

Charter School Educational Program Participation Agreement Gulf Coast Elementary School

In consideration for my child's participation in this Florida Public Charter Elementary School's educational program, **I agree to the following:**

1. I understand that GCES's unique Experiential Activity Program and hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Artistic Creativity & Mathematics (STEAM) makerspace program are supported in part by student fees. I further understand that these fees are necessary and cannot be waived. I also understand that these fees are fixed and predictable and I **agree to pay our fees in a timely fashion.**

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2. I understand that GCES relies on its families to provide a consistent, predictable, weekly volunteer contribution to the school. I understand that this commitment cannot be waived regardless of family or work circumstances. I further understand that my child's enrollment is contingent upon my satisfaction of this volunteer commitment. I also understand it is my responsibility to contact the school's administration to establish a fixed volunteer role. **I agree to contact the school with regard to volunteerism and to provide a volunteer contribution of at least ten hours per quarter WITH five hours prior to fall enrollment.**

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3. I understand and agree that GCES hosts many elective, non-instructional, fee-based activities that promote a broad positive elementary school experience and that these activities can be withheld from my child at the discretion of the school administration when he/she has incomplete or missing work, a negative balance in the student's financial account, or insufficient family volunteer contribution hours.

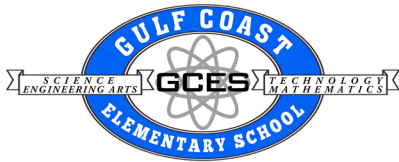
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4. I understand that GCES has a commitment to protect instructional time; therefore I will allow my child to attend the **entire school day** and, in some cases, the mandated **extended school day**, without interruption. If I am contacted by the school due to any missing or incomplete work or if my child needs remediation, additional instruction, or restitution. I will ensure that he/she participate in the extended school day for as many days as deemed necessary by the school administration. I also agree to adhere to the established school pick-up time schedule and **not attempt to pick up my child during the instructional day or interrupt the extended school day classes.** I agree that, barring extreme emergency situations, to transport my child only at the designated dismissal times.

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5. I understand that the GCES extended school day is often a required part of my child's instructional program and is used for projects, activities, enrichment, remediation, restitution, and learning that extends the school day and that **participation in many of these activities is mandatory and graded.** I will ensure that my child participates faithfully in all extended activities requested.

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6. I understand that the GCES Experiential Activity Program (EAP) and its associated trips are a required, graded, mandatory part of the school's instructional program. I will ensure that my child **participates faithfully** in all EAP activities OR the designated alternate activity when a documented physical limitation exists. Missing EAP days are permitted only through illness and **must be documented through a licensed physician note**. I also understand and agree that make-up for the EAP program may only occur through Extended School Day (ESD) sessions and that multiple ESD sessions WILL be required to complete the alternate EAP activities. I further understand and agree that the EAP program day may be modified as a result of a failing grade in any course. This may result in my child staying back from the activity and participating in academic remediation in addition to the EAP alternate activity sessions at the discretion of the school's administration.

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7. I understand and agree that the GCES "School Money" system is designed to foster responsible behavior and reward self-control and is a required aspect of enrollment. I further understand that my child must maintain a positive balance in order to participate in the school day. While remedies exist to correct negative balances, these remedies should be judiciously used as a last resort and should not become a pattern. Patterns of extended volunteerism to correct negative balances will result in administrative and guidance referrals with the associated parent conferences. I also understand that my child will be suspended from participation in the regular school day and/or the Experiential Activity Program (EAP) should negative balances be sustained (carried) from one week to the next.

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8. I understand and agree that the GCES Rules and Routines take priority over the Hernando County School Board's Code of Student Conduct. I further understand and agree that Gulf Coast Elementary School does not permit student behavior that disrupts the learning environment and that my child will be removed immediately from the activity and may be suspended from school for one or more days. I also understand and agree that if disruptive behavior on the part of my child becomes a pattern, then a step-based disciplinary approach will be implemented that may result in multiple days of suspension and possible recommendation for removal from GCES and placement in his/her zoned school.

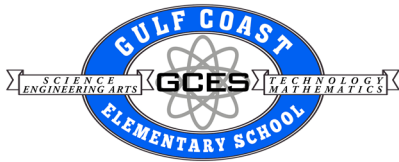
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9. I understand and agree that the GCES Weekly Newsletter will be emailed every Sunday evening and that it is my responsibility to read the Newsletter, and to help my child record the relevant dates and events in their planner. I also understand and agree that my child and I will log in to the GCES INSTRUCTIONAL MOODLE and review each teacher's content in preparation for the upcoming week.

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10. I agree to ensure that my child has prepared for lunch each day by packing a lunch or ordering a lunch from the school on Sunday. I understand that lunches on the Experiential Activity Program (EAP) day must be packed in a small cooler with an ice pack. I further understand and agree to direct my child to notify the school of their lunch choices through the online lunch management system even if they will be bringing a lunch to school as part of their weekly communication responsibility. Students will be charged "school money" when administrative intervention is required to learn of their lunch choices.

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11. I understand that the school has a published, conservative dress-code policy with a standard elementary school uniform that is strictly enforced and agree to ensure that my child's dress, hair styles, hair color, and attire conform to this conservative dress code. I further understand and agree that my child will be placed in an alternative educational environment (i.e. school office) during the period of time that they are out of compliance with the school's dress code.

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12. I understand that state-mandated testing exists in this state and that charter schools are required by the Florida Statutes to ensure that all students are tested. I further understand that the success of the school's educational program and the school's grade are based upon the collective results of this test, **I therefore agree, as a condition of my child's continued attendance at this charter school, to require my child to FULLY PARTICIPATE in the state mandated testing and to encourage them to put forth their best effort.** This includes all FSA tests and any other tests that are required by the state.

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13. I understand that attendance and punctuality are an essential component of my child's education and I agree to adhere to the school's attendance policy. I will only keep my child home from school when he/she is ill and will ensure that, upon recovery, he/she participates in the various teacher clinics and open homework labs until ALL missing work is completed. **I further agree that I will NOT schedule vacations on school days.**

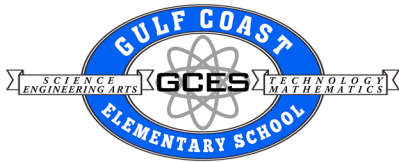
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14. I understand that the charter school requires additional classes for students that score below grade level on standardized and/or teacher tests including "Intensive Reading Class" and/or "Intensive Math Class" and that these classes always take place as part of the Extended School Day (ESD). I agree to ensure participation in these classes should my child qualify for additional instruction or remediation during the extended school day. I understand that should my child not participate in these ESD intensive classes, their EAP day may be withheld so they may complete the Day may be withheld in order to complete the lessons missed during these intensive classes and an alternative EAP assignment will be provided for the EAP grade.

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15. I understand that a signed LIABILITY WAIVER is required for participation in ALL Experiential Activity Program (EAP) trips and activities and that my child will NOT be permitted to participate without this signed waiver.

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16. I understand that the charter elementary school does not require nor desire the students to have cell phones or any electronic device while at school. I further understand that my child may bring a cell phone to school ONLY if used off-campus. I further understand that GCES does NOT allow cell phone usage on campus. I agree to direct my child to follow all school rules regarding the use of cell phones and I also agree to discuss the school cell phone rules with my child prior to allowing them to bring a cell phone (or other electronic device) to school, I also agree to accept the consequences that may result from my child's misuse of these devices.

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A summary of the rules appears below, but this is not a comprehensive list:
CPD = Cell Phone / Electronic Device

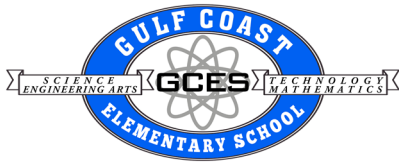
- **CPDs must be turned off when on campus**
- CPDs must never be used in the classroom
- CPDs may never be used to record, photograph, video/audio record or display images
- CPDs may never be used during Experiential Activity Program or on the bus
- CPDs may never be used to view inappropriate media content
- CPDs may never be used to record “selfies” or social media interactive photos
- CPDs may never be used to embarrass a student or staff member
- CPDs may never be used to record another student or take their photograph
- CPDs may never be used to transmit obscene or offensive language
- CPDs may never be used to annoy, threaten, intimidate, offend, or harass another student.
- **CPDs must be invisible while on the school campus.**
- CPDs will be confiscated by school employees and returned ONLY TO THE PARENT / GUARDIAN when a CPD rule violation occurs.

17. I agree to direct my child to attend the Extended School Day clinics and provide transportation as necessary when their grade on ANY progress report drops below a “C” (70%) in ANY graded class. I understand that all classroom teachers will allow my child to “repair” grades that are below a 70% through the additional instruction and remediation that occurs through the extended school day clinics. I understand that it is the responsibility of me and my child to ensure these clinic meetings occur. I understand that “grade repair” is only available for a limited period of time (three weeks) following the assignment's due date.

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18. I understand that the charter school has an advanced, fast-paced, structured curriculum with a nightly homework requirement. I agree to ensure that my child completes their homework requirements including his/her online assignments, novel readings, vocabulary flash cards, mathematics practice problems, and certain special projects. I understand that nightly homework is an essential component of the GCES educational program and will work to ensure that the homework is completed in a timely fashion.

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19. I understand that by enrolling my child in this charter school I am exercising my “School Choice” option and therefore I agree that I will not attempt to supplement this comprehensive educational program with other “School Choice” programs such as the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) , Hernando E-School, K12 online, etc.. In summary, I agree that I will NOT attempt to enroll my child in ANY Virtual School Program or Classes while they are enrolled at GCES. **If I wish for my child to attend the Florida Virtual School, Hernando E-School, K12 or ANY classes offered by these virtual schools, I must first withdraw my child from GCES.**

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20. I understand and agree to support the school’s discipline procedures by allowing my child to immediately and independently fill out a “What Happened” form upon arrival to the office when being referred by a teacher or administration for a possible behavioral infraction.

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21. I understand and agree to support the school’s discipline policies that protect instructional time by removing disruptive students from class and holding disruptive individuals responsible for their behavior. I understand and agree to allow my child to fully participate in this aspect of the discipline process.

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22. For students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), **I understand that an IEP team must convene annually to ensure that the charter school is the best possible placement option in the Least Restricted Environment from the spectrum of services offered by the LEA for the child.** If your child’s IEP specifies an accommodation whereby your child meets with an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teacher, this will take place during the Extended School Day (ESD) and you authorize your child to attend regularly and provide transportation on this/these days as needed.

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23. I understand that the Language Arts and Reading program incorporates the use of various novels. These novels are provided before the school year begins as part of the educational curriculum. These novels are used as the basis of instruction and therefore will not be supplanted, modified or replaced.

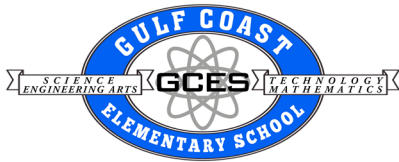
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24. I understand and agree that BOTH custodial parents agree to this charter school placement option OR I, as an individual parent/guardian have full legal authority to make educational placement decisions regarding my child’s elementary school.

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25. I understand placement testing will take place in the summer and I will ensure that my child attends this testing. This testing will take place during the summer.

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26. I understand that this advanced, thematic, inter-disciplinary STEAM and makerspace curriculum includes pivotal projects and activities for each grade level. I further understand that in order for my child to earn a semester grade and advance to the next grade level, all makerspace and STEAM projects must be completed to the satisfaction of the teacher. Otherwise a grade of incomplete will be published on the report card.

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27. I understand that a tracking card may be required of my child should behavioral or academic issues arise. This tracking card will require teacher and parent/guardian signatures on a daily basis and a responsibility consequence will be assessed should the tracking card not be signed. The duration for which the tracking card is implemented will be at the sole discretion of the administration.

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28. I understand that this charter school embraces the elementary school concept which teams one group of students with two teachers for the entire instructional year. The administration will work with the students, teachers and parents to resolve conflicts and circumstances to achieve the best possible outcome, **however we do not change student's teams or teachers.**

Initial Here 28

29. I understand that the new student orientation activities including the New Student Orientation and Parent Orientation are carefully designed as part of the school social and educational program to provide the best avenue for transition to the charter school. Therefore it is **MANDATORY** that you and your child participate in these orientation events.

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30. I understand that this charter school requires participation in a Summer Intensive Reading Program for students who score below grade level on standardized tests. I agree to enlist the charter school as the reading services provider should my child qualify for these reading services under the Step-Up-for-Students **READING** program.

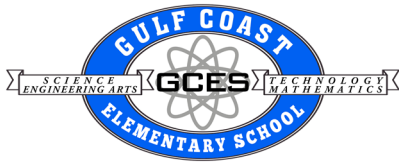
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31. **I understand that school bus transportation to the charter school is limited and at the discretion of the school.** I understand that bus transportation rules are strictly enforced and that a student may be restricted or suspended from the regular/activity bus routes at the discretion of the administration should behavioral issues occur.

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32. **I understand and agree that this charter school has the following expectations:**
- A. GCES students are expected to attend school regularly and complete assignments and earn passing grades in all subjects to avoid retention.
 - B. GCES students are also held to standards of behavior that exemplify respect for classmates and staff and avoid behaviors that detract from the learning environment.
 - C. GCES parents must not provide false information provided on any school record or document.
 - D. Excessive discipline referrals will result in parent meetings with the GCES administration to determine the best placement options available.
 - E. GCES students in the third grade must take and pass the third grade state sponsored reading test or the equivalent to move to the next grade level.

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33. I understand that a waiver for daily physical education will be required as the GCES curriculum will alternate periodically between the Makerspace and Physical Education courses along with a rotational schedule for the Experiential Education Program (EAP).

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34. I understand that participation in the EAP trip is a **privilege** that must be earned through cooperation, respect, appropriate and positive peer interaction, along with sustained academic achievement.

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35. I understand that the EAP program is a series fast paced adventure trips that involves lots of physical activity and I agree that my child has the necessary skills and physical attributes to participate in the aforementioned activities.

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36. I understand that my child must be prepared for the EAP program day with a special EAP backpack, water, lunch with cold pack, pencil, poncho, bug spray & sun screen.

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37. I understand that participant in the EAP program is contingent upon my child following the directions of the EAP staff, keeping with the group, raising their hand to ask a question, staying seated at their table when required and asking permission before going anywhere and adherence to the buddy system.

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38. **I understand that an in-field pickups during the EAP program are not permitted.** In the event my student needs to be picked up, the student will be returned to the school using the school's bus to facilitate the pick up of my child.

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After reading the above assurances numbered 1—38 on the previous pages, my signature below indicates my willingness to comply with the school's rules, routines, procedures, educational program and disciplinary practices summarized in this agreement. I will work collaboratively with the school's administration and teaching staff in their effort to provide my child with a quality elementary school education. I agree to be bound by these policies and procedures and understand that my child's continued enrollment is contingent upon my continued adherence to this agreement.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____