



Island Pacific Academy

Parent as Participant

Active Involvement in Our School

Island Pacific Academy is a non-profit organization relying solely on tuition and the generosity of others for its operating costs. Thus, the independent school community is an interdependent one in which many are needed to work for the success of the whole. Being a parent at IPA means taking advantage of the opportunities for involvement in the life of the school and taking responsibility for its support. Commitment to and active involvement in the school are expectations we have of each other and every member of our parent community.

Responsibilities and opportunities for parents include:

1. Advocacy of children. Interest and involvement in the educational, moral and social growth of their children and the children of others;
2. Participation in volunteer support of the school. Giving time and talent to insure the success of school programs;
3. Financial support of the philanthropic endeavors of the school, helping IPA to bridge the gap between tuition income and operating expenses;
4. Advocacy of the school. Promoting the educational environment and program at IPA to others in the wider community.

Advocacy of Children

Children learn best when they are challenged, encouraged and guided in age-appropriate ways in a nurturing and consistent atmosphere. Teachers and parents are the adults most responsible for creating and maintaining such an environment, and they do so dependent upon each other. Teachers know the curriculum, have experience with many children over time, and continually educate themselves about brain research, teaching strategies and other professional concerns. Parents continuously define the atmosphere in which children grow and mature, know their children outside the classroom, and decide whether the learning environment at IPA is compatible with their children's needs and talents.

At IPA, we expect parental attendance at such events as Back-to-School Night and the periodic individual conferences with teachers. And, we invite parents to discuss with teachers or the Headmaster their observations, suggestions and concerns.

Volunteer Support

Why volunteers? One answer is that paying people to provide such service would substantially increase the cost of operation. So IPA welcomes parental volunteers in support roles that range from driving on field trips, to organizing special events at the school, and fund-raising activities.

An equally important answer is that volunteering makes stronger the bond between family and school. We feel best when we feel needed, and when we are needed our commitment is greater. Volunteering is also wonderful role-modeling for the students in our lives to whom we seek to impart the ethic of social involvement and responsibility.

The IPA Parents' Association (IPAPA) coordinates many of the volunteer activities. For all of us, finding time to volunteer is a major challenge. Yet supporting the education of our children with our volunteer time is worthwhile. The opportunities to contribute are many. The question faced by IPA parents is not, "Will I volunteer?" The question is, "In what way will I volunteer?"

Philanthropic Support

At independent schools, tuitions paid by parents typically cover 85% of the operating budget. The remainder is raised primarily through gifts. Parents are expected to give to the Annual Fund, and have other fund-raising opportunities to help meet the needs of the school. In return, the school pledges to be good stewards of parental gifts.

The advantages of philanthropy over increased tuitions are evident. Gifts are tax-deductible, because we are a non-profit school; tuitions are not. And gifts require an additional commitment by the giver to the school. Your gift is

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an investment; funding the budget each year insures the delivery of the program and provides other funding for such projects as faculty salary endowments, building campaigns, and the acquisition of technology and other resources that enrich the students' growth and development.

Numbers matter. IPA will approach outside foundations for financial support, as well. The first question these funders will ask is, "What percentage of your families gives to the school's Annual Fund?" Thus, we will seek 100% parent participation and gratefully accept whatever size gift the giver can afford.

Advocacy of the School

At Island Pacific Academy, you join other parents and their talented, motivated children to form a unique educational environment, which is renewed and enriched with each new family. At IPA we work diligently to earn and retain the confidence of our parent community as we seek to move each child to performance consistent with his or her ability and to develop the basic human values of kindness and generosity of spirit.

As our success grows, we welcome advocacy on behalf of the school by parents. The sharing of experience by parents and students is our most effective way to excite others to investigate our program.

We seek students who are motivated to learn and able to benefit from our program, students from families that fully support their children's education with their time, their talent and their resources. When these elements are combined with a creative, nurturing and challenging faculty, an excellent school results. We aspire to nothing less. We count on you to take the opportunity to share the story of Island Pacific Academy with those you know.