



# The Genesee Community Charter School Celebrating Our Caring Community

## Welcome to our school community!

You come to the Genesee Community Charter School for many reasons – to learn, to make friends, to explore new places and ideas. In order to have a safe and caring school community, it is very important that each student treat others at the school, including students, teachers, staff, and parents, with consideration and respect. To help you get a better idea of what is expected of you and the way you interact with others while at GCCS, please read and talk about this Caring Community Plan with your family.

Our design principles help form our school culture and have become the very “roots” of Expeditionary Learning (the full text of the EL Design Principles is attached):

**Primacy of Self Discovery:** “I am here to discover what I can do.”

**Empathy & Caring:** “I care for others; others care for me.”

**The Natural World:** “Nature is our teacher.”

**Solitude & Reflection:** “I need time to be with myself.”

**Diversity & Inclusion:** “Our differences make us stronger.”

**Collaboration & Competition:** “We work together as friends; I compete with myself.”

**Responsibility for Learning:** “I am responsible for my learning, and I help others learn.”

**The Having of Wonderful Ideas:** “I have wonderful ideas.”

**Service & Compassion:** “We do excellent things for others.”

**Success & Failure:** “Success is sweet, but failure is good food.”

At GCCS, we have seven Character Traits that are at the core of our school culture. As our school has grown, we have begun to define these traits as a way to become more successful as students, friends, and community members. These traits are:

**Courage:** “I step out of my comfort zone.”

- ☆ I accept my fears yet keep trying.
- ☆ I stand up for others even if it unpopular.
- ☆ I take risks in order to learn.

**Responsibility:** “I do what I am supposed to do.”

- ☆ I am ready for learning
- ☆ I make choices with others in mind.
- ☆ I can complete a task with quality.

**Initiative:** “I take action when something needs to be done.”

- ☆ I speak up for myself and share my ideas.
- ☆ I do my part to help our community.
- ☆ I make connections and try to learn more.

**Perseverance:** “I keep trying.”

- ☆ I keep going even when I’m tired or something is hard.
- ☆ I have patience and do what I can to help my crew move forward.
- ☆ I strive to do good work.

**Collaboration:** “I work with others.”

- ☆ I contribute my ideas and listen to others.
- ☆ I join with others to create work that is beyond what I could create on my own.
- ☆ I work with others to achieve a common outcome.

**Compassion:** “I am kind.”

- ☆ I am kind to myself.
- ☆ I show kindness towards others.
- ☆ I can learn from points of view other than my own.

**Gratitude:** “I am thankful.”

- ☆ I am grateful for all that I have.
- ☆ I say thank you when someone does or says something nice.
- ☆ I appreciate the opportunities I have at GCCS.

If you are unsure how to behave in any situation, ask yourself the following questions to determine if your actions support the values of the Genesee Community Charter School:

**Is it safe?**

Think about the safety of yourself and others. There is some risk in many things we do. Ask yourself: **Am I being responsible? Am I going to hurt myself or someone else by my actions?**

**Is it kind?**

Think about how others want to be treated. Choose your words and actions so that they protect the feelings of others. Ask yourself: **How am I treating others and how will my actions make them feel?**

**Is it appropriate?**

Appropriate means that an action is acceptable for a particular person, place, or condition. What may be appropriate at home may not be appropriate at school. What is appropriate on the playground may not be appropriate in the hallway. Ask yourself: **Are my actions appropriate to where I am, who I am with, and the conditions that surround me?**

**Zero Tolerance Policy**

Our school has a zero-tolerance policy regarding harmful physical contact. This is our most serious rule. Harmful and aggressive behaviors such as hitting, scratching, pushing, kicking, and other forms of hurtful physical contact are strictly forbidden and are cause for immediate action by your teacher or another adult in the building. This could mean you may be sent home or suspended from school for your actions. In addition, ongoing teasing and other forms of bullying are grounds for immediate adult attention and possibly suspension. Upon suspension, or if you are sent home early for other disciplinary reasons, your parents must pick you up as soon as possible.

**Bullying**

Bullying is a *pattern* of mean behavior that may include spreading rumors, keeping certain people out of a group, teasing or name-calling, making looks or sounds of contempt, breaking promises, or encouraging others to do these things. These behaviors are also grounds for adult intervention and possibly suspension.

All members of our community have a right to feel safe, and you need to know that harming others is never OK. As a member of our school community, the above expectations will help guide you.

**The Caring Community Commitment**

Now you are asked to sign a commitment supporting our Caring Community Plan. By signing, you are making a serious promise to follow our design principles and our character trait. You are an important part of our school community. The school and your family will do everything we can to help you learn and grow as a member of our community.



# **Genesee Community Charter School**

---

## **Caring Community Commitment**

**2019-2020**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the Genesee Community Charter School's Caring Community Plan and have talked about it with my family. I promise to follow these expectations in my words and actions. In doing so, I will help make my school a safe and caring learning environment. If I do not follow these expectations, others will help me understand why they are important for me and the entire school. I understand that there may be consequences (loss of privileges, family conferences, suspension or expulsion) if I fail to follow these expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read and discussed the Genesee Community Charter School's Caring Community Plan with my child. I agree to support these expectations and the discipline policies of the Genesee Community Charter School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date