

TFSCS EXCELLENCE in TEACHING and LEARNING

Mission Statement

Today's Fresh Start Charter School and Golden Day School (GDS) (TFSCS) were founded by Drs. Clark and Jeanette Parker. GDS was founded more than 40 years ago and is the oldest private pre-school Childcare School in our local community. As Founders of GDS and TFSCS, the mission of the TFSCS is to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world and become "life long learners." In support of its mission TFSC will:

- Ensure that every effort will be made for each student to meet or exceed California achievement standards
- Ensure the highest level of performance for all staff
- Implement relevant and challenging curriculum and assessments
- Provide a safe, nurturing, and academically stimulating learning environment
- Create an environment in which students, staff, families, and community members participate and contribute
- Ensure that diversity and commonality are valued
- Ensure that policies, structures, services, and resources support the vision, beliefs, mission, and goals of the school
- The Philosophy of Education for TFSCS is a statement of the beliefs subscribed to for the total educational endeavor and as a framework for continuing improvement. The academic program of TFSCS is free to the parents.

We believe:

- Every child can learn
- Each child is unique and has special abilities and interests that must be recognized and developed.
- The education of all children is the shared responsibility of the home, school, and community.
- Academics are a primary focus of education.
- Teachers have a responsibility to engage every one of their students in learning.
- Students have a responsibility for their own learning and for their personal conduct.
- Parents have a responsibility for setting values and expectations that support the learning process, which is invaluable to school success.
- Lifelong learning is essential for productive and responsible participation in a diverse and changing world.
- Teachers have the responsibility to teach and students have the right to learn in a safe and nurturing environment.

Core Values

Central to the way we conduct education are three core values : Focus on Instruction, Partnerships, and Continuous / Ongoing Improvement.

Focus on Instruction

We implement curriculum and assessments that are relevant and challenging. We hire qualified, dedicated teachers and staff, and we pledge to strive toward the highest level of academic excellence and social responsibility.

Partnerships

There is great power in partnering for a purpose in an educational setting. Research shows that schools are more apt to realize their goals when they "engage" the public in sharing responsibility for balanced school activity and motivation. We are committed to creating a partnership environment among students, staff, families, and community, who are all highly valued members of this partnership.

Continuous Improvement

We approach our academic program with a "Never Give Up" attitude. Even the best can get better. That is the rationale for adopting a philosophy of continual improvement—a commitment to be better today than yesterday, so we might be even better tomorrow. This approach requires that we gather data in our assessments. The assessments provide us a means by which to evaluate areas of strength or weakness, a means by which to move each student toward our goal of individual student achievement to their best.



TFSCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Our Parents Are Serious Educators!

TFSCS parents are responsible and have their children at school according to the schedule on the next page.

All parents are required to sign your child in and out daily.

No exceptions!

Academic studies begin at 8:00 a.m.

Late students may not enter class as it disrupts instructional time.

Parents with students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must accompany your child to the supervised *tardy room*. Your child will be allowed to enter class at the beginning of the next class period or recess, whichever comes first.

Parents whose children have excessive absences and /or tardy may receive a phone call and/ or may be required to attend a conference to determine how home & school may work together to improve attendance. A final resort *may* be to report the child as a “truant” to the District Attorney’s Office. We value our Parents. They are well educated on the value of a good education and respect education.

TFSCS parents see to it that TFSCS students

come to school on time every day. They do not have more than 3 unexcused absences out of the 180 day school year. Our parents are serious about their child’s Education! Students are awarded for their achievements. TFSCS parents help their children with homework. Many thanks to parents who help your child become his/her best in achieving “proficient or advanced!”

TFSCS Parents Value A Good Education!

TFSCS Parent / Student Compact / Parent Pledge

I understand that parent involvement is a critical component of my child's educational success. I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability and commit to doing everything I can to help TFSCS in our goal of my child becoming a "life long learner." By signing in receipt of the parent/student compact, I acknowledge my understanding of the responsibility to the school's policies set forth herein and in the TFSCS Parent Handbook.

I agree to and understand the following:

1. **Have my child at school every day on time** (ready to learn), by 7:30 a.m. or before for breakfast; 7:50 a.m. morning assembly. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. sharp. My child is tardy if he or she arrives after 8:00 a.m. **I will sign my child in and out of school** or a person I authorize who is listed on the emergency files. If my child walks or takes public transportation to and / or from school, I waive all liability from Today's Fresh Start Charter School.
2. **Not allow my child to become "a truant"** (3 days or more absent or 3 times tardy (30 minutes or more each time). (Please see Truancy / Absence Policies) Excessive / irregular absences *may* be cause for my child to be retained and not go to the next grade or involuntary transfer to my district school of residence.
3. **Will communicate with TFSCS when there are three (3) straight days of absence.** However, with no parent communication after 3 straight days of absence, my non-communication *may* result in removal from the class roster. Re-enrollment is based on availability of space. Continual irregular excessive absences may jeopardize my child's opportunity for re-enrollment.
4. **Sign my child's completed homework**, when requested, and submit it on the required date.
5. **Honor the mission of TFSCS:** encourage my child to uphold educational values; enforce the school code of conduct with my child; promote respect for school administration, teachers, all adults and students; respect school environment, using respectful words, voice tones, mannerisms and replace any school property if damaged or lost by me or my child. I will not disrespect TFSCS staff.
6. **Help TFSCS reach our mutual goal**, to educate my child to perform at "proficient" or "advanced" on state tests; attend at least two parent meeting, programs (performances, spelling bees, math competition), workshops, events, parent-teacher conferences and other conferences relating to my child's academic achievement, behavior and /or attendance.
7. **Enroll my child in TFSCS Saturday Academy, Summer Academy and / or after-school intervention** programs due to excessive absences / tardy or other reasons, if TFSCS recommends it. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that any student recommended to participate in the Academic Academy program commit to the recommendation of the TFSCS.
8. **Be a role model** for appropriate behavior for other parents and students; mindful of spoken words, tones, and containment of anger and always search for conflict resolution that does not intimidate students, parents or staff.
9. **Return all school materials**, books, uniforms (sports) that we, (my child and I), are responsible for when requested or I will be held personally responsible for those things not returned.
10. **Attend meetings regarding excessive absences and / or behavior** and agree to results of meetings which may include "involuntary transfer to my child's school district of residence."
11. **Disclose to TFSCS in writing** at the time of enrollment any information from the previous school that may relate to disruptive behavior, excessive absences or tardies to assist my child in achieving his/her best and gain my cooperation for my own child's success.
12. **Volunteer** at least 40 hours a school year in my time or services.
13. **I will inform my child's teacher and the person** in charge at my child's site of any family changes which will effect my child's behavior and school work, such as, family separations and disruptive behavior , death or other home problems which effect my child negatively.
14. **Exit Form.** Pursuant to State of California requirements, parents must complete an "Exit Form" prior to removing your child from this school. Parents must also give us the name of the new school where your child will be attending. The form is available at the main office. Please call us at 323-293-9826 if you have any questions.

TFSCS PARENTS TEACH THEIR CHILDREN TO RESPECT THEIR SCHOOL!

Parents and Guardians are Very Important to us!!! Today's Fresh Start Charter School Parent / Student Compact

I know that going to school is very important. My parent/ and or caregivers want me to try hard and do my best at Today's Fresh Start Charter School, because this will help me become a lifelong learner with respect for all persons and environment and achieve "**proficient or advanced**" on my California State Tests.

I agree to do the following things:

1. **Ask for help** if I do not know the answers; ask my teachers if I have questions about my work and listen to the adults who want to help me be a good person and a successful individual.
2. **Do all the homework assigned to me** the best I can and turn it in on time, neat, and organized and I will bring my own pencils and small school supplies, which are necessary and appropriate for my learning
3. **Come to school every day on time**, dressed appropriately in uniform.
4. **Serve my community** and do community service to improve my community
5. **Be responsible for school materials** (books, supplies, sports uniforms) provided to me for my school achievement. My parent and /or caregivers will replace any school materials or school property that is lost, misused or damaged.
6. **Respect myself and others**, my parents, all adults at my school, teachers and other students at school and be courteous to them.
7. **Be a peacemaker at school**; not a bully, not fight at school, nor use bad, vulgar language; not hit my teacher or any other adult or child at TFSCS, not threaten or terrorize others at school, like saying, "I'm going to beat you up." "I'm going to kill you!" "I'm going to blow up the school!"
8. **Be kind to others** and settle my differences with words and not violence; do to others as I would want the other person to do toward me
9. **Be an honest person**, tell the truth. No put-downs, name calling . Keep my hands to my self. Allow others their personal space.
10. **Be a responsible citizen. Come to school ready to learn.** Speak appropriately and not talk back to teachers and other school staff and cause disruption in the classroom, walking around at inappropriate times, walking out of class, and other disruptive behavior.
11. **Not take other people's things**; respect the property rights of others and not bring unauthorized food, inappropriate items to school or drink to school or toys (toy guns, gameboys) from home.
12. **Talk with my family** on a regular basis about my school day; encourage my family to partner with me at school.
13. **Abide by any and all other school** rules and policies to help me be the best student I can be.
14. **Be serious about school.** Be responsible for my own behavior, use self-control, manage my anger
15. **Seek alternatives to verbal or physical conflicts** through conflict resolution, by using words and reporting to adults to get help.
16. **Come to school every day on time** with required supplies and materials and be prepared to pay attention, learn, and do my best!

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Have a Happy vacation during July or August! Do not take vacation during the school year.

We want your child to be at “*proficient*” or “*advanced*” level. When out of school instructional minutes are missed.

To move toward that goal, please help your school by:

- 1.] Be sure your child completes homework and return it on time**
- 2.] Please be at school every day on time**
- 3.] Please cooperate with us to help your child**
- 4.] Please return any TFSCS books and Materials for future school use.**
- 5.] As we develop our student information system, parents will have access to your child’s assignments and grades on line.**

TFSCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Parents are required to volunteer at least
40 hours per school year.

How can you earn your volunteer hours?

Go on field trips

Watch students on the playground.

Help serve lunch to the students.

Use your personal gifts and talents.

You can help teach and maintain the computers.

Help after-school with homework.

**We support parents and guardians in our
mutual quest for the best education of your
child.**

We cannot do the job alone.

**Please Cooperate with us in the
best interest of your child's education.**

**We appreciate your
participation in every way !**

Restraining Orders

If you have a restraining order issued prohibiting someone from picking up your child, you must copy that for the office and one for the school. We will make every effort to prohibit the person restrained from picking up your child, however, our resource would be to call the Los Angeles Police Department should force be required as our goal would be to avoid any unbecoming scenes at our school.

Releasing Your Child and Messages

We will only release your child to a person authorized and named on the emergency card. Make sure that if someone different is to pick up your child that you make the arrangements early in the day or the day before with the person you have authorized to do so. That person's name must already be on the emergency card authorized to pick up your child. We will take a message in case of emergency. We cannot take casual messages. Please make personal arrangements with friends and relatives early in the day if it effects your child.



TFSCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING



Parent Involvement

We Need You!!

Parents are encouraged to visit your child's school and classroom. Arrangements can be made in advance to volunteer and visit an individual classroom by notifying the school. During school hours, all visitors (including parents,) must sign-in at the office to receive an identification tag. Visitors must report to the office when visiting the school. Periodically, a parent / guardian may be required to visit the school for a conference. We respect your time, however, we always need your help in formulating a strong school / home partnership. Patents must sign a liability waiver for any child who does not attend TFSCS if the child is on the campus.



School Site Council School staff and parents Working As A Team

Working together provides an opportunity for parents, educators, students, and community members to work together on school-related concerns. Meeting dates are staggered to allow parents to be involved in PTA. Meeting dates and times should be confirmed with the school.

Your Suggestions are welcome. Please use the Suggestion Box.

The school invites community and staff members to submit suggestions to the school for the continued improvement of school activities. All suggestions will be forwarded to the appropriate staff person and receive a response. You may also call 323.293-9826 or 323-299-2105.

- Back To School Open House** is an exciting time to start the school year. Classroom teachers meet with parents to get the new year started to discuss grade level goals, expectations, classroom rules, assessment tools and other good things. Parent Curriculum Guides will be given to parents and other special information to continue to build a strong parent / school relationship. These meetings will take place in the evening or at a time that is convenient for the majority of families. Don't forget parents are allowed (legally) to take time off to go to the school and see about your child.
- **Parent-teacher conferences.** As a part of parent involvement, parents are required to attend conferences about your child. Each individual parent will be informed of the educational progress of their child. During these meetings, teachers will offer advice on how the parent can assist their child at home.
 - **Parenting Opportunities.** Teachers and administration go to great lengths to plan parent opportunities, **such as Math and Literacy Family Nights.** Sessions will be tailored to increase everybody's knowledge of issues of common interest, e.g., literacy, math, books for young children, children's diet, child development, helping children improve study skills, the effects of many changes in the child's life on student achievement, family health, etc. Changes in society demand that we all build our child rearing knowledge.
 - **Parent Volunteers are encouraged.** A current TB Test ensures a healthy environment for all and is kept on file with your school office. TB Tests are offered through a local health offices for free or at a minimal cost at TFSCS expense. Volunteers adhere to the same code of ethics as staff.



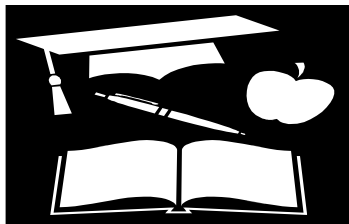
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Physical Examination

California laws require a physical examination for all students entering Today's Fresh Start Charter School for the first time. If your child has a temporary or chronic health problem or any special need, please notify the school. Please let us know, we want to help.

Immunizations

All students who are enrolled in Today's Fresh Start Charter school are required by California law to be immunized against certain diseases. The immunization regulations state that "a school principal or other person in charge of a school, public or private, may not knowingly admit a student to, or retain a student in, a preschool program or kindergarten through twelfth grade unless the parent has furnished evidence of age appropriate immunity against diseases to which children are commonly susceptible. Each student must have on file at the school a completed Immunization Certificate Form. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to have the form completed prior to enrolling the student. When TFSCS notifies parents to have your child's immunizations updated, parents must respond immediately, because it is California State Law. If a student receives additional immunizations after school entry, the parent/guardian must provide proof to the school so that school records are kept current. Students who transfer from one school to another are required to show proof of complete immunizations upon transfer to TFSCS. Free immunizations are available through the Los Angeles County Health department.



EDUCATION

Child Custody Issues

Parents, mothers, fathers, guardians and adult custodians are encouraged to get along. Your child will also learn how to live peaceably when you teach peace. If there are any custody issues regarding any of our students, please advise us **in writing**. We give parents equal access unless we are advised differently. In some cases, it is necessary for a parent to place on file Court Papers designating "parental or guardian rights." Notarized documents may be required as well. Please Inform us "in writing" regarding "restraining orders" and "custody rights."

Disruption of School Environment

No Solicitation

To avoid any disruption of the school environment, solicitation of any kind is not permitted; advertising, solicitation of / selling of goods or services is not allowed at Today's Fresh Start Charter School.

Disturbing the Peace

No person may disturb the peace of the school environment. Any person who disturbs the school environment with boisterous, loud, crude talking, using profanity, arguing with school staff, confronting other parents' children will be immediately told to leave the school. If the person who is disturbing the peace does not leave, police authorities will be called to remove the person. The person may not re-enter the school.

Suspected Child Abuse

School staff are mandated reporters of "suspected child abuse" and as such, pursuant to Penal Code Section 11166 are required to report any "suspected child abuse" (a child who is suspected to be the victim of child abuse).

"Education is not everything. It is the **only** thing at TFSCS."

Jeanette Parker

TFSCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Our parents keep emergency numbers updated. As soon as you change your telephone number or address, let us know immediately.

School Environment

As a courtesy to others and in respect for the environment, students should make all efforts not to waste paper or water or dispose of litter inappropriately. .

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.

Anatole France

Doctor's Release

If your child has a case of a contagious childhood disease and is out of school, we need a "permit to return to school" from the doctor. In cases of ringworm, lice and conjunctivitis (pink eye) these conditions can be passed on to other children and need medical attention.

Messages

In the case of emergency, we will accommodate you where possible. Our first concern at all times is the care of the children. We cannot take casual messages to pass on to relatives and friends. Please make personal arrangements with friends and relatives early in the day if it effects your child. Inform us of any change regarding your child's release to another responsible adult listed on the emergency card. Make arrangements in advance.

Sleepovers

We cannot be responsible to pass on car seats, strollers, luggage and other sleep over equipment for sleepovers. Please make all your arrangements with your child's friends or relatives before school.

Special Needs

TFSCS will consult our SELPA and the nurse provided by the SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) for help with students who may have special needs, including students who take medication. TFSCS will act in accordance with our Local Plan Assurances for purposes of Special Education. These Local Plan Assurances are available in the TFSCS main office.

Early Dismissal and Student Pick Up

There will be early dismissal for Staff Development. Please be sure to make arrangements for Before and After-school care. All students must be signed in and out upon coming to school and being picked up from school. If someone other than yourself is to pick up your child, call and advise us in advance. This goes for *any person* other than the regular pick up person. All persons who are to pick up your child must have the name on the emergency card before picking up your child.

TFSCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

“Start Fresh Every Day! Everyday a New Beginning!”



What can I do to help my child achieve in school?

You can volunteer.

Parents are the first

Great educators!

Educators recommend
reading aloud to your
child through 8th grade
to promote auditory and
reading skills
proficiency.

Today's Fresh Start Charter School

Because we want each child to achieve at his / her best, we encourage parents and guardians to cooperate with us. The founders, along with many of our staff have more than 100 years of experience in working with families, we know the ethics involved in carrying out our mandate as educators. As mandated reporters, teachers, staff and administration are legally required to report "suspected child abuse." We **need** the cooperation from every parent, guardian and relative who has connection with your child. Therefore, we urge you to cooperate with us in these various ways and in other ways as well:

- Please do not attempt to intimidate our staff by yelling and speaking disrespectfully to us
- Please dress appropriately when you come to your child's school
- Drive safely. Please do not endanger your life and that of your child's. Do not speed in your car in the school zone. Please be courteous to other parents when bringing and picking up your child.
- Please do not play loud music in front of the school.
- Please do not use profanity at the school or at home in the presence of your child or staff; use appropriate language which you don't mind your child repeating. They model our behavior.
- Please set an established bedtime for your child. We recommend 7:15 bath and story and a 7:30 bedtime. A well rested child will learn better.
- Put parental controls on your television so that your child does not look at or run across inappropriate programming. Monitor the television time. Do not allow your child to watch to all the time. Cartoon characters do not mean that the program is child appropriate.
- Provide a print rich environment at home, that is, provide books at home for your child to read to you and you read to your child., the dialogic technique.
- Do not leave your child unattended in your car or on the sidewalk. Take him / her with you and have adult supervision at all times. Sign your child in and out of school every day, as required.
- Do not allow your young child to drive your vehicle.

Videos Only allow your child access to "E" rated video games and not to excess (such as, Gameboy, Sony)

- Playstation and Game Cube) The "E" (entertainment for all) rated games are age appropriate.
- **Music** We recommend age appropriate music, such as classical, musical theatre and children's music.
- **Claim your jacket Day** Periodically we have "claim your jacket day."

Please Label jackets and sweaters with your child's name inside so not everyone sees the name.

Many homeless children need clothing,. Unclaimed clothing will be given to the Mission for homeless. TFSCS has an open enrollment policy regardless of district of residence or homelessness. Please contact Mrs. Mabel Mitchell for information regarding services to children and families that are homeless at 323-293-9826 or 323-299-2105.

Children never fail to imitate their elders. James Baldwin