



## *Laurel Tree Charter School*

Creating the Education We Want For Our Children  
Rigor\*Relevance\*Relationships\* Responsibility\*Regeneration  
4555 Valley West, Arcata, California 95521 \* (707) 822-5626 \*  
[www.laureltreecs.org](http://www.laureltreecs.org)

Please read the following information about us and review the commitments we expect from students and families. If this seems like a good fit for your family, then fill out and return this paperwork. If we have openings, then we take people on a first come, first serve basis. If we have more applicants than we have openings, then we have a lottery twice a year (December and May). We create a wait list from those lotteries and take people in the order that they appear on the wait list. Siblings are exempt from the lottery and get the next available spot. Students within the Northern Humboldt District and the Pacific Union School District (the high school and elementary school districts we reside in) have a weighted preference (they get two lottery tickets).

### **Important Information to Consider**

We are sustainable. Laurel Tree's mission is to create a sustainable model of education which provides all students with accessible curriculum based on college preparatory standards, while developing life and social skills in a mixed age setting.

We travel. Families raise money each year for middle school and high school travel.

We are online. Much of what we do is paperless and needs to be accessed on-line. Our website, our weekly Monday note, our billing for aftercare and daycare, and our grading system are all online and accessible to parents over the Internet. (There are school computers available for use by parents and students for these purposes, if home Internet access is not possible.)

We are a site-based school. While we do have a very small Independent Study program for Forest School Families, our main school funding from the state is based on the amount of time students are at the school and working. Students have to be at school all day, every day, unless they have an excused absence such as a doctor's appointment. If your family needs more flexibility in your schedule, or simply partial school days, we can put you on the wait list for our Independent Study Program. It is for kindergarten through fifth grade. If your child is absent or if you go on a trip, we have online work that you can access so the school can still get funding for your child's attendance. No student work = no funding for the school.

Our special education program is primarily a "push-in" (as opposed to a "pull-out" program). Support is primarily provided in the regular, mixed age classroom. The special education teacher works closely with the classroom teachers to provide modifications and support within the regular curriculum.

We have animals. Feeding and caring for the animals is part of our sustainable community.

We work outside in all weather. Many of our programs are outside (Edible Education, Watershed Explorers, Forest Kindergarten) and we continue those programs rain or shine. Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather.

Please consider these things and ask yourself, "Is this the school that best meets my child's and my family's needs?" If the answer is yes, then we'd be delighted to have you to join our school community!

## Laurel Tree's Five R's

**Rigor:** LTCS prepares its students to be college and career ready. High school students have opportunities to be concurrently enrolled in college courses. Students are exposed to assignments that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and flexibility where the learning environment is stimulating, engaging, and supportive.

**Relevance:** Students at LTCS participate in hands-on, student driven curricula. Students apply the skills and ideals they have practiced at LT in the community at large.

**Relationships:** LTCS prepares its students to have mindful and meaningful social interactions. All students will participate in mixed age, tribal activities. All students will be taught mediation techniques and restorative justice practices.

**Responsibility:** LTCS will provide opportunities for students to practice responsibility for themselves and others. Students will be expected to monitor their academic progress while playing an active role in the school community. Each year students engage in the democratic process of drafting the school constitution and, throughout the year, holding themselves accountable to the agreements.

**Regeneration:** LTCS prepares its students to practice sustainability through the principles of permaculture. Students will participate in growing and harvesting food and managing the school's facilities systems (compost, recycling, garbage).

## Commitments

### **Laurel Tree's Commitment to Families**

As the staff of Laurel Tree, we will:

- Provide students with a positive learning environment
- Foster communication between school and home
- Nurture responsible, caring, and creative citizens
- Encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect between staff, students, and community

### **Parent's Commitment to the Laurel Tree Community**

As a Laurel Tree parent, I will:

- Make sure my child gets to school on time
- Help my child with homework and projects
- Communicate with teachers about any concerns I may have, at appropriate times
- Encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect between staff, students, and community

### **Student's Commitment to the Laurel Tree Community**

As a Laurel Tree student, I will:

- Come to school on time and prepared
- Participate in activities with a positive attitude
- Be willing to take risks in learning new concepts and meeting new friends
- Take responsibility for my learning at school and at home
- Respect myself, my classmates, my teachers, and all community members
- Do weekly homework

We understand the Five R's find the commitments reasonable and fair. We will uphold them:

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Next Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School District of Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of the parent and student questions below is to help you and your child consider whether Laurel Tree is the right school for you, and to help us know something about you. Your answers do not determine whether or not you get in. Answering these questions is optional.

**Parent Questions:**

1. What are you seeking for your child's education?
2. What did you hear about or observe at Laurel Tree that interested you in placing your child with us?
3. What are your child's strengths?
4. What are your child's areas of need?
5. How does your child learn best?

**Student Questions:**

1. Why do you want to attend Laurel Tree?
2. What are your favorite subjects? Why?
3. What are your least favorite subjects? Why?
4. What kinds of activities do you enjoy?
5. What do you like about your current school?
6. Are you and your parent/guardian comfortable with the commitments on the back of the first page?