

PARENTING AT CRANBROOK SCHOOLS

You have selected an excellent school for your child. We invite you to join with us in making these coming years of association, friendship and growth indeed the very best, and most memorable. There are no more significant vocations than being a parent and being a teacher. Parents and teachers provide the guidance, the opportunities, the tools and the conditions out of which children develop hope, dreams of possibilities, competencies and knowledge to enable them to become successful, productive and responsible members of society and to enjoy their lives. There is no more important task in this world than accomplishing these goals. It is critical that we work together to provide experiences that help our children become good and intellectually sound people. Our committed faculty and staff know this is their challenge. Teaching and caring for students, like parenting, are an art, and we have assembled a group of talented artists who hold your child's growth and development as their primary goal and end.

There are three key elements that lead students to significant personal and intellectual development. The first is that expectations for the student are high, age appropriate, and clearly stated. The second is that the student establish a relationship with a concerned and caring faculty member. The third is that the student (and parent) be provided by the school with regular and clear information about his or her progress. We want your child to experience the joy of learning and the joy of discovery and achievement.

You can help in this process by reinforcing with your child our belief that from an early age children must be taught to develop a sense of responsibility for their learning. Encourage them to struggle, to have patience, to persist, to not expect easy answers, to be curious, to investigate, to offer ideas, to work hard and to enjoy the process of achievement – including its challenges and struggles. In a pragmatic way, please familiarize yourself with the divisional handbook, which specifies student expectations.

Cranbrook as a National Landmark

As you know by now, Cranbrook is a very special place. Architecturally, it is of international interest and people from around the world visit Cranbrook regularly because of its architecture and the influence that Cranbrook's design achievements have had in the world. It is a special place for your child to study. The very place will be influential on what your child senses to be possible. You can imagine, therefore, that much of what is here cannot be replaced. Dining hall chairs, tables, sculptures, major art works, leaded windows, fine woodwork, brickwork – most are original and unique. To have a school in this special place is extraordinary. We ask that you help us impress upon your child the need to preserve what we have for future generations. It is here for you and your child to enjoy and use and to draw upon for inspiration. Please help us to impress upon your child that this is a place that we cannot use up, but must use with respect.

Cranbrook as an Outstanding Resource

You and your child have the privilege of joining a community that includes more than our outstanding schools. We invite you and your child to use the resources of our

nationally known science museum and all the educational programs that are offered here. The art museum offers numerous contemporary shows each year and hosts an outstanding art library. Your child will find occasions to take advantage of these resources as part of the academic program, and we invite you to do so as well.

Cranbrook Schools as a Diverse Community

The school's mission statement clearly affirms our commitment to educating children from diverse backgrounds. Our community includes students and families from many racial, ethnic, religious, social, economic, and geographic contexts. Although the School is nonsectarian, throughout the year we gather at Christ Church Cranbrook for ceremonies such as Convocation, Baccalaureate, and Commencement. As students and faculty file through the entrance, they pass under an arch inscribed with a symbol designed by the some of Cranbrook's founders. Representing our community's inclusive spirit, this symbol features the Christian Cross, the Hindu Prayer Wheel, Judaism's Star of David, the Native North American Supreme Spirit, the Yin and Yang of Taoism and the Star and Crescent of Islam.

At each school level, we strive for a level of civility and respect that will promote cohesiveness and generosity of spirit in our community. Students and faculty are expected to create an environment that acknowledges the worth of each individual and with respect for each individual's background. This is an essential component of preparing our children for the future, as well as strengthening our own educational community.

Diverse segments of the world in which we live are becoming more closely interrelated. Our children need to learn about differences and come to know and understand people of different races and religions so they can help construct a positive future. We look forward to your support for our approach, our programs and our commitment to helping your child live in and contribute to a diverse community.

Volunteer Opportunities for Parents

We are appreciative of the many ways parents have contributed their experience, their skills and their time in support of the school's many programs and we encourage all parents to join in this community building. The areas in which volunteer involvement makes all the difference almost seem endless. They include attending the welcoming picnics and Homecoming, hosting international students, greeting visitors at the Admission Open Houses, staffing special programs, working on fundraisers and development activities, assisting in organizing grade activities, making and receiving phone calls for the Admission Office, working in the library, organizing the Book Fairs, working the concession stand at athletic events and accompanying the teams, arranging car pools, and planting flowers. Parent organizations include the Mothers' Council (LS, MS & US), the Dads' Club (LS & MS/US), Booster Club, and Bravo.

Commitment to the Annual Fund

Key to the success of independent schools is the generosity of parents, alumni/ae, friends, parents of graduates, grandparents, and corporations. Private schools do not have governmental support. Each year the school must raise the needed funds to run our programs. **The Annual Fund is the school's most important fundraiser since tuition and fees alone do not cover our costs.** It provides an important margin of

excellence. It is our goal to have 100% participation of parents to support this program. Last year 100% of our faculty participated in the Annual Fund. In the tradition of private schools, I hope that you will make a gift to the annual fund which is so critical to our programs, faculty compensation, technology and general facility maintenance. We rely on this fund as part of our operational budget and it is part of the margin of excellence which sustains us as a school.

Fund-Raising Events

In addition to our annual fund efforts, parents, parents of graduates, alumnae and alumni, and grandparents dedicate their time and talents to raising money in support of the schools through events that also provide fun for those who participate. There are three major fund raising events for the schools and I hope that you will consider accepting the school's invitation to join us at these events. The funds raised from all events, along with contributions from our annual fund gifts, make what we do possible and benefit all levels of our schools. Please watch for announcements of the events which have been scheduled as follows:

Giftorama	November 10-12, 2006
Kaleidoscope Patron Party	February 9, 2007
Kaleidoscope	March 10, 2007
Booster Club Golf Outing	TBD

As we look to the future, the tradition of independent education is very rich one, and those students who have attended private schools have benefited greatly, as have their families. Generations within families have attended private schools because of the benefits accrued. You and your child are now a part of the Cranbrook tradition and as such share in the responsibility of carrying it forward for future generations. We welcome your partnership in creating the best possible opportunities for your child personally and intellectually.

Arlyce M. Seibert
Director of Schools

THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

Cranbrook schools are independent day and boarding schools that provide students with a challenging and comprehensive college preparatory education. We motivate students from diverse backgrounds to strive for intellectual, creative, and physical excellence, to develop a deep appreciation for the arts and different cultures, and to employ the technological tools of our modern age. Our schools seek to instill in students a strong sense of personal and social responsibility, the ability to think critically, and the competence to communicate and contribute in an increasingly global community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Cranbrook Schools comprise a college preparatory day and boarding educational institution, early childhood through 12th grade, consisting of three divisions: a lower, a middle and an upper school. We are structured to recognize and respond to the developmental, cognitive and creative needs of boys and girls and are dedicated to excellence in all aspects of education.

The following principles guide us:

- We offer a college preparatory curriculum designed to inspire and promote intellectual curiosity, creativity, and individual growth, through the integration of academics, fine and performing arts, athletics, physical education and a variety of enrichment activities.
- We seek to attract, retain and enrich an outstanding faculty and staff who are dedicated to the teaching and development of students.
- We provide an educational environment which fosters teaching excellence, stimulates learning and facilitates communication and trust among students, faculty and parents.
- We seek to attract families and students of diverse background who value and support excellence in education.
- We recognize and benefit from the opportunity to be part of an exceptional educational community which integrates uniquely beautiful physical facilities with an unusually comprehensive educational program.
- We expect to graduate young adults who have developed well above-average academic skills, are well-rounded and emotionally-maturing, and who have, as a result of their Cranbrook experience, enhanced significantly their potential to make a meaningful contribution to society.

PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

To be members of our school community, parents respect the following expectations:

- Support the school's mission statement and guiding principles.
- Recognize that effective partnerships with schools are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment for collaboration, open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be achieved.
- Acknowledge the school's responsibility to do what is best for the entire community.
- Familiarize and support the school's policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Provide home environments that support the development of positive learning attitudes and habits that are consistent with those of the school.
- Involve themselves in the life of the school in ways to enhance student life and the community as a whole.
- Share with the school any key information that the school may need to best serve their child and the school community.
- Seek to resolve problems and secure information through appropriate channels (i.e. teacher/advisor, assistant division head, division head, director of schools – in that order).
- Treat everyone with respect and maintain an educational tone, in the face of the inevitable conflicts and challenges.
- Acknowledge that payment of tuition is not an investment of ownership in the school, but rather an investment in the educational process of your child.
- Consider yourself as an ambassador of the school in the larger community.

It is important to note that, as part of the enrollment contract for 2006-07, the following is stated:

I understand that Cranbrook Schools values a strong and positive partnership with its parent body. That relationship is the key in the implementation of the School's mission statement. To that end, the School reserves the right not to continue enrollment, or not to re-enroll a student, if the School concludes that the actions of a parent (or guardian) are inconsistent with such relationship or seriously interfere with the School's accomplishment of its educational purposes.