



Guidance for Families Regarding Gatherings for Students Beyond BDS

As a school, we are committed to inclusivity in all that we do. We hope this commitment is shared by every Belmont Day professional, student, and family.

When it comes to events that are not conducted, sponsored or governed by the school but involve the gathering of students (e.g. playdates, sleepovers, movies, dining, playing together in non-BDS leagues, birthday parties and other rites of passage occasions), we cannot create an enforceable policy regarding what is and is not permissible.

Instead, we ask you to be thoughtful about important factors that should be considered when you and your child decide to include Belmont Day peers in your lives beyond school. There is little pain worse for a child than feeling unfairly or inexplicably excluded from a peer's event. Feelings of exclusion are powerful in the elementary and middle school years and can have a significant and lasting impact on interpersonal and classroom dynamics.

So that acts of generosity that should deepen friendship and community do not inadvertently represent hurtful exclusion, we encourage you, when planning events that involve BDS students, to always consider the following questions:

1. Is anyone in your child's class group or other primary peer groups (e.g. sharing a BDS team) not invited?
2. If any students are excluded, are there any for whom exclusion without explanation might result in hurt feelings? If so, might it be beneficial to provide an explanation to those children and their families?
3. Might it be helpful to talk with the division head for support in considering how to proceed?

We hope our values of *honesty*, *caring*, *respect*, and *responsibility* are even more compelling than any "rule" we might create to maintain a culture of compassion and inclusion at Belmont Day School.

Please feel free to contact Head of School Brendan Largay (blargay@belmontday.org) or me (choyt@belmontday.org) if you have any questions about this guidance.

On behalf of the administrative team,

Carlos Hoyt
Director of Equity and Inclusion