

Discovery School



Standing Rules

Revised for 2020 - 2021

“At Discovery School we learn as we play and play as we learn.”

www.mydiscoveryschool.com

210-344-3472

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Previous Revisions: 2019, 2017, 2016, 2010, 2006, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1997, 1995

These are the Standing Rules of the Discovery School of San Antonio. The Standing Rules may be superseded by a vote of the Board of Directors if circumstances arise that require deviation from the rules stated in this document.

1 Tuition

1.1 Tuition Payments

- A. Tuition fees include all fees incurred during the given month (e.g. extended day, cultural arts, monthly tuition) and retroactively for early and late care, drop-ins and any other outstanding balances incurred during the school term.
- B. Tuition checks shall be given to the Office Manager by adults only.
- C. Any returned checks shall incur a \$25 fee for each occurrence.
- D. An automatic payment plan can be set up with the Office Manager.
- E. In July, you will receive an invoice for ½ month's August tuition and an \$80.00 activity fee, which will be due by August 10.

1.2 Tuition Penalties

Discovery School's program is a non-profit organization, which operates primarily on the tuition fees from each child. Therefore, it is essential that your fees be paid promptly and regularly. As such, the following penalties will be enforced:

- A. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. Payments received after the 10th of the month are considered late. Late payments will be penalized \$25 per tuition invoice, per month, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- B. Any child picked up over fifteen minutes late will be charged a minimum of one hour at the extended care rate, which is invoiced the following month.
- C. Past Due Accounts: Discovery School shall use the following procedures to address accounts with past due balances:
 - 1. A *written warning* will be included on/with any invoices that have an outstanding balance over 30 days. If an account goes over 30 days past due, the individual(s) will be required to meet with the Office Manager.
 - 2. Failure to make payment arrangements will result in a *letter of withdrawal* sent from the Executive Board at 40 days past due and withdrawal of student(s) at 45 days. The position will no longer be guaranteed (it may be filled from the waiting list, at the Director's discretion). If the account is brought up-to-date and the position is still

available, the child may return. In this case, the tuition for the period the child is withdrawn will still be due and must be paid before the child can return to school.

- D. *All account balances must be paid by June 1.* No family shall be re-enrolled for the coming year that has an outstanding balance on June 1. Any previously registered spots will be forfeited. No family will be allowed to enroll in summer camp that still has an outstanding balance on June 1 until the balance is paid in full.
- E. The Office Manager and a member of the Financial Committee must approve any exceptions to the above procedure.

1.3 Discounts

- A. Staff shall receive a discount of 5% per day per number of days worked in the week (example: 3 days = 15%).
- B. No discounts shall be given on supply fees.
- C. Registration fee will be waived for staff members.

1.4 Withdrawal of Student

- A. One month's written notice prior to withdrawal is required. If a child is withdrawn without the 30 days' written notice, one month's tuition will be due.
- B. The month's tuition is not returned or prorated.
- C. Tuition payments are required during temporary withdrawal to hold the student's spot in class. Non-payment could result in the student's spot being filled from the waiting list.
- D. The Office Manager and a member of the Financial Committee must approve any exceptions to the above procedure.

2 Registration/School Fees/Required Forms

2.1 Registration

- A. Registration for the following school year shall begin on the first school day in February. Order of registration is as follows:
 - 1st – Current Discovery School families
 - 2nd – Alumni families

3rd – Families on current waiting lists

4th – New families shall register on the first school day of March

- B. A new family must pay a *\$50 non-refundable* processing fee in order to be placed on the Discovery School waiting list. If you receive a spot, your \$50 wait list fee will be credited towards your registration fee.
- C. For current and alumni families: A *registration fee of \$200* will be collected at the time of registration for the first registered child; the second child residing at the same physical address will have a registration fee of \$100. Any additional children will have a registration fee of \$50 each. These fees are non-refundable.
- D. For new families: A *registration fee of \$250* will be collected at the time of registration for the first registered child; the second child residing at the same physical address will have a registration fee of \$100. Any additional children will have a registration fee of \$50 each. These fees are non-refundable.
- E. For waitlisted families: A *registration fee of \$200* will be collected at the time of registration for the first registered child; the second child residing at the same physical address will have a registration fee of \$100. Any additional children will have a registration fee of \$50 each. This is the new family registration fee, minus the \$50 waitlist fee credit. These fees are non-refundable.
- F. All required paperwork must be completed, signed, and turned in with the appropriate registration fee before the family is considered fully registered for the upcoming school year.
- G. Current school families *will not* be allowed to register if a balance over 30 days exists on their account.

2.2 Supply and Activity Fees

- A. The supply fee is equal to one month's tuition of the class being registered for. Each child within a family registered will need to pay a supply fee; there are no discounts for multiple children for this fee. Likewise, scholarships are not awarded for supply fees.
- B. The supply fee is ***due by June 1***. If the supply fee is not paid by the due date, it will result in cancellation of the registration and the registered spot will be lost and filled from the waiting list.
- C. The activity fee is \$80.00. Each child within a family registered will need to pay an activity fee; there are no discounts for multiple children for this fee. Likewise, scholarships are not awarded for activity fees. The activity fee is due with the August half month tuition.
- D. Supply and activity fees are non-refundable, unless otherwise specified by the school.

2.3 Credit Card Transactions

- A. Credit cards are only accepted for Benefit and Carnival purchases.

2.4 Monthly Statements

- A. Monthly statements will reflect recurring and school-initiated fees and can be paid by check, cash, or auto-debit.
- B. Auxiliary purchases such as, but not limited to pizza lunch, t-shirts, field trips applied to account will incur an additional flat fee of \$3.00 per item.
- C. If the account is not paid in full by the 10th of the month, they will inherit an additional \$25.00 late fee.

2.5 Required Forms

The following are forms that must be signed and on file in the office for a child to attend class:

- A. Health Form with appropriate physician signature. This form is due no later than September 30 for **each** year of attendance. Any student without a completed form will not be allowed to return to class until the office has received a completed form for the current school year.
- B. Permission to access files (only once for each student)
- C. Personal Profile (one for each student, updated yearly)
- D. School Policy Notification (one per family)

3 Scholarships

3.1 Scholarship Selection

- A. The Scholarship Committee shall consist of the Office Manager, President of the Board, Treasurer and the Treasurer elect. The Scholarship Committee may seek outside consultation when they deem it necessary.
- B. The Scholarship Committee shall use income eligibility guidelines and a sliding tuition discount scale to determine scholarship awards. Income eligibility shall be determined using current year federal poverty guidelines, family income, and family size. Documentation of family income shall include prior year tax return and current year pay stub. The sliding discount scale will be determined each year based on the amount of scholarship funds available, the number of families eligible to receive a scholarship, and the total scholarship dollars requested.

- C. Anonymity of the applicants will be maintained during the application and award process.
- D. The decision to grant scholarship monies rests solely with the Scholarship Committee. The School Director will not hear appeals regarding amounts awarded or decisions made by the committee.

3.2 Scholarship Application

- A. All applications shall be made to the Scholarship Committee by April 1.
- B. All information submitted will remain confidential.
- C. Applications must be completed in their entirety with all requested documentation attached to the application, in order to be considered. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- D. Two exceptions to the April 1 deadline are the following:
 - a. Students from the waiting list, who are accepted after April 1. In this case the family will have *15 days* from the time the position is accepted to submit the application.
 - b. A family who suffers an extreme circumstance (such as a serious illness, a divorce, a death, or loss of employment that directly impacts the student's family) may submit an application to the scholarship committee to be reviewed.

3.3 Scholarship Recipients

- A. All scholarship recipients shall be required to volunteer 1 hour per month, at Discovery School, for each \$50 in scholarship money received per month. The scholarship committee will maintain definitions of what constitutes volunteer hours.
- B. It is the scholarship recipients' responsibility to seek out opportunities to volunteer and to keep all hours recorded in the **Track It Forward App set up by the Board Treasurer.**
- C. Scholarship hours must be worked in the month prior to the funds being disbursed. In the event a scholarship recipient does not work the required hours by month's end, they will forfeit their scholarship money for the next month. Once lost, the funds cannot be reinstated. However, the loss of funds for one month will not affect any future months. Ex. A family receiving a scholarship of \$150 a month will be asked to work three hours a month. That family will work three hours in August in order to earn the \$150 scholarship for September. If the family fails to work three hours in August, no scholarship will be awarded on the September statement. This event will have no bearing on eligibility for future scholarship funds.

4 School Policies

4.1 Prospective/New Families

- A. An information packet shall be given to all prospective families. The information packet shall contain a portion of the Discovery School Handbook, an accreditation flier, a Discovery School brochure, and a Tuition and Fee Schedule.
- B. Each newly enrolled family shall receive a digital copy of the Discovery School Handbook, and the Standing Rules.

4.2 Parent Involvement

Because Discovery School is a parent owned cooperative, parental involvement is essential to the continued existence and success of the school. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in several of the following ways:

- Board Member
- Parent Club Member
- Room Parent
- Participate in Fundraising Activities
- Chairperson (Pizza Lunch Coordinator, Parent Club Coordinator, Box Tops Coordinator)
- General Membership meetings, held at least twice a year
- Executive Board Member

4.3 Community Relations

- A. Public interest announcements are permitted in the newsletter on a space available basis.
- B. The School shall consider giving charitable donations or gifts on an individual basis with School Director and Executive Board approval.

4.4 Class Visitation

- A. Age appropriate houseguests of Discovery School parents may attend class with prior permission of both the School Director and the teacher, with payment of \$10.00 per hour or a minimum of \$25.00.
- B. A child may only attend the class for which he/she is registered . A registered child may attend a class on a day in which he/she is not registered for on a one-time basis only with prior

arrangements made with the teacher and director. The appropriate class drop-in fees will be applied to the monthly tuition statement.

4.5 Babysitting

To accommodate volunteer parents and staff members the school will arrange to provide for childcare services for Board Meetings and Staff meetings with the following restrictions:

- A. Only board members' children shall be cared for during Board Meetings.
- B. Only staff members' children shall be cared for during Staff Meetings.

4.6 Field Trips

- A. A child under 8 years old must be restrained in a child safety seat in accordance to current State Law. Parent and driver preferences will be honored beyond the legal requirements.
- B. Field trips shall be scheduled, preferably, on days other than board meetings.
- C. The school in most cases shall underwrite the cost of field trips; if not, a maximum of 50% may be requested from the parents.
- D. The parent driving and chaperoning other students will have their fees covered by the school in most cases.
- E. Parents attending, but not driving other students, will need to pay their own way. This would also include any guest children, if so allowed.

5 School Expenditures

- A. Board members may seek reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of Discovery School business with receipts, excluding taxes.
- B. Room Parents may seek reimbursement for approved expenses incurred as part of the Room Parent Activities with receipts, excluding taxes.
- C. Gifts to departing personnel and gifts given on behalf of Discovery School shall be decided on an individual basis, at the discretion of the Board.
- D. The Director is authorized to spend or contract for single expenditures up to \$2,500. The Board of Directors will approve all expenditures and contracts exceeding \$2,500.

6 Social Media Best Practices

Members of the Parent Body are personally responsible for the content they publish, like, comment on, or re-post. Online behavior should reflect the same standards of honesty and respect as within the classroom and philosophy of Discovery School including its confidentiality policy. We ask that all members of our community be a positive representative of Discovery School.

Regarding Social Media posts: Parents should not post photos of or mention children other than their own on social media without permission from the other child(ren)'s parent.

We ask that parents or guardians make complaints through official school channels.

7 Grievance Procedure

The Discovery School Board of Directors encourages a healthy dialogue between teachers, parents, and administrators. It is our hope that members of our school community speak freely about concerns or grievances in an attempt to resolve them informally. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow an early and satisfactory resolution.

However, if an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach a satisfactory outcome, the concerned party (any person who is aggrieved by any action of the school, be it parent or employee) may initiate a formal grievance process described below. The formal complaint may be withdrawn at any time.

- A. The first step in the grievance process is to schedule a conference with the lead teacher to discuss any concern related to the classroom. If the grievance is unrelated to the teacher or classroom then a conference with the Director should be arranged, see step C.
- B. If a resolution does not result at the parent/teacher conference, a conference with the Director should be arranged.
- C. Arrangements for a conference with the Director should be made within three (3) school days from the date of the parent/teacher conference or grievance. The Director will set the date of the conference. After the conference, which the student is not required to attend and the teacher may or may not attend at the discretion of the Director, the Director shall make a decision about the complaint.
- D. If not satisfied with the decision of the Director, the complainant has five (5) school days to make a written request for a conference with the Grievance Committee, whose role is to act as a mediator. The request should be directed to the School Board President, with a copy to the Director. The School Board President will convene a Grievance Committee which will consist at a minimum of the Board President, an impartial teacher, and another impartial board member. The School Board President will set a date for a conference with all parties present within seven

(7) days of receiving a written request. The committee acting as mediator will help define the problem, review the action so far and suggest further ways in which it might be resolved. The committee will keep all discussion confidential and will keep an agreed written record of the meetings that are held and of any advice given.

- E. A final decision will be rendered by the Grievance Committee within seven (7) school days from the date of the conference. The decision of the Grievance Committee on any grievance of any nature whatsoever, brought by any person or group, shall be and is final.