

School and Parent Expectations FAQ

Q: What can I expect in terms of communication from the school?

A: Communication, consistency and community are vital features of the Holland Hall experience. Communication is particularly important in the independent school because consistency and community depend on it; therefore, it is appropriate that parents know exactly what to expect from the faculty and administrators.

In addition to the formal reporting of grades and early warning notices as needed, the school welcomes informal communication between teachers and parents. You are invited to call, leave voice mail or send e-mail for any updates at any time. We promise to return calls and e-mails within 24 hours. Faculty and staff e-mail addresses follow the same format of first initial.lastname@hollandhall.org. The school's direct telephone number is 918.481.1111.

Q: What can I expect from teacher conferences?

A: Professional assessment and respectful solicitation for parental perspectives.

Our teachers are professionals who will provide you with a battery of indicators of your child's academic progress. The quid pro quo of the partnership with parents is that we expect our parents to treat our teachers as professionals (who know what to teach and how to teach it), just as we expect our teachers to treat our parents as experts about their own kids (experts who have something to contribute to the dialogue about maximizing effectiveness in working with the student).

Q: What can I expect if a disciplinary event occurs?

A: School administrators will investigate thoroughly and adjudicate fairly.

The school administrators will inform parents at the earliest appropriate juncture about the disciplinary event (and its consequences). Students may be accompanied by their advisors to any disciplinary proceeding or conversation (but may not be "represented" by parents of legal counsel). If the event is serious enough, a 3-way conference with the parent and child and school authorities may be required. The school handles these situations in its in loco parentis role, attempting to balance maintaining consistent discipline within the school with the needs of the individual child.

Q: What can I expect if my child reports alarming behavior or a potentially dangerous situation at school?

A: Probe, call, and trust that the school will address such issues.

Please know it is your prerogative and duty to call the school to report any and all accounts of situations you believe are dangerous. Rest assured that the school will investigate vigorously any reports, since we value the reputation of our school for being a safe, secure, and welcoming

environment. At the same time, be prepared to discount rumors: Remember the old adage, “If you only believe half of what your child tells you about school, we’ll only believe half of what they tell us about home.”

What does the school expect from parents?

Q: What are my responsibilities to my child as a student at this school?

A: Support; encouragement; structure.

Professionals in the field routinely counsel parents that young people need three essential building blocks: support, encouragement and structure (i.e., clear boundary lines and significant consequences for crossing the line).

Q: What are my responsibilities to contribute to the development of my child’s moral values?

A: Modeling integrity and civility; listening; supervising; supporting consequences for dubious behavior.

Be a role model when it comes to honesty and civil behavior at all times, but especially in behavior towards others at the school, on the sidelines at athletic events, and in conversations with and about the adults in school. (Parents who fail to be civil and/or become disruptive in their relationships with the school place that relationship in jeopardy, including the loss of privileges to interact individually with teachers and coaches.)

Engage your child in conversations about events that have moral overtones. Encourage participation in events that promote high standards (e.g., service) and actively discourage participation in events that can lead to immoral, unwise, or illegal behavior (e.g., do not permit children to have unsupervised parties nor partake in alcohol or drugs). Help your child capitalize upon successes and even more importantly learn from and adjust to setbacks and failures. Their future growth will depend upon the ability to handle both success and failure. Attempting to ameliorate or cover up mistakes on the part of your child is a disservice to your child and to the school.

Q: What are my responsibilities to my child’s academics and activities?

A: Endorse the school’s mission and policies; attend parents’ night conference and school activities.

Show your support and encouragement by participation in school activities and attendance at school events, especially those in which your child has a role to play. Read the Parent-Student Handbook and discuss with your child the philosophy and policies contained therein. Maintain regular contact with your child’s teachers, coach, and advisor.

Q: What are my financial responsibilities to the school?

A: Make timely tuition payments; be proactive in discussing changes in financial position with the business office.

The school provides payment options for families to make timely payments so that the school can meet its financial obligations. There are three different payment plan options. Questions regarding your child's account should be directed to the Business Office. The Admissions Office can provide information regarding financial assistance.

Q: Why should I donate to Holland Hall when I am already paying tuition?

A: You can expect excellent academics, fine facilities, and outstanding faculty from your investment in education through tuition. Gifts allow Holland Hall to sustain and grow the quality of your student's experience.

Holland Hall is solely supported by the generosity of its donors and parents. We offer resources to our students that public schools cannot. The special resources that make Holland Hall exceptional are funded through our Annual Fund, as well as endowment and capital campaign.

Q: Who is asked to donate to Holland Hall?

A: Everyone! Alumni, parents, grandparents, parents of alumni, faculty and staff, and friends of the school that support our mission.

Our Annual Fund campaign begins in the fall, asking staff and faculty first, to support the new academic class with a gift or pledge to be paid prior to the end of the fiscal year, May 31st. We ask that parents make Holland Hall their philanthropic priority. Every gift counts toward bridging the gap between what it costs to run the school and what it costs to the BEST teachers, programs, and facilities.

Q: How much am I expected to give to Holland Hall?

A: The choice is yours! Philanthropy is a great example for our students and is part of our education of servant leaders.

Your high participation in support of Holland Hall through giving is a vote of confidence, a sign that you are willing to invest and support the mission of the school. Your child receives the benefit of the investment of tuition; the school receives the benefit of your donation – of any size. Your support increase the measures used by outside sources such as foundations to determine their willingness to add to your support.

Q: Are there additional ways to support Holland Hall?

A: Volunteer! Your gift of time and talent to Holland Hall enriches your child's experience and enhances your relationship with staff, teachers, and fellow parents that come in contact with your child.

Volunteering at Holland Hall, most importantly, should be an expression of YOUR interests. Shape your desire to volunteer with your ability to pitch in – your time is valuable and in great demand outside of Holland Hall! Avoid getting stuck in a rut or clique that doesn't suit your schedule or your interests. Broaden your circle by varying your volunteer service. Realize that your child in a secondary school is not excited to have their parents around campus or in the classroom. Seek out the many opportunities to support mission-related activities that benefit the Holland Hall community. For more information, contact Brad Shelley, Director of Institutional Advancement at 918.481.1111 or bshelley@hollandhall.org

Q: What are my responsibilities regarding complaints?

A: Understand governance structure and use proper channels.

As an Episcopal school, Holland Hall is governed by a Board of Trustees, whose job is to secure the future of the school. It does so by setting basic policies, hiring and supporting the Headmaster, undertaking strategic planning, evaluating the performance of the school, and leading in financial support. The Board entrusts the daily operations of the school to the Headmaster, who supervises and evaluates all programs and personnel and is the final arbiter of any disputes that may arise, including those of parent issues or student disciplinary issues. The Board does not sit in or review administrative decisions, so the Headmaster is the “court of last resort” for any problem. For matters large and small, the proper way to raise an issue or register a complaint is as follows. Contact the teacher, coach, advisor, or staff member most closely related to the issue and capable of addressing it. If you are not satisfied at this juncture, seek out the appropriate person at the next level (department head, division head, or other administrator). If the problem is still unresolved, you should then go to the Headmaster.