



"Ubuntu" = I am because we are...

THE VILLAGE PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

Third Edition
2010-2011

Kwame Nkrumah Academy
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September 1, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to an exciting new school year! We are honored that you have chosen Kwame Nkrumah Academy for educating your child and we are anxious to provide your child with a culturally enriched learning environment. The mission of Kwame Nkrumah Academy is rooted in the belief that we must develop and affirm the whole child - personal, emotional, intellectual, and social. We are an African-centered institution; therefore, we will integrate African and African American culture into the curriculum. Our approach to teaching and learning is based on an African concept "*Ubuntu*" which means, "*I am because we are and my humanity is expressed through our humanity.*"

Our educational program is dedicated to providing and instilling in each child the highest standards of education with such classes as English/Language Arts, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physical Development/ Health, Reading Science, Social Studies, Technology Integration, and Spanish. We will follow the IL State Board of Education standards and the Chicago Public Schools guidelines to ensure our students will be able to compete globally with any child with a spirit of cultural pride, tradition, and respect for their ancestors and their community.

Our number one priority is to educate our students in a safe and nurturing environment. Please send your child to school promptly with the proper rest, attire, nourishment, and the love he/she deserves. We also encourage all parents and guardians to become involved in your child's education by communicating with your child's teachers and becoming involved in the various parental activities and organizations.

We look forward to bonding with you and your child and thank you again for allowing us to be a part of your child's learning experiences.

Sincerely,

Iva Carruthers, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors
Kwame Nkrumah Academy

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about African Centered Education

Question 1. What does African Centered Mean?

African centeredness refers to the common and diverse perspectives of peoples of African descent as the lens of culture, exploration and understanding the individual and community experience. It is particular in its geographical and community context and universal in that that all humans have their physical, social and intellectual origins in Africa. African centeredness affirms the principles of universal and human rights and dignity for all peoples.

Question 2. What is African Centered Education and what will my child learn?

African centered education is a global and authentic approach to learning and teaching that is grounded in the historical, contemporaneous and cultural perspectives of African Americans, other Africans of the Diaspora and the continent of Africa.

African centered education is holistic, meaning that the student will be involved in cross discipline learning, meeting state core curriculum goals and guidelines, critical and creative thinking, self-concept development, character and ethical development and education. Our aim is to be a global model of African-Centered teaching and learning -- a center and community of academic excellence. We will equip students with a strong sense of personal identity and academic and leadership skills to prepare them for participation the global community of this century.

African centered education places the African American student at the center of the educational experience as a subject rather than an object. This placement of the student at the center allows for an inclusionary process, which gives equal representation of all groups rather than one group over or below any other group.

Question 3. Will teachers and staff be supported with professional development?

Yes, there will be continuous workshops for instructional staff to ensure the competent delivery of African-Centered Education.

Question 4. How will parents be involved?

Kwame Nkrumah Academy recognizes the importance of parent participation and parenting in education. We believe that a successful school must be welcoming of parents, their needs and their contribution to the overall success of the school. The goal is for 100% participation in the Parent Council. One parent from the Parent Council will be elected as a representative on the Board of Trustees of Kwame Nkrumah Academy. The work of the Council of Parents will be initially conducted through four committees: Curriculum, Fundraising and Resource Development, School Culture and Public Relations.

Question 5. Why are some people against African Centered Education?

Because of misinformation and misunderstanding about, "What African Centered Education really is and what it is not." At an African Centered school, students will be exposed to a world-view experience that relates to all people, cultures, and traditions from the context of their reality, which will enhance their own self esteem, positive self imaging and higher standard of educational excellence.

Question 6. Does African Centered Education teach racism?

No! Racism is a power relation where one group is able to deny other groups equity of power, based on the criteria of a superior race. African Centered Education is an inclusionary educational process with emphasis on the African American experience that teaches all people are equal.

Question 7. Why is African Centered Education needed?

Traditional instructional models and Euro-centric education does not support a holistic approach to educating African American students. Educational research affirms the benefits of learning environments that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the children served. This suggests that all learning is related to identity and purposeful human and community interactions.

Question 8. Will students just learn about "black stuff" or will they learn about other cultures and ethnic groups?

African Centered Education acknowledges the scientific fact that humanity began in Africa. African Centered Education is an approach, which includes the study of the culture, heritage, contributions and traditions of all humans in the context of history and 21st century reality.

Question 9. What are Ma'at and the Nguzo Saba?

Ma'at is an ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) concept. The Nguzo Saba is a term popularized by Dr. Maulana Karenga. As used by the Ancient Africans, Ma'at was a concept that stood for "universal order." Ma'at represents reality in all its manifestations both spiritual and material. It is the creative force that encompasses and embraces everything that is alive and exists. As an ethical system, Ma'at is often discussed as seven cardinal virtues (truth, justice, righteousness, harmony, balance, reciprocity, and order). The Nguzo Saba is comprised of seven principles (Umoja, Unity; Kujichagulia, Self-Determination; Ujima, Cooperative Work and Responsibility; Ujamaa, Collective Economics; Nia, Purpose; Kuumba, Creativity; and Imani, Faith). The Nguzo Saba is most widely recognized in relationship to the seven days of Kwanzaa.

Question 10. What is the difference between African Centered Education, African Studies and Afrocentricity?

Remember, African Centered Education is an educational approach that utilizes African and African American cultural and intellectual traditions and processes in guiding the teaching and learning experience. It is both the philosophy and the practice, which guides the process of teaching and learning. Afrocentricity is a research construct and lens of thought and practice, which is rooted, in the cultural image and interest of people of African ancestry. It is a concept that guides the intellectual investigation and understanding of reality. African Studies is the designation given to the body of studies primarily concerned with the experience of African people. It is an academic discipline like Political Science or Economics.

Contract / Charter School

There are a number of key points to be made when discussing a charter or choice school such as Kwame Nkrumah Academy.

1. Kwame Nkrumah Academy is funded by the taxpayers. Thus, we are a special category of “public” school. Charter schools are given freedom from certain rules, regulations and policies that “neighborhood” public schools must follow. This freedom is granted so that new and innovative directions may be taken and diversity in delivering education to young people may be encouraged.
2. Kwame Nkrumah Academy is a school of “choice.” Parents/guardians and students choose our school as opposed to other public, private and parochial schools. Choosing Kwame Nkrumah Academy means that parents/guardians and students are committed to learning and accepting the principles of Ma’at and Afrocentric education, as well as the tenets of our academic program, rules, and policies.
3. Kwame Nkrumah Academy was founded on the ‘village concept’, where the parents/guardians, teachers, and students work together to build a respectful nurturing environment while striving for academic excellence. It is the joint responsibility of all adults in the ‘village’ to encourage positive character and good work habits from the children.

Parents/guardians are the first educators and most significant element in the factors that produce high academic performance. Parents/Guardians who enroll their children in Kwame Nkrumah Academy are expected to accept the role of partner, community member, and contributor to the education of their child. We require that all parents/guardians sign the parent agreement and pledge, which clearly outline the school policies, as a mutually binding agreement.

Kwame Nkrumah Academy

The school received its name from the first president of independent Ghana, Francis Nwia Nkrumah, born September 21, 1909. He is considered a founder of the Pan-Africans Movement, received a BA from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1939, Master of Science in Education in 1942, and Master of Arts in Philosophy in 1943. He was awarded honorary doctorates from Lincoln University (PA), Moscow State University (Russia), Cairo University (Egypt), Jagiellonian University (Poland) and Humboldt University (Germany).

Motto: *“Forward ever...Backward never!” --- Kwame Nkrumah*

Vision Statement

The vision is to be a global model of African-centered teaching and learning, a center and community of academic excellence and uncompromised expression.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kwame Nkrumah Academy is to equip students with a strong sense of personal identity, requisite ethical moorings, and academic and leadership skills to prepare them for participation if the global community of this century.

Kwame Nkrumah Academy sees education as a process of a shared experience that affirms the human dignity and rights of all peoples. Our approach to teaching and learning is based in an African concept called “Ubuntu” which means, “I am because we are” and “my humanity is expressed through your humanity.”

Principles of MA'AT

Kwame Nkrumah Academy’s school climate and culture is characterized by the seven virtues of MA'AT, an African philosophy that embodies the principles of:

1. Balance- all around development and steadiness of character
2. Correctness- counteraction of harmful or unpleasant effects, agreeing with a good standard
3. Harmony- orderly or pleasing arrangement that goes well together
4. Justice- Fair dealing
5. Order- established use
6. Reciprocity- mutual exchange
7. Truth- that which is true.

Who Can Attend Kwame Nkrumah Academy

Kwame Nkrumah Academy is open to anyone in the City of Chicago with fifty-percent priority given to students residing in the Pullman community. Children are chosen through a lottery, which will be held annually. Notice of the date will be publicized at least one week in advance. First preference is given to returning students who will automatically be assigned a space within the school. The next preference will be given to the siblings of the students already enrolled in Kwame Nkrumah Academy. For definition purposes, “siblings” are two or more children that are related either by birth, by means of the same father or mother or by legal adoption.

Residency Requirement

The parents or legal guardians of Kwame Nkrumah students *must* be Chicago residents. Proof of current address includes, but is not limited to, any **two** of the following documents:

1. Current utility bills
2. Illinois driver’s license or State of Illinois identification card
3. Voter registration card
4. Illinois Department of Public Aid card
5. Stamped United States Post Office change of address form
6. Deed

If the school should discover that a family is not residing in Chicago, the child will be transferred to their home school. If you move out of Chicago during the school year, all grades that attend KNA must transfer immediately to their home school, per CPS policy.

AGE OF FIRST ENROLLMENT

Children may enroll in kindergarten or 1st grade if they have reached the age of 5 or 6 years respectively on or before September 1st.

WEE FOLKS PLEDGE

My heritage is one of greatness,

And I know I can do more.

But I must never, never do less,

Than those who have gone before.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. daily. The morning ritual begins at 8:15 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. Every student is expected to arrive on time. Tardiness interrupts the instructional process of the school. A NOTE MUST BE SENT IF YOUR CHILD IS TARDY. Three tardies equal one day of absence.

7:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:00 a.m.	STUDENT ENTRY
8:15 a.m.	MORNING RITUAL
8:30 a.m.	INSTRUCTION BEGINS
3:30 p.m.	DISMISSAL

ATTENDANCE / ABSENCES /EARLY DISMISSALS:

In accordance with the principals of Ma'at and universal order in the school we have the following rules regarding attendance/ absences and early dismissals. School begins on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 and ends on Friday, June 18, 2010. A child's attendance is an essential component in their success. Students who are frequently absent often fall behind academically. Physician and dental appointments should be made *after* regular school hours, except in an emergency

The CPS / Kwame Nkrumah Academy Attendance Policy are as follows:

Valid Causes for Absence (Excused Absence) shall mean:

- Illness
- Observance of a religious holiday

- Death in the immediate family
- Family emergency

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the school by 8:00 am if their child will be absent that day and send a follow up note when the child returns to school. The written excuse should state the student's name, date(s) of absence, and reason for the absence. If a child is absent more than 3 days in a row due to illness a physician's note stating the illness, the recommendation to stay home and the date the student should return to school are to be included and submitted to the office when the child returns to school.

An unexcused absence is considered truancy

Full credit will be given for work assigned by the teacher and completed by the student within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school. Teachers are not required to provide special assistance for *unexcused* absences. Homework is still required to be completed. If a student's number of absences exceeds 10, he/she may be considered for retention. In some cases, the student may be required to attend summer school as a condition for promotion. However, there is no guarantee that this option to assure promotion will always be available.

Tardiness

In accordance with the principles of harmony, balance and order, tardiness is a disruption to the educational process and is inconsiderate to both teachers and other students; therefore, it is imperative that students are on time for school every day. A student is considered tardy when he/she arrives to class after 8:10 a.m. Since the majority of our students depend on their parents to get them to school on time, parental cooperation is requested. NOTE: Three tardies are equal to one absence. Excessive absence/tardiness may result in the student being sent to his/her neighborhood school.

Early Dismissal Requests

We ask parents/guardians to make every effort to adhere to regular dismissal times. If a child needs to be excused from school before the regular dismissal time, only an adult on file who is authorized, will be permitted to remove the child from the classroom. Teachers are not authorized to release students to parents. The request must be generated from a written order from the Main Office. Children will not be permitted to phone home to request early dismissals.

Early dismissals will not be honored after 3:00 p.m.

In accordance with the principles of harmony, balance and order, the procedures for Early Dismissals are as follows:

- If there is an emergency and your child requires an early dismissal within the last half hour of school, notify administration and your child will be ready for pick-up when you arrive.
- If this practice is used more than 5 times throughout the year, without medical or other emergency (with documentation), the early dismissal will be counted as a half day absence.

Late Pick-Up

In accordance with the principles of harmony, balance and order we institute the following rules regarding Late Pick-Ups:

- The school day ends at 3:30. Parents are expected to pick up their children on time.
- There will be a 15-minute grace period (3:45). At 3:46 p.m. you may be fined.
- Parents must pick up their children "ON Time" for the after school program.
- The fine for late pick up from the 'after school' program will be \$1.00 per minute.
- We will attempt to call all contact numbers on the emergency form. It is imperative that the emergency contact list remains current.

Academic Rigor

Kwame Nkrumah Academy expects that each student will strive for academic excellence. Mediocrity is unacceptable. Students are expected to achieve a minimum of 80% proficiency on all benchmark assessments. The rigor applied to the instructional program implemented at Kwame Nkrumah Academy, with the cooperation and support of parents, prepares students to achieve this goal. Parents should be prepared to provide the support required to ensure that their child achieves this goal.

Field Trips

Cultural and educational field trips are scheduled during each school year. Field trips are planned to enhance your child's educational process and must be relevant to what is being studied at the time the field trip is planned. Field trips are scheduled on school days and are, therefore, not optional.

Refunds: Since field trips are prepaid, refunds, due to absence, are not possible.

Permission slips from parents/guardians must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher before a student may participate in a field trip.

Chaperones – The ratio of chaperone to student is:

- Kindergarten- 3rd grade: 1 parent / guardian for every 5 students

Although each chaperone is directly responsible for their group of students, the class as a whole will stay together at all times during a field trip. Chaperones, alone or with their group, should not separate from the rest of the class at any time for any reason. Each group will follow the same set of rules. Teachers will provide a brief outline of the guidelines to chaperones before the trip. Any questions regarding the rules and responsibilities should be directed to the Teachers.

Dress/Attire – Students attending a field trip are required to wear (whichever color KNA shirt) on field trips with the rest of the standard uniform unless otherwise stated on the field trip/permission slip sent home to parents prior to the field trip.

FOOD SERVICE

Dietary Restrictions

In accordance with the MA'AT principal of Balance, Kwame Nkrumah Academy is providing balanced, healthy meals for your child. If your child has any dietary restrictions due to health or religious reasons, a note from the legal guardian and/or physician **MUST** be on file with the teacher and the Main Office.

Students may not bring breakfast or lunch to school. Meals will be provided, including meals for children with allergies or restricted diets. All meals will be provided by the CPS/Chartwells program, in which children are provided with a variety of healthy choices for breakfast, lunch and after-school snacks. Menus will be sent home monthly. Candy, gum, and soda pop *are not permitted* at any time in the school and will be confiscated. Lunch will be provided on all field trips unless otherwise indicated.

2010-2011 Breakfast / Lunch Fees

\$1.85 Full price

\$.60 Reduced price

The lunch period is 20 minutes long. Children are required to wash their hands both before and after all meals, throw away any trash and leave their area clean.

Free/Reduced Lunch Application

All students will receive an application for the lunch program. The completed and signed application must be returned by each student, *even if you do not qualify*. The application will be reviewed and you will be notified whether or not your child qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch. Failure to have a current, signed application will result in paying full price for lunch.

Lunch Accommodations

Students are expected to pay their teachers, for lunch each day. Weekly payments will also be accepted... Money should be sent to school with your child in an envelope marked with your child's name, grade, and room number.

Lunch menus are sent home at the beginning of the month. Students must consume all food in the food area. Students are expected to be respectful, cooperative and polite during mealtime.

According to the Chicago Board of Education Health guidelines, all food donated and given to students for functions must be pre-packaged from a store or factory. Homemade items are not permitted. Please consult your child's teacher on their classroom policy, for bringing healthy treats and celebrating birthdays. Only healthy snacks or treats are allowed.

UNIFORMS: A SYMBOL OF PRIDE AND UNITY

The children at Kwame Nkrumah Academy are required to wear uniforms. Uniforms promote unity and cultural pride and discourage the tendency to spend large sums of money on clothing. Students are also less inclined to judge each other by the brand names they are wearing. The school logo is embroidered on the uniform shirt. Our uniform shirts, gym uniforms and jogging suits are made by a private vendor and can be re-ordered. Only Kwame Nkrumah Academy shirts, gym uniforms, or jogging suits are permitted in school. Generic clothing is not permitted. Order forms may be obtained in the main office. For your convenience, there are order forms included in this handbook. The initial purchase will be placed through the Kwame Nkrumah Academy. Payment will be accepted in the form of a money order or cash.

Children must wear plain black pants, skirts, or jumpers with black plain shoes. Skirts and/or jumpers should be no shorter than one inch above the knee. Pants may be cotton, polyester blend, or corduroy. Jeans sweat pants, or jogging pants are not allowed. Shirts may be purchased in red, yellow or green only. Students may wear the same color turtleneck under the shirts in the winter. Plain **black shoes with rubber soles, and black socks are to be worn daily**. Students are not allowed to wear boots in the classrooms. Children must remove their boots and change into their regular shoes.

Articles of clothing, boots, shoes, lunch boxes and any other personal articles should be marked with the child's name, grade or room number so that they will be returned if lost.

In accordance with the principles of balance and order...**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT TO BE WORN IN SCHOOL:**

- Sunglasses
- Polo's without the school crest
- Athletic or bowling style shoes
- Sandals
- Tank tops
- Jeans
- Sleeveless shirts
- Sweat suits without the school logo
- Key cords
- Shorts
- Earrings for boy
- Hanging belts
- Jackets
- Hanging suspenders

UNAUTHORIZED MATERIALS, CELL PHONES, AND VALUABLES

Please refrain from bringing money or other valuables to school. The school is not responsible for any personal item that is lost, stolen or damaged. Radios, CD players, electronic games, cell phones, and other gadgets **are not allowed and should remain at home**. These items will be confiscated and only released to a parent.

HOMWORK POLICY

Homework is crucial to academic success. It reinforces concepts learned in the classroom and prepares students for more challenging academic tasks. Doing homework at the same time every day helps develop discipline and prepares students for the responsibilities they will face as an adult. The Kwame Nkrumah Academy Homework Policy is as follows:

Kindergarten – 30 minutes per day; Grade 1 - 45 minutes per day; Grade 2 – 60-75 minutes per day; Grade 3 – 90 minutes per day. In addition, we also ask that your child spend at least another 20 - 30 minutes each evening reading or being read to by another family member. Parents are encouraged to discuss any papers their child brings home, daily.

HEALTH RISKS

Parents/guardians must keep their child home if the child has any of the following illnesses:

- Head lice
- Fever of 99.6 or higher
- Vomiting
- Acute cold
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Swollen glands
- Severe cough
- Inflamed or red eyes
- Listlessness, weakness, drowsiness and/or flushed skin
- Headache
- Rash or skin eruptions of unknown origin

Children who become ill during the school day will be required to go home – as soon as possible. It is the parent/guardians responsibility to either pick up their child or make arrangements for a person listed on the student emergency list to pick up the child. This must be done in a timely manner.

If a child is sick at home or sent home from school for an illness, they are NOT to return to school until they are free of fever and/or symptoms for a FULL 24 hour period. If activities are to be limited after a serious illness or accident, a statement from a physician is required. The statement must indicate the length of time the limitation must be in place.

All children who attend school are expected to participate in gym/recess. If a child is too sick to go outdoors for fresh air and exercise, the child should be kept home. Exceptions will be made upon written request from a physician.

Medications can be administered during school hours upon receipt of a Physician Authorization and a written Parental Request. A written request for the administration of medication during school hours must be made by a licensed physician and submitted on the CPS medication request form. The parent/guardian must submit a signed Parent's Authorization to Release Medical Information form that includes the home phone number as well as an emergency number. Medication will not be administered unless these forms are properly completed and received. The CPS Health Service Nurse will review all requests and if possible, recommend that the time for administration of medication be adjusted so that it can occur during non-school hours.

Medications must be brought to school in the original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacist or licensed provider. All medication, devices and equipment, (e.g. nebulizers or inhalers) must be personally delivered to the school by the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student shall not bring the medication to school.

IMMUNIZATIONS, PHYSICAL and DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

According to *The School Code of Illinois*, physical examinations are required of all students entering kindergarten and 1st grades. These students must show evidence of a recent (within one calendar year) physical examination. These examinations also require evidence of age appropriate immunization. A new law requires kindergarten students to show proof of a dental examination. Students whose immunizations and physical examinations are not up to date will not be allowed to begin school. Students must remain in immunization compliance. Students will be excluded when they are not in medical compliance.

If your child has special medical conditions or health concerns (life- threatening allergies, diabetes, asthma, etc.) which requires potential medication administration during school hours, these conditions must be noted in the child's file. The required doctor and parental consent forms are available in the school office.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

A completed Emergency Information Sheet is required for each student. These forms are essential in case of illness, injury, or when immediate parental contact is required. Two emergency contacts with names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included. The office must be immediately notified of any changes to phone numbers and addresses.

VOLUNTEERS

Kwame Nkrumah Academy welcomes volunteers. Parent and community members can assist in many ways: copying materials for classroom use, helping a student with academic work, preparation of bulletin boards, and sharing a hobby or skill. House staff and specialists will communicate with parents about their needs and wishes for support. If you are eager to volunteer or to share some special thoughts with the teacher, please write a note, leave a phone message or e-mail the teacher and he/she will return your call. Administration and lead teacher coordinate volunteer services in the classroom. All volunteers must complete at Children Public Schools Volunteer Packet, which is available in the main office.

To ensure a safe environment for ALL students, all school volunteers must have a TB test and a background check, before providing service. All volunteers must sign in and out on the volunteer sheet, in the main office on the days they volunteer.

SCHOOL / PARENT COMMUNICATION

Teacher Conferences

Parents are always welcome at Kwame Nkrumah Academy. If a teacher feels a conference is necessary, the school will contact the parent. If a parent wishes a conference with the teacher, the parent should contact the teacher in writing, by e-mail, or phone voice mail system. Conferences should be arranged by appointment. No conferences will be held during instructional time unless pre-scheduled.

Phone Calls from Parents/Guardians

Teachers will not be able to speak with parents/guardians during instructional hours. You may dial the school and leave a message for your child's teacher, after selecting the designated prompt. The teacher will return your call at the earliest possible time available.

Visitors

For the safety and security of our students, ALL visitors are required to report to the office upon their arrival. Visitors will sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Upon departure, visitors will sign out.

Books

Students will be LOANED textbooks to use during the school year. Students are responsible for maintaining the books in the condition received. We ask you support in helping your child develop a respect for books. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged books. Book replacement ranges from \$25-\$75 each. Book fees must be paid before students can pick up their final grades and status of promotion for the upcoming year.

KWAME NKRUMAH ACADEMY **2010 – 2011 School Calendar***

SEPTEMBER

Sept 1-3, 2010	Teacher Institute Days- No School
Sept. 07	Classes Begin
Sept. 21	Kwame Nkrumah Birthday (In-School Celebration)
Sept. 24	Staff Development Day- No School

OCTOBER

Oct. 11	Columbus Day (African Maafa Day) - No School
Oct. 22	Staff Development Day- No School

NOVEMBER

Nov. 6	Professional Development Day- No School
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Observance- No School
Nov. 12	Professional Development Day; End of Quarter
Nov. 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences- No School

Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (Umoja Karamu) - No School

DECEMBER

Dec. 3 Staff Development Day- No School

Dec. 20-Jan.1 Winter Break- No School

JANUARY

Jan. 3, 2011 School Resumes

Jan. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday- No School

Jan. 28 Professional Development Day- No School

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3 Report Card Distribution (2nd Quarter)

Feb. 10 Staff Development Day-No School

Feb. 11 Lincoln's Birthday- No School

Feb. 20 Founders Day in Ghana (In-School Celebration)

Feb. 21 President's Birthday (Black History Day)

MARCH

March 6 Founding of Ghana (In-School Celebration)

March 7 Casimir Pulaski Day (African Nations Day) - No School

APRIL

April 1 Professional Development Day –End of Quarter-No School

April 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences- No School

April 18-22 Spring Vacation – No School

MAY

May 19 Malcolm X Birthday (In-School Celebration)

May 30 Memorial Day- No School

JUNE

June 15 Rites of Passage Graduation

June 16 Teacher Institute Day- No School

June 17 Last Day of School (Report Card Pick-Up)

*This calendar satisfies *The School Code of Illinois* mandate of 170 days of student attendance

PARENT INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Your parenting decisions have a significant effect on your child's ability to learn effectively in school. We ask that you try to adhere to these suggestions in the best interest of your child:

- Ensure your child gets adequate sleep each night. Pediatricians say that a six year old needs 11-12 hours of sleep a night. A sleepy child is not a good learner!
- A good breakfast is important. It is hard for a child to sit through class when they are hungry. We offer breakfast onsite (free or at a reduced cost to those who qualify). Whether your child eats at school or at home, make sure they eat.
- Help your child learn good study habits and establish early the trait of responsibility. We encourage you to ask questions like: "Have you done your homework?" "What do you need to bring to school tomorrow?" Homework for K-1 may include activities like parent-child discussions, collecting materials for scrapbook or collectively leaves and stones for nature students. All homework assignments include daily reading.
- Attend school functions, serve on committees or parent associations
- Read with or to your child every day.
- Get to know your child's teacher

KWAME NKURUMAH ACADEMY
Student Code of Conduct/ Student Expectations
2010-2011

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We at Kwame Nkrumah Academy believe in the development of the whole child – academically and socially. Kwame Nkrumah Academy combines tenets of the CPS Discipline Code along with the Principles MA'AT. For all infractions, a teacher-student conference is held first, followed by a teacher-student-parent conference, and, if necessary, a teacher-student-resource person-administrator conference will be held before major consequences are initiated. Every effort will be made to ensure intervention strategies are in place to prevent further misconduct.

We are a nurturing school and in accordance with the principals of Ma'at and the Nguzo Saba we will work with parents to find solutions to resolve any conflicts that take place. Kwame Nkrumah Academy staff will make every effort to work with students that present behavior challenges for a limited amount of time. However, when students are continuously disruptive, are inappropriately aggressive toward classmates or exhibit inappropriate interactions with classmates that interfere with the instructional program, *and* if parents refuse to be a part of the solution we reserve the right to evaluate the situation which may entail sending the student to his/her neighborhood school. We must work together to find solutions for all of our children...

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Be on time daily – school starts at 8:15 a.m.
- Complete and submit all homework on time.
- Be prepared to work each day with books, paper, and writing tools.
- Obey and respect adults
- Respect others by word and deed: Name-calling, physical contact prohibited.
- Respect yourself by words, actions, and honesty.
- Observe Uniform Policy everyday
- Electronic devices and valuables should be left at home
- Learning and teaching is reciprocal and collaborative
- Accept responsibility for your work and actions.
- Fighting is not expected or appropriate and will not be tolerated.
- Accept consequences for behavior (positive or negative)

As a parent / guardian I have reviewed these expectations and discussed them with my child (ren).

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Please sign and return to your child's teacher

KWAME NKURUMAH ACADEMY PARENT PARTICIPATION FORM 2010-2011

There are a few things we ask from each parent:

- Each quarter meet with teacher regarding child's progress
- Keep Main Office informed of changes in address, telephone numbers and emergency contacts
- Communicate often and routinely with your child's teacher
- Keep informed about school policies and requirements of your child's academic program, including homework.
- Review homework and discuss mistakes and at the same time give praise for a job well done.
- Ensure child attends school regularly and is appropriately prepared
- Participate in workshops for reinforcement of culture and climate of Kwame Nkrumah Academy
- Alert school to specific problems or difficulties that may impede the child's learning or well-being.
- Respond to teacher's request for communication promptly
- Speak respectfully of adults in your child's life
- Model civility (***appropriate tone, language*** and behavior)
- Support your child's education by taking advantage of field trip opportunities
- Ensure that your child is in the proper school uniform on a daily basis

I thoroughly understand the parental expectations by Kwame Nkrumah Academy. I agree to be an active part of my child's educational community.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please sign and return to your child's teacher

