

Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center
Parents' Agreement

We consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to send our child to Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center, and we shall endeavor to support and uphold the principles, practices, and educational policies of the school in every way.

We will attend all parent functions and assist in positively publicizing the school and its programs among friends. We agree to uphold and support the high academic standards of Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center by providing a place at home for our child to study, by giving our child encouragement, and by holding them accountable in the completion of homework and assignments. We realize that a Christian school is not a substitute for the training, fellowship, and discipline of the local church.

We grant permission to the school authorities to discipline our child and to allow whatever disciplinary measures are necessary (NOT to include corporal punishment). We further agree to cooperate by disciplining our child in the home. We understand and agree that our child may be expelled for our violation of any of the terms of this agreement which expressly incorporates the rules, regulations and standards of conduct contained in the material supplied to us with our child's application packet, including the Parent-Student Handbook.

We further understand that our supplying Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center with false information as it relates to our child's application for enrollment may also result in our child's expulsion from Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center.

We agree to be prompt in payment of tuition and fees. We understand that our child may be expelled if proper arrangements are not made to rectify an overdue account. We further agree that any check written which is returned to the school due to insufficient funds or a closed account will be subject to an additional penalty of \$50.00. We agree that our tuition will be set up for automatic withdraw by the due date which is the Friday of the week prior to service. We understand that, if our child is dismissed or withdrawn from Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center, all fees due must be paid in full before the student's records will be released to his/her new school. If there is a move out of driving range of the school (30 mile radius or more), or if HRAELC requires the withdrawal of the student, early withdrawal fees will be waived.

We have read the "Standards for Dress and Appearance" and agree to see to it that our child adheres to the policies set forth therein.

We give permission for our child to take part in all school activities, including extra-curricular sports and school-sponsored trips away from school premises (with notice sent home with my child). We absolve and hold harmless the school from liability to us or our child because of any injury to our child at school or during any school activity.

We recognize that confidence in our child's teachers and school administration is essential. Therefore, we will encourage our child to respect and obey the school staff and administration and to comply with the rules and regulations governing student conduct.

We agree that if our child should become involved in any difficulty with a staff member or another student we will approach the situation with a prayerful, Christian spirit and in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20, with a heart toward reconciliation. In the event the difficulty involves a staff member, we agree not to complain to other parents, but will register only necessary complaints with the appropriate staff member. If, after consultation with the appropriate staff member, the difficulty remains, we understand that we may seek a meeting with the principal on the subject. In the event that the Administration decides to expel my child, I understand that I may petition the School Committee in writing within 10 days of such expulsion, and therein request that the Committee reconsider its decision.

Matthew 18:15-20

⁵ "If your brother or sister^[a] sins,^[b] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.^[c] ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[e] loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Understanding that I Corinthians 6:1-8 admonishes that Christians should not institute civil proceedings against another Christian in secular court, we understand that any cause of action we may have against Hickory Ridge Academy or any of its staff must be submitted to Peacemakers Ministries, 1537 Avenue D, Suite 352, Billings, Montana, for disposition by arbitration or mediation as my/our sole remedial course of action. Any decision reached by a panel established by Peacemakers Ministries being final and not subject to appeal. Under no circumstances, will I/we file suit in a court of otherwise competent jurisdiction, whether federal or state, to dispose of claims, regardless of their nature, that I/we may have against Hickory Ridge Academy or its staff.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? ² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? ⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶ But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

The parties to this agreement/covenant are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, the parties agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to this agreement shall be settled by biblically-based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of the Rules is available at www.HisPeace.org).

Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

We have read the Parents' Agreement set forth above, the material supplied to us with the Application Packet, including the Hickory Ridge Academy Early Learning Center Parent-Student Handbook. I/We understand all that we have read and affirm our agreement with their terms by signing below, intending to be legally bound to the commitments made herein.

Father's Signature: _____ Date : _____

Mother's Signature: _____ Date: _____

For an individual acting in his own right:

in the state of **Virginia** and in the city of **Chesapeake**. The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, _____

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____.