



Kishami Academy LLC

Teaching you into a better future

Attendance & Homework Policies

ATTENDANCE is important, and not just because it is a requirement of the law: Public Schools are linear. A concept is introduced on Monday and is built upon each day until Friday when it is tested--whether or not the student passes, it is assumed the student now understands the new concept and how it relates to the subject. The next week that concept is built upon with even more new information. One day absent in this linear teaching means a crack in the understanding of a concept and every concept that builds on upon it. By the next grade, the student is lost and falling behind. Several years later failing grades let teachers and parents know something is wrong--that is, if negative behaviors haven't arisen to cover the fact that the student is lost. Most schools do not attempt to discover and fill in these gaps, but rather focus extra attention on the current concept that is causing trouble.

Ten days absent is equivalent to an entire school year lost in the confusion of missing links of basic concepts. These academic gaps are important if a student is to advance in academics and life.

At Kishami Academy LLC we do things a little differently.

Mathematics and Language arts assignments are given and usually completed in class. Every student is learning at their level. If they are absent, then they do not miss the assignment, they pick up where they left off when they get back. However, students tend to gain momentum when learning and thus missing days breaks their energy and often causes them to fall behind again (*experience from previous years at Kishami Academy LLC*) We also do not hold students responsible for information in history and science that they missed by being absent. This holds students accountable for the information that they were present for, and does not hold them to expectations that our demographic of students often have difficulty meeting.

However, not all things are on hold when your student is absent. Many academic and social lessons are learned each day, and students have a feeling of togetherness that develops. Missing 10 days of math may not hold them back academically, but if they were in a leveled math group, they now end up in a group by themselves, or falling into a group that was further behind. Writing assignments are still due on the due date, meaning you and your student must choose which days they will come in early or stay late to catch up on their projects.

Our school is divided into two main sessions with three 6 week units in each session. All projects, research, and assignments must be completed by the end of the unit to be graded. We cannot carry over research and writing projects and expect our students to be able to complete them while beginning a new one.

---Please **attempt 100% attendance**.

---Our Bridging program only works with nearly perfect attendance.

---**Communicate immediately with the school if anything comes up:** illness, meltdowns, unforeseen complications of life. We understand our demographic of students is different, and we make allowances for this.

----**More than 4 days absent in a single month** will result in a Family/School conference and a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of Kishami Academy LLC for your student/s.

---**Zoom and/or Google Hangouts** are used for attending school when in-person is not possible. This can be during the day (attending all day, or being called for specific subjects) or during an arranged 1:1 tutoring slot after school.

HOMEWORK: Know that **there is 20 minutes of reading homework EVERY DAY, 7 days a week, 365 days a year**. If there is no other work listed or mentioned READING is ALWAYS assigned. This is free-choice reading, but often will have an assigned reading log, and a book report to the class (1 report each unit is required).

This is important to help your student recognize correct spelling, hear/read correct grammar, understand sentence and plot structure, enlarge their pool of reference and connection material, and increase their imagination.

They may read silently (*ask them to summarize what they read to you in 3 or fewer sentences*), They may read aloud to a family member or toy, They may also listen to the audio book (*we do prefer that they be reading along with a printed version at the same time but it is not necessary*).

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Rachel Widgren
Owner & Head Teacher



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Tuition & Scholarship Policies

TUITION

--Due by the **10th** of each month using any of the following:

- CashApp code: \$KishamiAcademy
- PayPal code: KishamiAcademy@gmail.com
- Check made out to Kishami Academy LLC
- Cash in person

--If there is a **problem** concerning payment, be sure to **communicate** with the school by the third of the month so we can meet and make arrangements.

--If **payment is not received** by the 10th of the month, we will schedule a meeting with the family to consider whether Kishami Academy LLC is the appropriate placement for your student.

--If **communication fails** between family and Kishami Academy LLC, and tuition has not been paid, your student will be dis-enrolled and returned to their home district.

SCHOLARSHIP

--Tuition for Kishami Academy LLC is \$1000/month.

--With a scholarship tuition is paid by a cash portion, a trade portion, and the generosity of the school (*which we hope will soon be offset by donations and grants*).

--Each month **parents must communicate** with the school as to that month's required trade portion.

--That **trade requirement must be completed** or the monetary equivalent will be due on the 10th of the following month.

Cash portion: \$ _____

Trade Agreement: _____ (Cash Equivalent: \$ _____)

Other portion: \$ _____



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Family Support & Communication

You are at Kishami Academy LLC for the benefit of your student. This shows that you have already taken an active role in the future of your student & you already believe that your student has the potential for much more than what was being encouraged in the Public School System.

We thank you for your faith in us.

We require from you, **your continued support of your student**. Their success is dependent on three factors: You, Kishami Academy LLC, and your student. We work together with success in mind. Therefore, **communication** is paramount between this working community.

Kishami Academy LLC sees things from a different perspective. The Head Teacher is autistic and can empathize with the students in a way that many people cannot. We understand that you are the expert in your child, but because of our experience and insight we may make suggestions (with explanations) that we hope you consider.

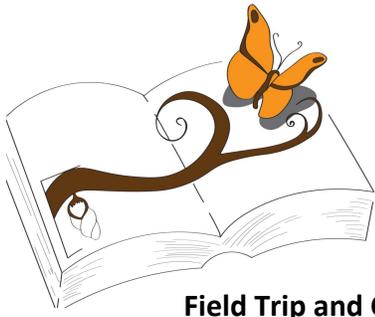
At times, suggestions may become requirements to remain at Kishami Academy LLC if the problem which inspired the suggestion does not improve--which means that something different should be attempted for the benefit of your student. This is the experimental part of Kishami Academy LLC, based on *Action Research & Lost at School*, if a change does not become evident, then what is being done is not effective.

Here are some key everyday things you can do to let your student know they are valued, they are important, and that their education is valued and important:

- Talk with your child**. Ask them about what they learned today and inquire for details. Your interest lets them know that their education is important.
- Discuss** books, news programs, movies, newspaper articles and daily events with your children. The give and take of ideas and connections through in-depth discourse helps your child become a critical thinker and aids them in making connections between their lives and the larger world of ideas.
- Answer** your child's questions. They ask because they want to know. Answering them honestly tells your child that their curiosity to learn is important and valued and that the world they are curious about is one they have a right to comprehend.
- Explain yourself**. When you say no, when there is a rule/law to follow, or before a punishment. Explanations allow your child to think and work through the reasoning and find their own logic. This lets them know they are a valued individual worth trusting.
- Read** to and with your child. Ask and answer questions, discuss connections to emotions and life. This lets your child understand that reading is valued and an important aspect of learning and examining the life they are living.

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Field Trip and Classroom Release & Liability for Kishami Academy LLC

You signed this document when you enrolled your student in Kishami Academy LLC. This is your refresher, with added clarification. To renew, you only need to initial and sign the signature sheet of this 2020-2021 packet.

I release and forever discharge Kishami Academy LLC, Watford Wellness Works, and Rachel Widgren, from any and all liability claims and demands with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, illness, or changes in symptoms that may result from academic activities.

You read and initialed the following statements:

- 1)** I understand that Kishami Academy LLC is an independent school and that Rachel Widgren does not have Colorado Department of Education oversight or insurance coverage. *We do not have oversight so that we can actually address your student's needs in all areas of their lives. We do not have insurance as we are tuition-based and at our current small size we are unable to afford the luxury.*
- 2)** I understand that Kishami Academy LLC is continually researching and educating the staff in new developments and programs to help clients grow as a whole being: physically, mentally, emotionally, and academically.
- 3)** I understand that I/my student will be instructed on safety precautions and rules meant to keep me/them safe in all aspects of the program and that **4)** I/my student is held responsible for following these instructions to maintain their own safety. *Our school is unique and shares a space with Watford Wellness Works, we make use of the exercise equipment to aid our brain functions. The difficulty is having too much stuff in such a small space and sharing with several families that are in the process of downsizing. Therefore, safety and limits are explained immediately, and students know from day one what they can and can't do and how to operate the equipment safely.*
- 5)** I understand that a part of Kishami Academy LLC educational programs involves frequent field trips to Memorial Park, Pikes Peak Library District, and periodic activities outside of the school building. *We visit Memorial Park almost daily, for sports, activities, and just free-play.*
- 6)** I understand that Kishami Academy primarily makes use of teacher vehicles for transportation and may occasionally use the Mountain Metro Transit System. *We now have a 7 passenger Ford Expedition to use! When things are settled down a bit in the world, the Mountain Metro Transit System will be put to use to teach our students transportation independence.*

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Medical Staff Release of Liability

Our school has the benefit of being under the umbrella of Watford Wellness Works.

We provide answers to questions regarding education, autism, schooling, and provide services as Kishami Academy LLC for people with autism and other learning challenges that may benefit from our Bridging program and tutoring. In return we are provided with two resources for all our scientific, health, nutrition, and body wellness questions and needs.

Dr. Kelley Watford, a Doctor of Chiropractic, is our in-house first stop for all questions we have. She provides first aid services and remedies for minor afflictions. When we are in doubt we ask the expert: Dr. Kelley. Her education rivals that of a medical doctor, and she has had many jobs in the scientific fields throughout her life.

Ms. Mary Stephens is a licensed massage therapist. She is a great resource for helping us understand our muscles and anatomy.

In addition to education and the myriad of questions that we come up regarding our health and learning to identify what is happening inside our own bodies, Dr. Kelley offers free adjustments for our students. A chiropractic adjustment keeps the skeletal system aligned, which allows the nervous and circulatory systems to work to the best of their ability. These three systems are of vital importance to help the brain reach its optimum function.

To allow Dr. Kelley Watford to perform Chiropractic adjustments on your child without you needing to be present, you must fill out a consent form for your child. The same is true for chair massages by Ms. Mary Stephens.

If you have already filled out a consent form, your initials and signature on the 2020-2021 packet signature page updates that permission.

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Student Safety & Dress Code Policies

- 1) See Field Trip & Classroom liability page: students will be instructed on safe use of equipment and building rules. Students and teachers all watch out for the safety of each other, but the primary responsibility is on your student who may lose access to equipment or areas of the school if they cannot abide by safety guidelines.
- 2) We have **immune-compromised students** attending this school. These students maintain optimum health through nutrition and homeopathy. However, these students are **extremely sensitive to live-virus vaccinations**. Therefore, for their safety, if you or your child obtain a live-virus vaccination we request that you attend school Online for the duration listed below to protect their health. Vaccinations that contain live-virus and are contagious to immune-compromised individuals are:
 - 3 days--Flu nasal spray
 - 28 days--MMR (rubella portion of this vaccine), oral polio
 - 21 days--chickenpox/varicella
 - 14 days--yellow fever, rotavirus, smallpox, oral typhoid BCG (TB), adenovirus, shingles
- 3) Many of our students are prone to **meltdowns**. Most of these are individual events. At Kishami Academy LLC we work together to discover triggers so we can catch meltdowns before they happen. We allow students to reset their brains by using exercise equipment, pacing, hiding in a safe place to calm down, taking a nap. We discuss the event and make a plan for next time. To date students who are prone to violent meltdowns have not experienced them during school hours due to our reset allowances. However, if a student feels they cannot calm down, or do escalate the parents will be called to retrieve their student immediately.
If a student attacks a fellow student, all parties involved--students, teachers, and parents--will be meet THAT DAY ASAP to decide an appropriate course of action. We are in this experience together and we know that autism and learning challenges are not responsive to one-size-fits-all solutions.
- 4) **DRESS CODE:** currently there isn't one. If your student is comfortable being seen in public and playing sports, then they can wear what they like. If what is worn is offensive to another student or teacher we will analyze and update this code. A spare set of clothes kept at school (or in their backpack) is suggested, but not required, for weather and activity accidents.
Religious and political attire should be avoided to prevent academic or outsider disruptions



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Enrollment Changes

You do not need to fill out an enrollment form every year, just let us know the changes.

This is an overview of the enrollment form. If there are any changes, please make note of them on the back of the 2020-2021 yearly packet Signature page.

A. Student Information:

change of address, preferred name, preferred pronouns, phone number?

B. Parent information:

change of address, phone number, email address?

C. No possible changes (home language survey)

D. No possible changes (previous education information)

E. School-age children in the household:

any new children in your household, or children who are now in school?

F. Emergency contact information:

need to add or remove emergency contact, or non-emergency pick-up names?

G. Medical information:

new allergies, new medications (reaction cautions), change of insurance, doctor or preferred hospital?

H. Dietary sensitivities and how your child responds if ingested (new this year):

I. Additional information necessary to address your students needs to the best of our ability (new this year):



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Signature Sheet Return to School Checklist

I have read and understand the sheets included in the Yearly Packet 2020-2021 from Kishami Academy LLC. My initials and signatures on this sheet are my acknowledgment and agreement to the policies therein.

_____ Attendance & Homework Policies

*Attendance & Homework are key parts of growing success in school and life.
Attendance is necessary for Bridging to work to the benefit of your student.*

_____ Tuition & Scholarship Policies

*Due by the 10th of each month via CashApp, PayPal, Check, or Cash.
Scholarships are made up of cash, trade, and generosity.*

_____ Family Support and Communication

Your support & communication is so very important to our student's success

_____ Release of Liability & Field Trip Agreement Form

This sheet was filled out in full when your first enrolled at Kishami Academy LLC and your initials here state that you still agree with all the statements on the form.

_____ Release of Liability for our medical staff -- Please initial or write NO in the statements below:

_____ I allow my student to have first aid treatments by all adults at Watford Wellness Works.

_____ I allow my student to have chiropractic adjustments by Dr. Kelley Watford

_____ I allow my student to have chair massages by Ms. Mary Stephens

_____ Student Safety, Meltdowns, & Responsibilities

Students work together to help each other, but parent's may be called to intervene and pick their student up earlier. We want to work on these issues together in three specific ways: Teacher/Student, Teacher/Class, Teacher/Student/Family

_____ Enrollment Changes

If anything has changed since the last year, please make note of the changes on the back of this sheet or request a new enrollment form to fill out.

I _____ (Print parent name), the parent of _____ (Print student name)

do attest that I have read and understood all the information within the Yearly Packet 2020-2021.

(signature) _____ (date) _____

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Philosophy for Learning

Kishami Academy LLC is a research school. This means that all teachers and students are constantly learning and improving themselves. We learn from each other through the different situations and environments we find ourselves in. Teachers engage in constant research to address issues that arise and will experiment with different ways of teaching that may seem untraditional in order to find ways to enhance the learning and development of each student. In addition, Kishami Academy LLC often enlists the students themselves in helping to discover ways that will help them grow. They are actively engaged in the experiment process as well.

Here are some examples of research based learning being applied in the classroom:

- The use of gym equipment to assist the brain in growth, connectivity, and regulating emotions
- Bridging program that aids the interaction between the brain's hemispheres allowing optimum performance of the brain
- Differentiated seating
- Small group size and student-led academics (we really do meet your student where they are academically and move forward at their pace, we encourage them to search and find answers to their own questions and report back to the class)
- Frequent breaks to allow information to be stored and the brain to reset for the continued learning
- Being allowed to wander while thinking and working on problems
- Following student questions and focus on a subject to increase student learning and connections rather than following a strict lesson plan that can cause student interest to fade with inattention
- Technology used to teach students how to become competent in research and finding answers on their own
- A noticeable lack of worksheets and take home papers
- Addressing issues as they arise so that students can learn from each other and recognize they are not alone (this helps with stepping in another's shoes, mirroring, empathy, compassion, understanding themselves and others)
- Involving children in their own development through academics and collaborative troubleshooting.

If you are interested in some of the information that is behind what we do at Kishami Academy LLC, here are some books that are instrumental:

Lost at School by Ross W. Greene

Disconnected Kids by Dr. Robert Melillo

The Smartest Kids in the World by Amanda Ripley

Understanding Intercultural Communication by Stella Ting-Toomey & Leeva C. Chung

The Development of Language by Jean Berko Gleason & Nan Bernstein Ratner

Action Research by Craig A. Mertler

The Dominance Factor by Carla Hannaford, PhD.

Indigo Children by Lee Carroll & Jan Tober

Teaching with the Brain in Mind by Eric Jensen

Brain Gym by Paul E. Dennison, PhD. & Gail E. Dennison

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**Informed Consent for Examination & Treatment
WATFORD WELLNESS WORKS**

THE SPINE MECHANIC

I, (print name) _____, request and consent to the performance of a physical examination and treatment by chiropractic adjustments and other chiropractic procedures on my dependent (print student name) _____, for whom I am responsible, by Dr. Kelley Watford, the licensed doctor of chiropractic at Watford Wellness Works/Kishami Academy LLC.

I acknowledge that chiropractic care has possible (and extremely rare) complications including by not limited to soreness, sprains/strains, fractures, dislocations, disc injuries, cerebral-vascular accidents, physiotherapy burns, or soft tissue injuries. There may be an audible "pop" or "click" as a result of joint movement.

I do not expect the doctor to anticipate all potential risks or complications and I wish to rely on the doctor to exercise clinical judgment in my dependent's best interest during the entire course of their care, based on the facts known at that time.

I understand that I, and my dependent, may speak to the doctor and ask questions about potential risks or any other concerns we may have **at any time**, including before I sign this acknowledgment and allow my dependent to receive any physical evaluations or treatments.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
Parent Contact Number _____ Dependent Date of Birth _____

MARY STEPHENS MASSAGE

I, (print name) _____, request and consent to the performance of a physical examination and treatment by massage therapy procedures on my dependent (print student name) _____, for whom I am responsible, by the licensed massage therapist at Watford Wellness Works/Kishami Academy LLC.

I understand that I, and my dependent, may speak to the doctor and ask questions about potential risks or any other concerns we may have at any time, including before I sign this acknowledgment and allow my dependent to receive any physical evaluations or treatments.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
Parent Contact Number _____ Dependent Date of Birth _____



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School Fee Agreement & Payment Form

Kishami Academy LLC is an independent school. This means that the Academy is not a beneficiary of tax exemption, government grants, tax dollars, or Colorado Department of Education oversight. This Academy receives no government funding and thus requires a fee to attend. Additional fees may be required as follows:

- Basic school supplies needed during the school year for your child
- Field Trip fees that include entrance fees, food costs, and gas assistance. *NOTE: Most costs are covered by the family because Kishami Academy LLC is too small to obtain school group discounts. Also be it known that field trips with Kishami Academy LLC always welcome the entire family.*

My student _____ is attending Kishami Academy LLC for the 2020-2021 school year at the basic tuition of \$1000/month.

Scholarship Tuition (if applicable): _____ /month + Trade of _____

Payments are due monthly by the 10th of each month.

Month	Amt/Type	Date Paid	Signature of Receipt
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Preferred Contact Information: _____

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Kishami Academy LLC | 2020-2021 CALENDAR

AUGUST '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

10 1st Day Fall session

10-14 BOY Testing

FEBRUARY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

11 4th Report Card

12/15 Presidents' Day Break

SEPTEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7 Labor Day

18 1st Report Card

MARCH '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

22-26 Spring Break

OCTOBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

12 Columbus Day

30 2nd Report Card

31 Halloween

APRIL '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

02 5th Report Card

04 Easter

NOVEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

11 Veterans Day

23-27 Fall/Thanksgiving Break

MAY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

09 Mother's Day

24-27 End of Year Testing

28 6th Report Card

31 Memorial's Day/ Beginning Summer Break 1

DECEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14-17 Mid-Year Testing

18 3rd Report Card

21-31 Winter Break

JUNE '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1-11 Summer Break 1

20 Father's Day

JANUARY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1 Winter Break

4 1st Day Winter Session

18 M.L. King Day

JULY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

4 Independence Day

23 7th Report Card

26-30 Summer break 2