



Khalsa Gurmat School



Student/Parent Handbook 2016-2017

Our Vision

An empowered community filled with *Chardi Kala*, constantly striving for Sikh values as enshrined in the *Guru Granth Sahib Ji* 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. There are three different aspects that we are focused on – Education, Empowerment and Engagement.

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

- **Gurmukhi (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 that they can appreciate and nurture the Sikh musical traditions.
- **Sikh way of life** is demonstrated through Gurmat camps, and doing selfless service (*sewa*).
- **Creative Computing** to ensure that the kids learn how to solve complex problems creatively.
- **Mathematics** to help create a solid foundation for their math education.
- **Arts** to help them understand and express their creative potential.

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 (for Gurmukhi and Gurmat classes)! 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 tradition in the community. 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.

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 their class.
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 books 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 9:30 am. For all other students, classes begin at 10:30 am.

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

For Kirtan classes students class be dropped off between 9:15 AM and 9:30 AM. For all other students, parents should drop the kids between at 10:15 AM and 10:30 AM.

What time can we pick up the students?

If the student is not taking any of the enrichment classes in the afternoon, please pick them 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 for Kirtan Class?

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

Do I need my own computer for Computing class?

We have a limited supply of laptops and we strongly encourage the students to bring their own laptops so that they have continuity for their work.

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.