



CORE BELIEFS OF THE GREENWOOD LEARNING COMMUNITY

GreenWood Charter School is an innovative educational endeavor developed and operated collaboratively by educators, parents, students, and the larger community. Our learning community is inspired by a love of children and a commitment to the greater good, both of which shape our decisions and our practice. As a school community, we share the following beliefs about teaching and learning: *We believe that at GreenWood we should...*

- Provide a safe social learning environment that supports growth of Student Seedlings to become integral members of the classroom, where caring Teacher Trees to ensure the progress of each child.
- Inspire students to be social learners, with the ability and desire to follow paths of inquiry, seek knowledge and understanding, think critically, communicate effectively, act creatively and responsibly.
- Foster understanding of, respect for, and responsibility toward their environment: inside or out, at home or at school.
- Encourage students to take risks in setting and achieving goals, to strive for their personal best, and to make healthy choices.
- Nurture the development of caring and compassionate community members through self- reflection, service to others, relationship building, and collaboration.
- Embrace diversity as it supports children and other members in discovering their inherent self- worth and developing their individual gifts.
- Challenge students to make meaningful connections and grasp the big picture through a hands-on, project-based, integrated curriculum that fosters motivation and responsibility for learning.

Our GROW GreenWood Commitments

The GROW GreenWood Commitments explains the responsibilities of our students, our parents, our teachers, and our School. It is by these commitments and our devotion to our responsibility to the growing of GreenWood that our students and families will flourish and provide for the future growth of GreenWood.



Students are seedlings

The pathway for a seedling to grow into a tree requires careful nurturing.



Teachers are the trees

We model for our students flexibility and responsiveness to learning.



Administration & Expeditionary Learning provides the water

May our vision and love flow to our seedlings with the promise of the future.



Parents provide the sunlight

Brighten our path and support our way with your care and radiance.

GreenWood Charter School believes that education takes place at home, at school, at play and in the community. We believe families should be actively engaged in the education of their children. It is with the GROW GreenWood Commitments that we families and school staff commit to be mutually supportive, working together to enhance each child's development and accept certain responsibilities as partners in this educational endeavor.

Our GROW Commitments are not just philosophy, but an expectation of initial and continued enrollment. As a charter school, governed by a volunteer Board, GreenWood can only exist if everyone invests in its growth and supports its mission. We created this school and we are collectively committed to its success. GROW Commitments includes responsibilities to be involved in the education of our Student Seedlings, and a request that all families support the overall growth of the school through volunteerism:

- We work to continuously improve achievements of staff and students alike. We value, above all else, the nurturing of student growth. We recognize that we are the primary keepers of our school's mission.
- In all our actions, we demonstrate that we are continuous learners, sometimes vulnerable, yet skilled in and committed to critical self-appraisal and improvement of individual and community performance.
- We behave, and expect to behave with integrity in our relationships with one another, students, parents, and the greater community.

Responsibilities of GreenWood Charter School:

- To provide a holistic child-centered education that fulfills the goals expressed in the school's Mission Statement and exemplifies the school's Core Beliefs.
- To comply with all state and federal guidelines and requirements regarding school practices and to provide information about the qualifications of a child's teacher to all parents who request it.
- To notify all parents whose children are taught by teachers who are not highly qualified according to state guidelines.
- To include parents and other stakeholders in the design, planning, and implementation of school improvement activities.

Responsibilities of the Family (The Sun):

I will give of my energy to GreenWood Charter School to lighten the learning path and brighten the school day for both student and staff member.

1. I will model attitudes and behaviors that support the GreenWood mission by:

- Volunteering an hour a week: in the classroom, on a Parent Crew, or making arrangements to do work for your student's teacher from home.
- Inspiring literacy by reading myself and with my child 20 minutes each day.
- Showing respect to the teachers and GreenWood staff by work and deed, both at school and away from school.
- Modeling effective conflict resolution by handling concerns appropriately, directly, and honestly, only with those involved.

2. I will show respect for the importance of school by having students:

- Arrive on time and remain the full length of the school day.
- Comply with the school calendar for vacations or complete an educational leave request and get it approved at least two weeks in advance of child's absence.
- Attend to everyday health and nutritional needs, including an hour of exercise, 3 structured meals and 5 fruits and vegetables.
- Balance activities outside of school and school responsibilities.

- Attending Student-led Conferences to obtain detailed information about my child's strengths, weaknesses and progress and fulfilling agreements made at those conferences.
- Providing home consequences for inappropriate behaviors that interfere with learning or the well-being of all students.
- Cooperating with specific requests of the school to ensure appropriate student behavior and/or an appropriate academic program for your child.

3. I will enhance student learning by:

- Reading, discussing and signing the learning log/planner daily, thereby staying informed and connected to GreenWood while demonstrating to your child that you are interested in his/her progress and learning and that what they do matters to you.
- Encouraging my child and praising him/her for their effort, including doing his/her best.
- Spending time with my child so that his/her emotional needs are met and he/she can focus on learning.
- Insuring that your child has proper rest, nutrition and recreation to promote well-being and readiness to learn.
- Working with my student to integrate the GreenWood Prescription for Health Guidelines into our family and complete the weekly Feedback Forms for the school to collect this data

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Responsibilities of the GreenWood Charter School Staff (The Trees):

We are Trees, modeling for our Student Seedlings mindfulness, responsiveness and flexibility to grow our GreenWood forest.

1. I will hold my expectations high for all student, believing that all students can learn by:

- Providing high-quality instruction in a supportive and nurturing environment.
- Providing meaningful homework when appropriate to give my students extended skill practice or to prepare them for deeper learning.
- Communicate consistently with students and families regarding student growth.
- Developing a strong classroom-family connection for parents to assist in my classroom in meaningful ways.
- Preparing lessons consistent with our mission that are interesting and challenging to promote student growth.

2. I will be a positive and passionate spokesperson for my GreenWood Grove and stay true to the school's vision, mission and school design of Expeditionary Learning;

- recognize and respect the rights of students;
- provide fair and equal opportunities for all students;
- maintain an orderly classroom;
- align curriculum planning, instruction, and assessment with standards deemed important by the State of Utah and GREENWOOD Charter School;
- follow through with discipline situations reasonably, fairly, patiently, and without provocation;
- communicate with families honestly about their child's progress and any significant changes in achievement and/or character;
- participate in helping to identify and resolve school-related concerns;
- serve as positive role models for students; and
- comply with school policies, rules, regulations, and directives.

3. I will create a safe and positive school environment by:

- Designing policies and procedures which stimulate learning.
- Treating each student with respect and kindness.
- Modeling an interest in learning, community service, and good citizenship.
- Communicating honestly and frequently regarding student progress and fulfillment of responsibilities.
- Rewarding appropriate behavior and academic achievement.
- Acting as a mediator to resolve conflicts.
- Working with the school community and greater community to ensure excellence for all students.

Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____

Responsibilities of the Administration:

I support this compact therefore I will:

- Provide an equitable learning environment for all children.
- Encourage the staff to provide parents with information about the total school program.
- Encourage our staff to provide avenues for positive and meaningful parent involvement.
- Schedule annual parent-teacher conferences for parents of children to attend.
- Provide reasonable parent access to staff members.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for parents to volunteer in their child's classroom.
- If needed and reasonable, provide parents opportunities to observe classroom activities.
- Encourage and train the staff to always strive for excellence.
- Ensure that there are opportunities to build community.
- Support the parent(s)/guardian(s) so that they can give their best to the students.
- Act as a mediator to resolve conflicts.
- Inform parent(s)/guardian(s) of any violation of the Partnership Agreement or student disciplinary problems.
- Teach and encourage student behaviors which promote learning, compassion, and integrity.
- Work as a part of a team to assist students with special needs.
- Bring new resources and ideas to continuously improve GreenWood.
- Ensure the accomplishment of the mission of GreenWood by creating a safe, orderly, challenging, and nurturing learning environment.

To ensure that there is:

- A climate which supports learning.
- A cohesive curriculum which adheres to our charter agreement.
- Effective communication.

Responsibilities of the Students (The Seedlings):

At GreenWood I reach towards the light of my Family Sun, looking to the model of my Teacher Tree for support and guidance that I may grow taller and stronger every day.

I will:

- Be kind.
- Practice mindfulness as I make healthy choices in work, play, food, and friendships.
- Attend school regularly and on time.
- Ask for help when I need assistance.
- Be prepared to learn with supplies, applicable homework and appropriate clothing.
- Work to the best of my ability.
- Work cooperatively with classmates, teachers and staff.
- Accept responsibility for my own actions.
- Help to grow GreenWood!

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____