



CODE OF HONOR

Please complete one Code of Honor Agreements form per family.

Moral character is the cornerstone of our educational model. In order to properly reason and make the best decision, one must be able to discern what is good, beautiful, and true. Virtue requires a trained mind and a benevolent heart, uniting our ability to reason with our passions.

Our five virtues are the guiding principles used to foster character: valor, responsibility, perseverance, goodness, and friendship. Students, staff, parents, and volunteers are expected to conduct themselves honorably in word and deed, to live by the virtues, and to encourage others to do so.

Valor: *Valor is courage, strength, and bravery. It is the ability to stand for oneself and choose what is right and good, even when a different decision may lead to an easier path. I pledge to be courageous in choice and conduct, to display valor in pursuit of good, beauty, and truth.*

Responsibility: *Responsibility is a core tenet in a character of excellence. It guides students to take ownership of action and learning, to do what is difficult but right, even if the task is not theirs to complete. Responsibility links to deadlines, assignments, study, and civic mindedness. It prepares students for a world where self-discipline, accountability, and quality of work are not only expected, but required. I pledge to be responsible in conduct, academia, extra-curricular activities, relationships, and civic activity.*

Perseverance: *Perseverance encompasses grit, determination, and tenacity. It emboldens students to continue when it may be easier to quit or give in to unproductive habit. I pledge to practice perseverance in my goals, responsibilities, character, and choices for good, beauty, and truth.*

Goodness: *Goodness is kindness, beauty, and generosity. It is an exercise of compassion and integrity, even when unobserved. It is an excellence of quality, not only of character but of expression, works, and decisions. I pledge to pursue goodness and act accordingly to bring goodness to others.*

Friendship: *Friendship is the active cultivation of meaningful, trusting, and joyful relationships. It is beyond being friendly. Friends support one another to engage in what is good and right. A friendship encourages people to hope the best for each other, to promote spirits, and to foster happy hearts. Nourishing friendships empower human beings to thrive, even during challenging or discouraging times. I pledge to not only be friendly, but to be a true friend as is described herein.*

Merit Academy students, staff, and volunteers strive to be virtuous in conduct, to cultivate scholarship, and to practice civic responsibility. Merit Academy students, staff, and volunteers will not lie, cheat, or steal, and will discourage others from such actions.

Please keep this Code of Honor for review and discussion throughout the student's school year.

Parents and respective Merit Academy children/students: please sign and date the agreements on the following page.



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Merit Academy Parent/Guardian Agreement 2021-2022:

I have discussed the Merit Academy Code of Honor with my child/children, and he/she/they understand(s) what it means. I pledge to encourage my child/children to be virtuous in conduct, to cultivate his/her/their scholarship, and to foster his/her/their practice of civic responsibility. I will hold my child/children to the highest standards of integrity and will discourage him/her/them from lying, cheating, or stealing. I have also read the Parent/Student Handbook and commit to the policies, guidelines, and expectations therein.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Merit Academy Student Agreement 2021-2022:

I understand the Merit Academy Code of Honor and have discussed it with my parent(s)/guardian(s). I pledge to be virtuous in conduct, to cultivate scholarship, and practice civic responsibility. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and I will discourage others from doing so. I have also read the Parent/Student Handbook and commit to the policies, guidelines, and expectations therein.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Grade: _____

