

August 23, 2016

Dear [insert teacher's name] and Elementary School Team,

We are excited to have our child in your school, and have specifically heard such wonderful things about you, [teacher's name]! We look forward to getting to know you and the rest of the [school's name] team.

I received the Parent Agreement and will happily sign it in regards to attending parent-teacher conferences, staying in communication with the school, and monitoring my child's attendance.

I respect you all as educators and professionals and wanted to share with you why we will not be participating in homework and therefore *not* signing that portion of the agreement.

My husband and I are supportive of you, our child's in-school educators, and are looking forward to all that our child will learn with you. We also want to support learning, responsibility, and discipline outside of the school and inside our home, but we will do that in many other ways than through homework. We will support and encourage learning through fostering curiosity. We will make time for reading. We will have our kids involved in fun and yes, educational activities. We will make crafts. We will read. But also, we will cultivate a home environment of rest, where relationships are fostered and our child is nurtured.

Our child will be a student of [school's name] between the hours of 8:35-3:20. Outside of those hours, our child will be a kid, and a student of life. He will be silly, creative, curious, imaginative, and first and foremost – a child.

If there are special projects that cannot be completed in class due to the nature of the project (ie a project where they need to interview a parent), we will gladly work together. Otherwise, we will keep schoolwork to school hours.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this decision. I'm happy to talk in person, on the phone, or through email. I am as dedicated to my child's education as I am to the quality of our family time together, and look forward to partnering with you over the next year to help my child succeed in the classroom, and out.

Have a wonderful year, and thank you for your understanding,

Michael and Rebekah