



WHAT OAK HILL EXPECTS OF PARENTS

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Dear Oak Hill Parents,

What a privilege it has been to start our new school year and get to know each of your children and our faculty. It is such a testimony to our Oak Hill families to see the kinds of students we have and the kind of potential this school has for even greater maturity and growth in the coming years. A few years ago I wrote a brief article on what to expect when starting a new school year. I have attached it to the email which accompanied this letter. In preparing for that article, I found that the word *expect* was far more fascinating than I had previously thought. I also found that expectations are a two-way street, or a type of dance, with lots of things involved, and that the greatest way to confuse and confound relationships of any sort is to not communicate or clarify expectations. Therefore, at the start of each year, I'd like to provide our parents with some of Oak Hill's expectations, and some clear communication on the kind of relationship Oak Hill seeks to build with its families:

The Word Expectation

As stated in the article, "The word expectation comes from the Latin word *expectare*. *Expectare* means to have an outlook about something, or to look out over something. We have expectations all the time; they are natural and good. We expect because we are made in the image of God, and it is God alone who can perfectly 'look out over' the whole world. This coming school year, our expectations (like our children) will either be nurtured and guided by virtuous principles, or they will be let loose like anarchists on the chinaware of our emotions. There is no other option: your growth this coming school year rests on expectations that are either lawful or lawless." The same principles of *expecting* apply to our Board, our administration, our teachers, and our students. What do we expect of one another? What does Oak Hill expect of you?

The Importance of Home

Oak Hill does not exist without faithful Christian parents seeking to provide this wonderful education to their children. I say often to prospective parents that these children do not belong to us; they belong to you, and we want to come alongside you in the work God has given you to do, to help raise and educate these future men and women in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to provide the absolute best education they can receive in this city, in this county, in this state, and in this country. However, the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual nutrition which most forms the child takes place in the home. Our work as Christian educators is not to replace mom and dad but to buttress their work, to make more firm and fruitful the work already being done at home. Oak Hill expects our parents to set a firm foundation and sure context for intellectual, emotional, and spiritual maturity, where children are seeing modeled at home all Oak Hill seeks to grow in them while at school. As Richard Baxter states, "Therefore it is apparent, that the ordinary appointed means for the first actual grace, is parents' godly instruction and education of their children."

The Importance of Church

Oak Hill does not exist without faithful and local Christian churches, and Christian families who participate in and build the life of their local Christian church. Christian education, and a school like Oak Hill, is the fruit of



the two most important social institutions: the family and the Church. Therefore, Oak Hill is not a substitute for Sunday worship, participation in the sacraments, and discipleship in and through the local church and the family. As important as the right education is for your child's spiritual growth and academic maturity, the gathering and worship of God's people on Sunday, and even throughout the week, has no substitute. Oak Hill expects our faculty, our families, and our students to be regular participants and vital members of their local Christian church. And we trust the fruit of that faithfulness will overflow into our wonderful academy. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Man was created a body, the Son of God appeared on earth in the body, he was raised in the body, in the sacrament the believer receives the Lord Christ in the body, and the resurrection of the dead will bring about the perfected fellowship of God's spiritual creatures. The believer therefore lauds the Creator, the Redeemer, God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the bodily presence of a brother...if there is so much blessing and joy even in a single encounter of brother with brother, how inexhaustible are the riches that open up for those who by God's will are privileged to live in the daily fellowship of life with other Christians!...Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren." (*Life Together*, p.20)

It Only Exists with Giving.

Oak Hill is a blessed place; it has been given much, and that means much is expected of it. Oak Hill also has great opportunities in the coming years to seek greater support in the Atlanta area and around the country. And in all of that pursuit of relational and financial support, my message will be simple. Oak Hill exists because of one important word: *giving*. Oak Hill is what it is, and it will become what it becomes because God has given to us, and we in turn give to support and grow this wonderful school. We give what God has given to us. "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19). Has God given you financial overflow? Has God given you talents? Has God given you community or political influence? To sustain and grow Oak Hill in the coming years, in the coming decades, we will be asked to give our time, our prayers, our finances, our intelligence, our expertise, and our ideas. There are five important and irreplaceable ways private schools need parents to give:

Giving your time: The Gryphon Flight Team is our parents' guild. For the 2020-2021 school year, those who have received financial assistance through the academy will be participating in this organization, and we ask that the rest of our families consider participating, even in a small way, on our Gryphon Flight Team. Please be on the lookout for more information from Ruth Knuteson.

Giving your finances: Oak Hill will have two major fundraising events each year. At these events and throughout the year we will have a clean, efficient, and purposeful way to give to this academy and its future. If the Lord has given you and your family an overflow of financial bounty, even if it is but a drop, or if you know of those who would like to receive tax credit or give to a non-profit educational institution like Oak Hill, please be ready and willing to give this year. And be ready and willing to ask others to give. More details will be provided at future events and throughout the year on requested giving amounts and methods of giving.

Giving your prayers: As a Christian institution, we covet your prayers, that you would go before our Father and ask the Lord's providence and protection over our students, faculty, and school, that you would add this school to your church's ongoing prayer requests, that you would even find time to come and sit quietly in our library and...pray.

Giving your ideas: We look forward to working with our parents, who can always bring a unique perspective to the operation and growth of this school. The best avenues for providing your ideas is by joining the Gryphon Flight Team and volunteering specifically for something you'd like to see



succeed at the school. Then, offer your ideas in that group setting so as to influence and help us construct the future of our academy.

Giving your endorsement: Throughout the year, and especially during enrollment season, parents are the most important “billboards” for a school. Look for opportunities to share with your family and friends about Oak Hill, at church, on the neighborhood playground, at coffee with friends. And when enrollment season rolls around, get creative in how you can spread the word to your community about this wonderful education, this gift God has given to us.

In just a short time of having started our inaugural year together, I am thankful for the work the Lord has done to bring Oak Hill to such a promising place, and I’m thankful for the wonderful faculty, families, and students he has brought together. As both an Oak Hill father and as the Oak Hill Head of School, I count it a great joy to labor alongside you for our children and those future children and families who will be blessed by this institution. Thank you for a strong start to the school year, and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve your family and exceed your expectations.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian G. Daigle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line that extends to the right.

Brian G. Daigle
Head of School
Oak Hill Classical School