



Khalsa Gurmat School



Student/Parent Handbook 2014-2015

Our Vision

An empowered community filled with *Chardi Kala*, constantly striving for Sikh values as enshrined in the *Guru Granth Sahib Ji (naam japna, kirat karni, vand chakna)*, and seeking *Sarbat Da Bhala*.

Our Mission

Khalsa Gurmat School is an independent non-profit school offering a challenging and engaging curriculum in a uniquely personal environment. Our mission is to work with each student emphasizing respect, responsibility, and active participation in the community. We aim to:

- Develop leaders among our students
- Foster a relationship between our students and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji
- Forge a bond between our students and Sikh history
- Create a spirit of public service (*seva*) among our students and our community
- Promote a spirit of entrepreneurship and independent learning amongst our students and the community
- Inspire our students to strive towards higher education in reputable universities

Goals

The goal of the school is to have the children understand the Sikh way of life and the message of the Sikh Gurus.

We will accomplish these goals by teaching children using a curriculum with the following focus:

- **Punjabi Curriculum** to provide knowledge of Gurmukhi script and Punjabi Language.
- **Gurmat Curriculum** to provide knowledge of Sikh history and Gurbani
- **Kirtan Curriculum** for those children who have aptitude and interest in learning Kirtan so they can appreciate and nurture the Sikh musical traditions.
- **Sikh way of life** is demonstrated through Gurmat camps, and doing selfless service (*sewa*).

Public speaking will continue to play an important role in the Khalsa Gurmat School curriculum, as it is a basis for creating confident young adults and fostering leadership skills.

We would like our students to grow up into young Sikh adults who are proud of their heritage; are comfortable with the Sikh identity; practice the Sikh way of life and raise Gursikh families.

Role of the Parents/Grandparents

A large team of volunteers is working to accomplish the goals of the Khalsa Gurmat School, but the parents and the grandparents play a very significant role in achieving these objectives. The children who work at home on a regular basis learn the most. Just like we pay attention to the regular school activities and homework, we need to take the learning at the Khalsa Gurmat School seriously.

English has only 26 letters, yet the children spend 180 days, 3-5 hours each day learning these letters in Kindergarten. Here in Khalsa Gurmat School, the children will come to school for 34 Sundays or less, and only for 2 hours on each Sunday! Yet we expect our children to learn to read and write another language. Consider how much support is needed at home to make this possible. Please take the time to help your child do the homework that is assigned to them at the Khalsa Gurmat School and sit with them to read the books.

Parent Volunteer Hours

Nishkam Sewa is a long standing part of our belief system. All families are asked to plan on a minimum of 10 hours of service to the school per year. This service is reported on an honor's system and tracked in the office. We make every effort to connect parents' talents and skills with school needs, but parents need to also be proactive to volunteer as school needs arise. We are more than ever dependent on your support.

Service can be in the form of teaching and teaching assistance, driving to events, helping to set up the school venue, and so on. Opportunities for service will be listed throughout the year. Please make sure you take you submit your volunteer hours to the school administration.

We strongly encourage all parents whose children that are enrolled in the school to also continue to make attending the Gurdwara a regular part of their Sunday routine to reinforce the teaching from the school.

Class Schedule

The school will be open at the following schedule (unless an update is sent by the school) every Sunday:

Drop Off for Kirtan Students	9:45 am to 10:00 am
Drop Off for all Other Students	10:45 am to 11:00 am
School Doors Close	11:00 am
Pickup of Students	1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
School Closes	1:30 p.m.

What can you do?

1. Parents should strive to have their child in regular attendance and drop of the students on time. Frequent absences can contribute to difficulties in learning and create emotional strain for the student. It is expected that all students will attend assembly and class on every Sunday. Only during

emergencies and ill health should students be absent. Parents will be contacted if the student remains absent for more than 2 weeks continuously.

2. Students should be in the school by the time indicated above. Tardy students over 5 minutes will not be able to attend the classes for that day.
3. Talk to them about what they have learnt in Punjabi and Gurmat in their class. For the kids taking Kirtan classes, please make sure that they are practicing the shabads assigned to them by the teachers.
4. Fix time to do homework. Sit with them when you have time to check their homework. Make sure the handwriting is neat.
5. Get to know the teachers for your kids. When your child knows you take school seriously, he/she will too. If the kid cannot attend the school on a certain day, inform the teacher or the office. You can do so by phone or send an email. Make sure you collect any work that has been done in the class.
6. Read Punjabi stories to/with them every day. Fill out the Reading Log. More they read, better they learn.
7. Keep the Khalsa Gurmat School calendar handy – next to your child’s regular School Calendar
8. Encourage your child to participate in various competitions.
9. Make sure your child brings their school bag every Sunday when they come to attend the Khalsa Gurmat School.
10. If you see a problem in school, please give your suggestions to improve in writing and volunteer to help out.
11. Be a role model. Do what you want your child to learn.
12. Students will automatically be sent to the office for the following reasons:
 - a. Fighting - hitting, kicking, or pushing aggressively
 - b. Threats/Intimidation – especially if this is a continuous event that may be considered bullying or harassment.
 - c. Disrespectful to any staff – swearing at, yelling at, or making threats to the staff member
 - d. Writing on the walls; destroying the property of the school.
13. In case of discipline issues, parents will be contacted and a meeting will be set up with the school administration and teachers to develop a plan. Also the parents will be responsible for any damage that has been done.

Contact Information

You can reach us at the following numbers:

Phone: 425-429-2226

Email: wagurmatschool@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.khalsagurmatschool.org>

Frequently Asked Questions

What time does school start?

If you are enrolled in the Kirtan program, your classes begin at 10:00 am. For all other students, classes begin at 11:00 am.

What time can a parent drop off the students for their class?

For Kirtan classes students class be dropped off between 9:45 AM and 10:00 AM. For all other students, parents should drop the kids between at 10:45AM and 11:00 AM.

What time can we pick up the students?

School ends at 1:00 PM. Students must be picked up between 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM.

What number can I call for any school related question?

Please call the school at 425-429-2226. You can leave a message for us and the appropriate admin staff will return your call.

Do I need my own musical instrument?

We have a limited supply of instruments. So the students are encouraged to arrange their own instrument for the Kirtan class.

Do I need to volunteer at the school?

Yes. We require each family to have a minimum of 10 volunteer hours every school year.

How can I volunteer?

There are many opportunities that will be posted by the school admin staff every week. If you are interested please make sure you contact the staff and sign up for it.

Can parents sit in class?

Given the space limitations, we ask that the kids attend class without any parents. This allows the teachers and the students to form a close bond and also makes the students more responsible for their own education.

Will there be symposium?

Yes. Our school will continue to participate in the International Speech competition. We strongly feel that our students should be confident speakers and this is a good way to train the students with this essential skillset.

Will there be gatka classes?

No. At this time we will not be offering any Gatka class.



Khalsa Gurmat School



Student/Parent Handbook Agreement 2014-2015

The Student/Parent Handbook is an essential document that lays the groundwork for our mission and our responsibilities. Please read the handbook with your child and sign the information below. It indicates your willingness to uphold the contents of the handbook.

Please return the completed form to the teacher or the school office by September 28, 2014.

Thank you.

- We have received the Student/Parent Handbook for Khalsa Gurmat School for the year 2014-2015.
- We have read and understand all of its rules and regulations.
- We accept full responsibility for the children we have enrolled at the Khalsa Gurmat School and we shall explain these rules to them as well. We shall support these policies by helping the children follow them as well.
- We understand that as a family we are required to volunteer for atleast 10 hours in a school academic year.

Your Child's name (Please print)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date