



## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

**The Opportunity Charter School will:**

**1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:**

### **Overview of Curriculum**

All staff receives training in the Framework for Effective Instruction (FEI), which is the school's research-based instructional model for all lesson and unit planning. Using this framework, students hone their higher order thinking skills and adopt learning strategies to help them access content at all grade levels. Students are assessed using the Scantron Performance Series every nine (9) weeks in Reading and Math.

Middle school students are instructed in a Humanities block with co-teaching and co-planning occurring in English, Social Studies & Science. Science and math teachers work together to create effective Science labs.

OCS provides a rigorous curriculum aligned to the New York State Standards with a particular emphasis on individualizing education to meet students' needs. For students who need acceleration and advanced curriculum, honors classes are offered. All high school classes focus on preparing students to pass the New York State Regents exams and getting students ready for college and career. For those who are struggling, the school offers remediation and additional instructional support throughout the school day and extended day programs. For instance, in the high school, there are extensive opportunities for credit recovery for students who need additional support to receive course credits. Online learning and independent studies are also offered to help students meet course requirements for graduation.

### **Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) & Therapeutic Crisis Intervention**

The OCS system of behavior management includes PBIS. In using PBIS, the school focuses on creating and sustaining school-wide classroom and individual systems of support which will improve the students' ability to behave appropriately and meet school-wide expectations.

We ask students to adhere to the school's six (6) expectations (Tolerance, Organization, Responsibility, Respect, Cooperation, and Hard Working). Students who repeatedly do not comply with these expectations will face appropriate disciplinary action.

As students meet these expectations, the school recognizes them by rewarding them with a "TORRCH" card. Students collect these cards and may exchange them for items in the school store. Students are nominated by staff and recognized as "Students of the Week" and receive a pizza party. They are acknowledged throughout the year in other ways as well.

OCS trains all staff members in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, (TCI), a crisis prevention and behavior management system. TCI allows the school to provide structure while ensuring the safety and trust of all staff and students, while also promoting social, emotional and academic growth.

*Your progress. Our passion.*



# *The Opportunity Charter School*

240 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10026

Telephone: 212-866-6137 Fax: 212-665-7436

*Leonard Goldberg*  
CEO / Head of School

*Marya Baker*  
Principal

Behavior specialists who are trained in TCI are positioned throughout the school to assist teachers and students. Their intervention helps students return to a normal state of functioning as quickly as possible.

**2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.** Specifically those conferences will be held:

December 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>

February 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>

**3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress.** Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:

Progress reports are officially distributed halfway through every quarter. Some classes distribute progress reports every week.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are issued four times a year at the end of each of the following four quarters:

1<sup>st</sup> quarter November 26, 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter January 31, 2013

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter April 5, 2013

4<sup>th</sup> quarter Mailed Out

Parents are asked to come into the school during report card distribution times to retrieve their child's report card and to meet with their child's teachers. All report cards not picked up by parents/guardians are mailed home within the week.

Parent-teacher conferences are an important part of the learning process as they give families the opportunity to have a formal and individualized discussion about the student's progress. Parents are encouraged to attend all conferences that are held.

**4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff.** Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

Parents and visitors are always welcome to visit us. All visitors must show ID and report to the school's Main Office (room 406) to sign in. Visitors will receive a Visitors pass indicating where they can go in the

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school. This procedure enables us to minimize disruption to our program and to ensure a degree of safety for our students. The office is open between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Parents can make an appointment with the Principal or other instructional staff via email or phone to speak about their child's progress. They are also welcome to drop in for a meeting.

**5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:**

Parents are encouraged to assist with field trips and to help organize classroom materials. They can meet with the Principal to arrange classroom visits/observations of their children.

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