2023 Horizons at The Ethel Walker School Family Contract

We believe in the power of girls. Horizons at The Ethel Walker School, (HEWS) is the nation’s first all-girls Horizons program! We serve under-resourced, Black and Brown girls, who attend Harford public schools, from Pre-K through 8th grade. HEWS creates the conditions, connections, and community that enable every girl who attends to gain the skills, confidence, and motivation to overcome the opportunity gap and realize her full potential.

We are a team! Together, students, parents, and the staff/faculty at HEWS will form a strong three-sided partnership to reinforce and achieve this goal. Working together to create a supportive environment in which students enjoy their learning experiences, grow in confidence, and take ownership of their actions and education in order to succeed in school and beyond.

Parent/Guardian, please review each section with your Horizons student and initial where indicated.

I. Community Standards

The expectations for all members of the Horizons at The Ethel Walker School community are guided by the following statements that apply at all times, whether on Walker’s campus, off campus, or on the bus:

● I will treat everyone with respect, kindness, and tolerance.
● I will be honest and behave in a manner that creates trust.
● I will contribute to a safe and supportive environment.
● I will respect the property of The Ethel Walker School and Horizons at Walker’s as well as the personal property of others in the Horizons and Walker’s community.
● I am responsible for my words and actions.
● I will attend daily, participate and try my best in all program activities.
● I will abide by the rules of Horizons at Walker’s, prohibiting use of personal technology while at Walker’s.

Student Initials __________ Parent/Guardian Initials __________
II. **Behavior**
The following behaviors are strictly forbidden in the Horizons at The Ethel Walker School community: any form of violence, inappropriate touching of another student or teacher, physical, sexual, or racially based harassment, intimidation or bullying. Any of these behaviors will result in disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion from the program.

- Students will behave appropriately and regulate their behavior according to our high community standards.
- Parents will encourage positive and healthy behavior from their child.
- Parents will follow up on any issues about their student’s behavior brought to their attention by the Horizons program staff.

Student Initials __________    Parent/Guardian Initials __________

III. **Attendance**
Attendance during the summer session and at Saturday Academy is mandatory.

- Summer absences are excused only for unplanned emergencies with a doctor’s note.
- Family trips are to be scheduled around summer session dates. *We do acknowledge and understand that the families of our girls will want to take family trips and vacations that may conflict with the scheduled dates of our summer program. If we are informed of your planned family vacations within a reasonable time period, we will try our best to accommodate you to the best of our ability. However, attendance is a crucial piece to the success of our program and more importantly the academic success of your child.*
- Parents should schedule all non-emergency appointments (dentist, physicals, etc.) outside of the program hours *if possible. Again, we understand that at times, this may not always be plausible.*
- Students with repeated absences will be placed on probation and risk being dismissed from the program.

Student Initials __________    Parent/Guardian Initials __________

IV. **Student Commitment to Success**
- I will take ownership of my education.
- I will take responsibility for my actions.
- I will persist in my schoolwork, and will seek help when needed.
• I will continually improve my organizational skills and study skills.
• I will be open-minded to new ideas and ways of thinking different from my own.
• I will listen to others with understanding and react with empathy.

Student Initials __________ Parent/Guardian Initials __________

V. Parent Communication

• I will play an active role in my child’s social-emotional and academic growth with Horizons as a partner.
• I understand and value the role of education to my child’s future and will communicate and emphasize its importance to my child.
• I will support and encourage my child to work to the best of her ability during the school year and at Horizons.
• I understand the relationship between attendance and academic success, and will commit to full attendance at the Horizons summer session, Saturday Academy, and at their school during the regular school year.
• I will attend Horizons at Walker’s parent meetings and other events throughout the year to support my child and the community.

Parent/Guardian Initials __________

We have read, understood, and agreed to the above Horizons at The Ethel Walker School community expectations. By signing below, we attest that we will comply with the standards set.

Parent Name (Please print) Parent Signature

Student Name (Please print) Student Signature

Date