

## **KIPP HEARTWOOD ACADEMY – OUR NAME**

KIPP Heartwood Academy derives its name from the redwood tree. The living tissue, or core, of a redwood tree is called the heartwood. When a redwood tree is damaged, it rebuilds itself from its heartwood. KIPP Heartwood Academy scholars will understand that no matter what happens in their lives, they will be resilient because they always have their core—education, values, family, and culture—to keep them strong and from which they can rebuild themselves. Moreover, redwood trees grow in a circle, where they each have a role in keeping the others healthy and alive. At KIPP Heartwood Academy, hard work will be crucial, along with the other values of the school – *Honor, Excellence, Absolute Determination, and Responsibility, and Team.*

## **COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**

All teachers, students and parents are required to sign the “Commitment to Excellence” contracts below as part of their agreement to join KIPP Bay Area Schools and the KIPP Heartwood Academy Team and Family.

### Teachers’ Commitment

We fully commit to KIPP Heartwood Academy in the following ways:

1. We will arrive at KIPP Heartwood Academy every day by 7:00 A.M. (Monday – Friday)
2. We will remain at KIPP Heartwood Academy until 5:15 P.M. every day and until 6 P.M. as needed. (Monday – Friday)
3. We will come to KIPP Heartwood Academy on appropriate Saturdays at 8:45 A.M. and remain until 11:15 A.M.
4. We will teach at KIPP Heartwood Academy during the summer.
5. We will always teach in the best way we know how, and we will do whatever it takes for every single one of our students to learn.
6. We will plan and execute rigorous lessons to prepare our students for success in college and in life.
7. We will hold all of our students, parents, fellow staff members, and ourselves to KIPP Heartwood Academy’s high expectations.
8. We are committed to results.
9. We will collaborate and plan with colleagues on a regular basis.
10. We are committed to our own professional growth and constant learning. We will give each other feedback regularly.
11. We will make ourselves available to students and parents during the school day.
12. We will make ourselves available to students, parents, and fellow staff members via phone in the evenings, until 9:00 P.M., on weekends, and during vacations to address any questions or concerns they may have.
13. We will regularly provide parents with updates on their children’s progress.
14. We will respect everyone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools regardless of race, color, gender, handicap, age, religion, disability, lifestyle, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin. I will always act in a professional manner when speaking with someone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools.
15. We will always protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom.
16. We will strive to be the best teachers we can be, modeling excellence and taking no shortcuts in preparing our students for success in college and in life.

*Failure to adhere to these commitments can lead to our dismissal from KIPP Bay Area Schools.*

X \_\_\_\_\_

### Student's Commitment

I fully commit to KIPP Heartwood Academy in the following ways:

1. I will arrive at KIPP Heartwood Academy everyday by 7:15 A.M. (Monday - Friday).
2. I will remain at KIPP Heartwood Academy until 5:00 P.M. (Monday - Thursday) and 4:00 P.M. on Friday.
3. I will come to KIPP Heartwood Academy on appropriate Saturdays at 9:00 A.M. and remain until 11:00 A.M.
4. I will attend KIPP Heartwood Academy during summer school.
5. I will come to school every day prepared to learn.
6. I will not take shortcuts. Every day, I will be the best student and person I can be.
7. I will always work, think, and behave in the best way I know how, and I will do whatever it takes for my fellow teammates and me to learn. I will give 100% everyday.
8. I will take charge of my own learning by participating in class, listening to my teachers and teammates in a respectful manner and asking questions if I do not understand.
9. I will complete all my homework every night.
10. I will ask my teachers for help when I need it both in class and outside of class until 9:00 P.M.
11. I will call my teachers if I am unable to come to school or have a problem getting to school.
12. If I make a mistake, I will always tell the truth and accept responsibility for my actions.
13. I will always behave as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom.
14. I will always follow my teachers' directions.
15. I will always treat my teammates, teachers, parents, and visitors with kindness, courtesy, and respect.
16. I will respect everyone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools regardless of race, color, gender, handicap, age, religion, disability, lifestyle, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin. I will always act in a professional manner when speaking with someone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools.
17. I will follow the KIPP Heartwood Academy dress code.
18. I will be a good neighbor by participating in community service projects.
19. I will uphold the high expectations of KIPP Heartwood Academy at all school related events on and off campus.
20. I am responsible for my own behavior, and I will accept responsibility for my actions.

*Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause me to lose various KIPP Heartwood Academy privileges, spend time in In-School Suspension, or lead to my expulsion from the school.*

X \_\_\_\_\_

### Parents'/Guardians' Commitment

We fully commit to KIPP Heartwood Academy in the following ways:

1. We will make sure our child arrives at KIPP Heartwood Academy every day by 7:15 A.M. (Monday – Friday).

2. We will make arrangements so our child can remain at KIPP Heartwood Academy until 5:00 P.M. (Monday – Thursday) and 4:00 P.M. on Friday.
3. If our child needs to stay for Homework Help until 6:00 P.M., we will make arrangement for him/her to stay.
4. We will make arrangements for our child to come to KIPP Heartwood Academy on appropriate Saturdays at 9:00 A.M. and remain until 1:00 P.M.
5. We will make sure to pick up our child on time.
6. We give permission for our child to participate in supplemental instruction as needed.<sup>1</sup>
7. We give permission for our child to participate in the Saturday enrichment or supplemental instruction program on appropriate Saturdays<sup>2</sup>
8. We will ensure that our child attends KIPP Heartwood Academy summer school.
9. We will do all we can to support our child and the commitment he/she has made to attend KIPP Heartwood Academy.
10. We will partner with the teachers and staff of KIPP Heartwood Academy to help our child excel in school, both academically and behaviorally.
11. We will always help our child in the best way we know how, and we will do whatever it takes for him/her to learn.
12. We will check our child’s homework every night, sign his/her agenda, and let him/her call a classmate or teacher (until 9:00 P.M.) if there is a question/problem with the homework. We will try to read with our child every night.
13. We will read carefully and sign (if necessary) all the papers the school sends home to us.
14. We will always make ourselves available to our children and the school and address any concerns they may have. We will meet regularly with teachers to discuss our child’s progress.
15. If our child is going to miss school, we will call the school in advance and notify teachers as soon as possible.
16. We will allow our child to go on KIPP Heartwood Academy field trips.
17. We will make sure our child follows the KIPP Heartwood Academy dress code.
18. We understand that our child must follow the KIPP Heartwood Academy rules so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom.
19. We will respect everyone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools regardless of race, color, gender, handicap, age, religion, disability, lifestyle, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.
20. I will always act in a professional manner when speaking with someone at KIPP Heartwood Academy and KIPP Bay Area Schools.
21. We will help our child prepare for college and life by supporting him/her and encouraging him/her to adhere to his/her “commitment to excellence.”
22. We, not the school, are responsible for the behavior of our child.

*Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause my child to lose various KIPP Heartwood Academy privileges, spend time in In-School suspension, or lead to his/her expulsion from the school.*

X \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Participation in supplemental instruction is not compulsory, but is an important part of KIPP’s Commitment to Excellence. If you do not wish for your student to participate, please inform the school Principal.

<sup>2</sup> If your child is unable to attend a Saturday school program for religious reasons, please notify the Principal so that other accommodations can be made.