



Larchmont Charter – West Hollywood & Larchmont Charter School

Founding Parent Definition

Our Mission

The mission of the Larchmont Schools is to provide a socio-economically, culturally and racially diverse community of students with an exceptional public education. We foster creativity and academic excellence; our students learn with and from each other in an experience-centered, inquiry-based learning environment. With participation from our entire community, we strive to instill in each student a dedication to improving the world we inhabit

What is a Founding Parent?

Founding Parents help found a class at LCS or LCW and serve as long-term champions who help keep the school strong in the years leading up to that class's enrollment at LCS or LCW. Founding Parents are parents of potentially future students at LCS or LCW whose commitment to LCS or LCW mirrors the commitment of many of our most engaged parents of currently enrolled students. Founding Parents are full members of our community and are invited to participate in all aspects of our school. Founding Parents may be found at Friday Morning Sings, attending our Board meetings as a member of the public, joining our monthly Town Hall/Family Council meetings, participating in our site-based events like the World's Fair or the Walk-a-thon! Founding Parents also help out in any way they find meaningful. Examples of ways Founding Parents might contribute to our community include: volunteering to serve lunch, running a parent committee, offering pro-bono services like legal, architecture, painting, gardening; participating in our Pledge Drive, serving as a translator, or helping to recruit new families to our school.

In short, by becoming a founding parent, a parent commits to a minimum of:

- Volunteering at least 2-3 hours a month (on average) per year
- Attending at least 5 school events a year

We accept Founding Parents for:

- Kindergarten at LCW (10 each year)
- Kindergarten at LCS (12 each year)
- Future grades as announced

Why Founding Parents

- To ensure we have a core group of parents engaged in our school and committed to our mission in every class who can welcome new parents into our community.
- Community and family engagement is a central part of our mission! We hope to engage as wide ranging and diverse a community of champions as possible.
- Every year, LCS and LCW receive hundreds of dollars less than the neighboring public schools (in the 2010-2011 each school received roughly \$2,500 less per pupil in federal/state money than LAUSD). This means that we need as many members of our community as possible pitching in to help build a strong school at LCS and LCW for years to come

Why become a Founding Parent?

- It is an opportunity for you to be part of an inclusive diverse community of parents who aim to build a strong school in our community
- It is an opportunity for you to help transform public education in LA by helping to build a racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse school which offers a rich constructivist curriculum
- In any given year, up to 10% of an enrolled class may be reserved for the children of Board, Staff, and Founding Parents. While being a Founding Parent in no way guarantees admission to LCS or LCW, it is a way to achieve a priority in a lottery.

How to be enrolled as a Founding Parent?

We take Founding Parents on a first come-first serve basis. We hope to have a racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse community of Founding Parents. At some point in the fall of three years prior to potential enrollment, LCS and LCW will publicly announce (on their website and at their school site) they are accepting Founding Parents for a given class (e.g. the opening of the Founding Parent class for Kindergarteners enrolling in 2015 would be opened at some point in the fall of 2012). Applications may be picked up at each school site and turned into the front office. For Kindergarten at LCS, the first 12 complete applications received will be granted Founding Parent status. For Kindergarten at LCW, the first 10 complete applications received will be granted Founding Parent status.

The Founding Parent list will be retained by the Principal at LCS and LCW. If any member of the public has a question about the Founding Parent list, they may contact the school site and speak with the principal.