent involvement will also be built upon this cycle to ensure an embedded, deliberate culture of the PACS Learning Cycle throughout the school.
 - **A Commitment to Assessment and Action:** Pride Academy Charter School will build specific time into its weekly schedule dedicated to staff reflection and evaluation of student performance and progress of the NJCCCS and other school goals. Data from a variety of measures will be utilized in quarterly reviews to analyze strengths and weaknesses as well as to dictate future steps needed for success. Furthermore, a 360° evaluation process will be utilized by the entire faculty to check staff progress and determine areas for improvement.
 - **A Dedication to Professional Growth:** Pride Academy Charter School will create and sustain a cohesive professional learning community built upon staff empowerment, reflection, collegiality, inquiry, accountability, and risk-taking. Teachers will be encouraged to serve as Teacher Leaders, sharing new practices, creating action plans, mentoring peers, participating in workshops, and engaging in turn-key professional development sessions centered on improving student achievement and the realization of curricular goals. A working portfolio will be used as the framework and vehicle to facilitate and celebrate professional learning for all staff members. Regular time periods will be built deliberately into the Pride Academy Charter School schedule to ensure an embedded, on-going process of teacher learning.
 - **A Respect for the Interconnectedness of Community:** Pride Academy Charter School will be committed to collaborating with the community to enhance its educational program. The school will work in partnership with parents and provide opportunities for on-going parental support and leadership. Throughout the year, Pride Academy Charter School will host parent workshops and outreach programs. Furthermore, the annual Pride Project, a year-long grade-level inquiry and performance project, will challenge all students to investigate and actively respond to an issue in one of four areas which impact communities--health, violence, poverty, and education. Just as these issues can negatively affect our communities, Pride Academy Charter School will empower its students to realize their potential to be positive agents of change and social justice.

2. We will hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences may be held during progress report and report card conference times (see below for dates).
3. We will provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows: Mid-trimester Progress Reports will be distributed: October 21st, January 27th and April 20th. Report Cards will be distributed on: December 9th, March 16th and June 20th.
4. We will provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
 - Parents may call teachers directly to make mutually convenient face-to-face appointments or telephone conference times.
 - Parents may contact teachers through email and school classroom and cell phone voicemail.
 - Teachers are required to remain in the building at least 30 minutes after dismissal and arrangements can be made to meet with teachers during this time.
 - All staff are required to be available to conference with parents during report card conference days from 3:15 pm-6:00 pm.
 - Parents may communicate with teachers in Parent Council meetings.
5. We will provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:
 - Parents are encouraged to contact their children's teachers via voicemail, email, or in-person conference to arrange times to volunteer, participate, and observe in classroom activities at any time that is convenient to both parties other than during teacher scheduled and State mandated testing periods.
6. We will involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
7. We will involve parents in the joint development of any school wide program plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
8. We will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents, and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students), and will encourage them to attend.
9. We will provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parents with disabilities, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.
10. We will provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
11. We will, on the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
12. We will provide to each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading.
13. We will provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

Attendance

- We believe that our child's attendance and timeliness are vitally important to his or her success in school. We will see to it that our child arrives on time each morning, and fully understand that lateness will result in disciplinary measures.
- We will ensure that our child receives the nine-hour recommended minimum daily amount of sleep each night to encourage success in school.
- We will ensure that our child receives nutritious meals and healthy snacks in order to support successful work and behavior habits.
- We will make sure that our child has a safe and reliable means of transportation to and from school each day.
- We will not plan for family vacations or other extended absences to occur during the school year.
- We will make certain that our child attends school every day, except in cases of illness or another legitimate reason.
- We will telephone the school by 8:00 a.m. on the day of any absence to report why our child is out.
- We will not schedule routine medical appointments during the school day. We will schedule appointments on days and at times when school is not in session; or if such an appointment becomes necessary during school hours, we will return our child to school after the appointment.
- We will provide notes for absences and will provide doctor's notes for repeated absences and any absence greater than three days.
- We understand that 18 or more absences without a doctor's note may require that my child repeat the grade.

Uniform

- We promise that our child will wear the Pride Academy Charter School uniform to school each day.
- We understand that our child is not allowed to substitute the required clothing and that uniform violations will result in disciplinary measures.

Homework

- We understand that our child will be assigned homework each night.
- We understand that regular homework completion is one of the keys to academic success.
- We understand that it is our responsibility to see that homework is completed. We will check our child's homework each night to ensure that it is complete, accurate, and neat and sign the homework assignment pad.
- We will provide a quiet, undisturbed time and space for homework to be completed.
- We understand there will be a series of consequences for my child if homework is not completed, including accountability conferences, poor grades, and possible retention.

Parent Conferences and Report Cards

- We understand that parent conferences and the report card are essential to understanding a child's academic growth, strengths and weaknesses.
- We will pick up our child's report card and Progress Report on each Report Card and Progress Report Night and will attend all scheduled and requested parent-teacher conferences.
- We will commit to working hard to maintain open, positive communication with teachers and support teachers' efforts.

Parent Council

- We will actively participate on the Parent Council and attend its activities, events, and workshops.
- We will participate in annual election of parent representatives to the Board of Trustees and Parent Council committees.

Code of Conduct

- We have read, understand and support the Pride Academy Charter School Code of Conduct including all its rules, rewards and disciplinary consequences.

- We understand that teacher accountability conferences/consequences may happen on the day of the offense and that it is our child's responsibility to contact us and let us know if he or she needs to stay after school.
- We understand that our child cannot be excused from accountability conferences/consequences unless there is a family emergency.
- We support the Saturday Accountability policy and understand that we will need to accompany our child to Saturday Accountability for the entire 2 hour period.
- We understand that if our child receives an In School Suspension (ISS), that a parent will be required to sign the student in to ISS by 8:00am and out of school at 4:00pm the day of ISS.
- We understand that if our child is suspended that he or she will have to be picked up from school on the day of the offense, and that we will have to accompany our child to a meeting for him/her to return to classes. Our child will have to meet agreed upon conditions, which may include reciting the Pride Promise before the community during Morning Assembly.

Promotion Policy

- We understand that our child must pass all but one core academic class in order to be promoted to the next grade.
- Two failures in core subjects may result in mandatory summer school attendance to retake and pass the failed classes.
- Failure to pass courses during summer school together with non-proficient NJASK scores, or failure in three or more core classes during the school year may result in retention.
- We understand that extreme unexcused absenteeism may result in summer school attendance and/or retention.

Parent-School Communication

- We agree to support our child's academic work by communicating regularly with our child's teachers.
- We will attend conferences to help our child succeed academically.
- We understand that we are not required to sign this covenant as a term of our child's admission to or continued attendance at Pride Academy Charter School, but do so voluntarily to affirm our partnership with Pride Academy Charter School's staff and administration in providing the best possible education for our child.

Student Responsibilities

We as students of Pride Academy Charter School, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Do our homework every day and ask for help when we need to.
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- Give our parents or the adult who is responsible for our welfare all notices and information received from the school every day.
- Wear the complete school uniform with pride.
- Follow the expectations in our School Code of Conduct and practice our core values of peace, respect, integrity, determination, and empathy every day.
- Arrive to school on time at 8:00 am and attend school every day and until the end of the school day at 4:00 pm.
- Take advantage of all opportunities to improve and enrich our academics by seeking extra help from teachers, and participating in extra curricular activities.

Distributed on: 9/13/2011



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We understand that this covenant goes above and beyond the call of duty. We sign it voluntarily to pledge our commitment to our child's academic success. We understand that Pride Academy Charter School seeks to develop and nurture a partnership between parents, faculty, and staff in providing the best possible education for our students.

Signatures:

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____