

DEN PARENTS NEEDED!!

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I am Nickrova, grandmom to three boys in the lower school. During my 15 years volunteering in NYC public schools, I have learnt the entire school system, and I also know how valuable parent engagement is for the classroom and school community. I wanted to get involve at Gillingham, and after a couple of meetings with Mrs. Hutchinson expressing my thoughts on getting involved and increasing parent involvement, I was asked to take lead of the Facebook parent group along with Ms. Altemose and recruit parents to become "Den Parents."

There are many volunteering opportunities at Gillingham, and serving as a Den Parent is just one way. Though it may not be right for everyone, for those parents with enough flexibility in their schedules and an interest in volunteering, being a Den Parent can be a great fit. Not only does this position provide a valuable service to the classroom and the entire school community, but it is also a benefit to the parents. Den Parent gets to spend time in the classroom. This means getting to know your child's teacher and classmates and seeing your child's daily environment. The other huge benefit of being a Den Parent is creating a strong relationship with your child's teacher. Spending time collaborating with the teacher allows extra access to what is happening with your child in school. It also gives you insight into how your child might experience being in that teacher's class.

Here is some information about this new role at Gillingham:

Q. Who are Den Parents?

A. A den parent are moms/dads/legal guardians who have time during the school day.

Q. What do Den Parents do?

Assist a classroom teacher with classroom events and activities. Contact other parents for classroom donations, supplies for parties, activities, and events. Function as a liaison between the classroom and the Parent Volunteer Coordinator. Support the class's Saturday Service Project.

Q. What does a Den Parent NOT do?

AMake more work for the teachers but lighten the load. Respect the teacher's wishes about what they would like their Den parents to do. Follow their lead.

Q. How are Parents selected?

Each teacher will select his/her den parent(s) from the pool of completed and returned forms found below. Availability and reliability are key!

Q. If I volunteer now but then have a change in plans, what should I do?

Inform your Lead Parent as soon as possible.

Q. What if I apply and I'm not selected as a Den Parent?


There will be other opportunities to serve the classroom and the school in other capacities as needs arise throughout the year.

Q. How will I know what will be expected of me as a Den Parent?

The teachers will plan to meet with you to review specific plans and requests.

You can find more information on volunteering opportunities by following Gillingham Charter Parent on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/gillinghamparents

Sincerely,



Nickrova Jack

whatsyourpain@gmail.com

Please fill out the form below and return it to your child's teacher ASAP!

My name is _____ Phone _____

I would like to be a K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 den parent during the 2024-2025 school year.
(Circle the appropriate grade level. Use a separate form for each grade level you choose.)

My child's name is _____ in _____'s class.

I can be available during the day to help in the classroom. Yes No

Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. TIMES: _____

I am comfortable collaborating with my child's teacher, other staff in the room, & all parents.
 Yes No

I will stay informed of school & classroom events & pass along any news to classroom families.
 Yes No

I would like to know about other volunteering opportunities. Yes No

I would be interested in attending monthly parent group meetings. Yes No

Volunteer with us!

Here at Gillingham, we offer a multitude of opportunities for our parents to take an active role through volunteering. Evening Collaboratives, scribing for exams, chaperoning for field studies, driving to events and field studies, and Saturday Service Projects are just a few of the opportunities available to our families. Saturday service projects offer parents a wide variety of experience.

Interested in volunteering at our school? Simply scan the following QR codes to complete your clearances.

Child Abuse History Certification



Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Criminal History Record Check

