

## Portland Village School Statement of Understanding

The Portland Village School is a unique learning environment that differs significantly from a traditional public school. We ask that you affirm your understanding and support of the following policies and concepts.

### ***A Spirit of Parent Involvement***

I understand PVS is a new school that needs the enthusiasm and support of its parent body to flourish. I will help out as I am able with projects such as painting, landscaping, woodworking, fundraising, helping in the front office, or simply bringing flowers for the classroom.

### ***A Holistic Approach to Academics***

I understand that the school's educational model involves a holistic approach to children by engaging them intellectually, emotionally and physically. This means my child will receive a rich tapestry of art, music, and movement instruction. In kindergarten and the early grades academics will be introduced through song and story; there will be minimal, if any, worksheets, drills, or homework.

### ***A No-frills Building***

Our school building offers eight large airy classrooms with plenty of light, an area for play and gardening and a large public park nearby. It does NOT have a gymnasium, cafeteria, or auditorium. While we hope to eventually add these things, for our first year or two we will need to make do with nearby venues for our whole-school events.

### ***A Dress Code Focused on Simplicity***

Portland Village School strives to provide an environment where students focus on learning not on clothing. While we do not require uniforms, we ask that parents send their children to school in plain clothes free of logos, cartoons, violent or other distracting visual images. Students' clothing and shoes should be warm, simple, and appropriate for daily indoor and outdoor active play. Each child will need rain gear as we will be outdoors in all types of weather.

### ***Media Free Kindergarten and Early Grades***

At Portland Village School we have chosen to avoid the use of technological tools of instruction at the younger grades (overhead projector, VCR, television, computers, videos, computer games). Our objective is to foster children's direct experience of the world. Please support this commitment by limiting your child's screen time (television, computers, etc.) to non-school days.

### ***Food***

At Portland Village School we emphasize healthy life-long eating habits. Students may bring a healthy morning snack and lunch from home, purchase lunch at school, or enroll in the free and reduced priced lunch program. Please refrain from sending soda, gum, or candy. We will be pursuing the option of a hot lunch and breakfast in the future.

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*Parent Name (Please Print)*

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*Student's Last Name*

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*First Name*

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*Grade*

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Parent Signature

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Date