



## Maria Montessori Academy Junior High Agreement

*Our school strives to be a special learning environment. We seek not only to provide the highest, most complete academic environment for each student, but also to form a human community that nurtures an atmosphere of caring and promotes an inclusive social climate. We strive to be a community of adults and adolescents who respect each other's deepest personal and human qualities.*

Following the Montessori philosophy, we have arrived at several goals:

- **Learning-** We define learning in the broadest sense. We ask and expect commitment to each learning area: academic, field study, service, relationships, and community building.
- **Community-** We strive to shape, foster, and nurture relationships that build community.
- **Hard Work-** We value hard work. We respect and appreciate the effort and willingness to meet difficult challenges.
- **Respect-** Manners are an essential aspect of the way we show respect and caring for others. We strive to act with good manners in order that respect for others' feelings and property is obvious.
- **Peace -**We strive to be a community that values the complex global and personal aspects of peace.

Each Maria Montessori Academy Junior High school student, as he/she grows and matures, assumes more responsibility for supporting the values of the community. He/she makes five special promises:

1. **The promise to build community.** This means that students at MMA agree not to form cliques or become dependent on their friends to the exclusion of others. Each MMA student promises to value friendliness, openness, and helpfulness to every other student. Each MMA student promises to act in ways that demonstrate the above stated values to others. This promise also includes following school policies and classroom expectations.
2. **The promise to be guided in the dealings with others by the principle of human-heartedness.** We make a commitment to value and respect each other as individuals. Students at MMA promise to strive to understand the special personal and human qualities of others.
3. **The promise to prioritize for academic success.** Students at MMA are expected to come to school on time and ready learn. This also includes setting aside one hour on school nights at least 5 nights a week for study, reading and the completion of homework on time. Each MMA student is expected to work hard at meeting its educational challenges.
4. **The promise to participate in unique learning opportunities offered at MMA (such as field studies and student-led conferences) with a positive attitude and vigor.** Students at MMA understand that overnight field experiences are unique requirements to MMA and serve to fulfill Maria Montessori's vision of learning beyond the classroom. MMA students are expected to participate in preparation activities as well as actual events, which may extend the regular school day into evenings and weekends.
5. **The promise to participate in community service.** This means that students at MMA are expected to fulfill ten hours of community service, or five hours per semester, and to submit written documentation attesting to this service. Service hours are to be completed in a variety of settings beyond school hours, serving the family, the school, or the broader community. Students should expect to receive no financial compensation; service is to be completed for the benefit of others rather than of self.

We each agree to work diligently to meet all the terms of this agreement. Upon signing this agreement students, parents and teachers are agreeing to support the above goals and promises. Students who do not consistently live up to the promises of this agreement are advised to select another school that better suits their preferences.

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Teacher Signature