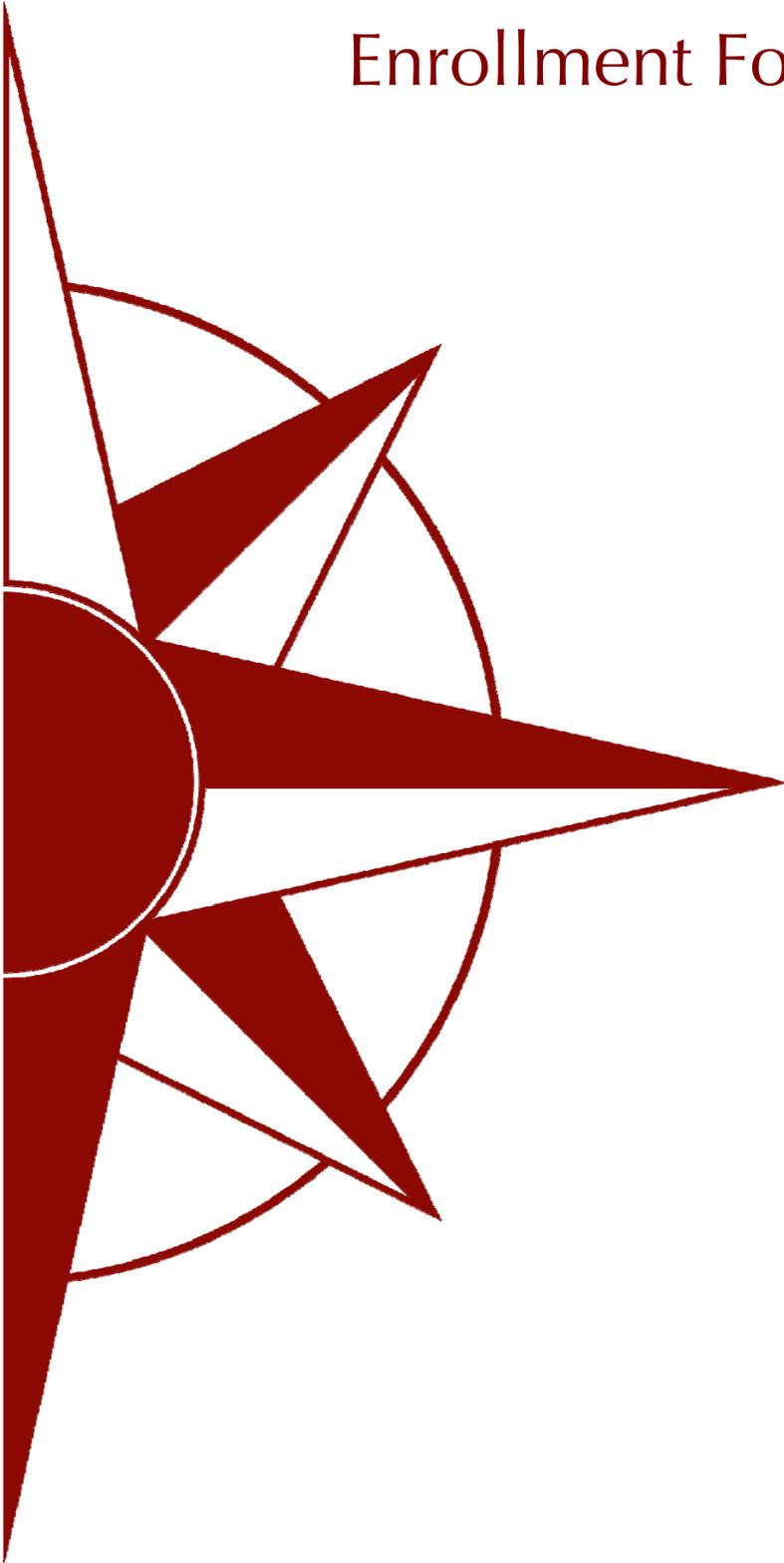


COMPASS SCHOOL

Enrollment Forms and Information
2017-2018



Welcome to Compass!

Compass School is dedicated above all else to serving our community. We are a community creation, founded by a small group of parents and educators who wanted a different experience for their children than traditional education could offer them. Our four pillars, *learning, community, democracy* and *direction*, are the compass points after which the school was named. They are the guiding principles of the school and the core of our educational experience. Our work has a dual purpose: To serve families in our region, and also to affect the greater educational world by providing a model of publicly accessible schooling which emphasizes academic achievement and personal growth in equal measure.

Enrollment at Compass School is open to students of all academic levels and is based on application materials received and space available. Acceptance is conditional on the school's ability to provide an appropriate program for the applicant.

Compass School does not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

Enrollment Forms

Here's what you need to send in. It includes two different kinds of paperwork:

For the student to take care of:

- Student Submissions
- Signed Student Learning Policy
- Teacher Reference (give to a teacher of your choice who knows you well)
- Photo of student (a recent image is appreciated)

For parents/guardians to take care of:

- Contact Information Form
- Parent Observations and Financial Information
- Parental Permission for Release of Records
- (If applicable) Copy of current 504, IEP or other learning plan, together with supporting reports
- (If applicable) Homeschooler's Course Records or other documentation to support requested grade placement
- Application Fee of \$50.00

If you have questions or need help with anything, don't hesitate to reach out to **Brian Whitehouse, Director of Admissions**. Brian can be reached directly at **(802) 463-2517** or [**brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org**](mailto:brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org). He will be happy to help you!

Enrollment at Compass

Rolling Admission

Enrollment at Compass School is open to students throughout the school year but grades can fill quickly, so we encourage interested students to start the enrollment process as early as practical. Families seeking financial aid should submit their information to TADS (see Financial Aid) early on so they can know what to expect for tuition costs.

Mid-Year Transfers

Many students choose to enter Compass mid-term. Our rolling admission plan allows us to accept transfer applications at any time during the academic year. The enrollment process is the same, regardless of when students are able to enroll and financial aid is determined the same way (see Financial Aid). Compass can also arrange with other schools to transfer records.

Visiting the School

We expect all interested students to visit Compass for a day to shadow a current student as part of the enrollment process whenever it's possible to do so. This day is an important, positive experience for interested students and provides a good sense of school life. Interested students attend classes, lunch, and interact in the community to get a feel for the school. They are, of course, expected to respect school rules and engage in the community during their visit, but most find this to be easy. Visits are typically scheduled for Monday through Thursday, but other times can be arranged. Please contact Brian directly to schedule your visit at (802) 463-2517.

Enrollment Review

Once all materials have been received and a school visit completed, we'll review everything and ask for any additional information needed to ensure Compass is the best fit. In the case of existing IEP plans, additional meetings with our Student Services Director may be needed for review and planning (we strive to meet a broad range of academic abilities, but in the case of existing IEP's, enrollment may be conditional on the school's ability to provide an appropriate program for the applicant). Typically, you can expect an enrollment confirmation within three weeks. Enrollment fees (see Affording Compass) will be due when you sign your enrollment contract, before the student begins classes.

You can contact **Brian Whitehouse, Director of Admissions**, with any questions. Brian can be reached directly at **(802) 463-2517** or **brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org**. He will be happy to help you!

Affording Compass

The vision for Compass School is to be a publicly accessible option. To this end, Compass sets its tuition at the Vermont public school average. This means that if you live in a school choice town, your Compass tuition is **paid in full by your town** (required fees remain the responsibility of the family).

Further information and a map of choice towns is available at: www.schoolchoicevermont.com.

Tuition and Application

Application Fee: \$50

Tuition: \$15,290 (estimate for 2017-2018 academic year).

Support Services: Dependent upon student need and arrangement with family

Enrollment Fees (payable at time of enrollment)

Tuition Insurance: 2% of tuition

Technology Fee: \$50

Required Fees**

Student Activities Fee: \$300 (placed into the student's Activities Account)

** Payable in full on the first day of August, November, February or May, depending upon the date of enrollment

Financial Aid

We want our program to be accessible to students from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, and we are committed to working with families to make affording Compass a realistic possibility.

Generous financial aid is available for Compass families based on demonstrated need as determined by information provided by the family to TADS (Tuition Aid Data Service). Families seeking financial aid need to submit an online application to TADS in order to be considered. Please note that TADS charges a user fee to submit an application.

Many families find it easiest to gather their data on the worksheet prior to completing the online application. Both of these links are available below and on the financial aid portion of the Compass website.

Application: <http://www.mytads.com/> (click on Financial Aid Assessment to begin)

Worksheet: www.tads.com/resources/FA/TADS_FA_Worksheet.pdf

Student Submissions

Name of Student _____

Date _____

At Compass, we want to understand how you learn and how you think, and we are interested in your ideas. Please use these written exercises as a way to tell us about yourself as a learner and as a school community member.

Choose two from the three options below. These answers may be handwritten or typed.

Option #1: Six-Word Memoirs

A six-word memoir is a life story condensed into six simple words. For example: *Compass School taught me to think.* Or perhaps: *Ate a Vermonster sundae. Never again.* Write two six-word memoirs to describe yourself to Compass, one academic and one personal in nature.

Personal Memoir _____

Academic Memoir _____

This time, write two six-word memoirs that describe your academic and personal goals for your time at Compass School. For example: *Teach me awareness. I'll be happy.* Or perhaps: *Math without stress, could it be?*

Personal Goal _____

Academic Goal _____

Option #2: Personal Essay

Compass School is a community where everyone knows each other well. Answer one or more of the following questions to help us get to know you. Your answers should be at least 3 paragraphs in length, but can be as long or short as you need to communicate your thoughts.

1. In the spirit of memoirs, please write a page of your autobiography.
2. Compass hosts a student film festival every year. What are two titles of next year's movies you might make, and what are they about?
3. Learning. Community. Democracy. Direction. Pick one, and tell us what it means to you.
4. They say the wand chooses the wizard, but it's not always clear why. Tell us about a time something (whether fate, a wand, a sports team, a passion etc.) chose you.
5. Compass is famous for delicious lunches. If you could go to lunch with any person, historical, fictional, past or present, who would it be and why?

Option #3: Portfolio Piece

Do you have a recent assignment or project from school that you feel represents you best? Artwork, presentations, video, and written projects are all options -- we'd love to see your recent work! Please scan, upload, or copy and include it with your other enrollment materials. Include with your submission a short statement (a paragraph or so) that explains why you've chosen it and how it represents you as a person or as a learner.

Don't hesitate to contact Brian if you have any questions, or if you need help. He can be reached directly at (802) 463-2517 or brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org. He will be happy to help you!

Student Learning Policy

Students: Please read this together with a parent or caregiver. Initial after each item to show you've read it, then sign at the bottom to affirm.

Parents/Caregivers: Please review this with the student and sign below to affirm your commitment to helping them with this work.

There are a number of factors that will ensure your success at Compass School. An interested learner commits themselves in the following ways:

1. Respect for self, others, the environment and the learning process

The bottom line at Compass School is respect. Every word and action of Compass School students should be considerate of other people and things. This means using polite language, having a helpful attitude, and showing a regard for property (your property, the school's property and the property of others). **Student initials:** _____

2. Positive attitude towards learning

A positive attitude means trying new things, setting high expectations for yourself, and becoming involved in your studies. This will not always come easily. Compass School students must be willing to make the extra effort this requires. **Student initials:** _____

3. Full and active participation in the classroom

Full and active participation means listening, talking, doing, acting, creating, reading, laughing, singing, thinking, drawing, searching or anything else that involves you in the learning process in your classroom at that moment. The important thing is that you are actively present, in mind, body and spirit, ready to learn and share what you are learning with others. **Student initials:** _____

4. Being prepared for class

Being prepared for class means arriving *before* class begins, being ready to start, having everything you need with you and completing your homework. You cannot take advantage of what Compass School has to offer if you are not consistently prepared for class in all of these ways. **Student initials:** _____

I understand the Learning Policy and I am committed to putting forth my best effort and I agree to the above as a student at Compass School.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Caregiver's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information

Name of Applicant _____ Male Female

Date of Birth _____ Date of Application _____ Applying for Grade _____

Student's Residence _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Student's Mailing Address (if different) _____

Current School _____

Street Address _____ Town _____ Zip Code _____

School Telephone _____ Years/Grades Attended _____

Previous Schools (Please be sure to list name, town, and years attended) _____

Has the student ever been identified for special education? Yes No

If YES, please include a copy of the 504, IEP and any reports or documentation that were used to develop it.

For separated/divorced families, Compass assumes shared financial responsibility for tuition unless otherwise stated in writing. If you are attaching additional information, please check here .

Mother/Guardian:	Father/Guardian:
Address:	Address:
Home phone:	Home phone:
Work/Cell phone:	Work/Cell phone:
Email:	Email:
Name, Age, and School of Siblings:	

How did you hear about Compass School?

Parent/Guardian Observations

Your Name _____ Student Name _____

1. What do you hope your child will gain from their experience at Compass School?

2. What are their most outstanding personal characteristics?

3. Out of our five learning realms, *Knowledge, Thinking and Reasoning, Personal Development, Communication, and Community Involvement*, which do you think will represent the greatest challenge for your child?

4. Has your child ever been expelled or suspended from school? Yes No
If yes, explain:

5. Do you anticipate a need for Compass School Academic Support Services (see Academic Support Services insert)?
 Yes No If yes, explain:

6. Please indicate *your* view of your child's abilities and skills:

	Above Average		Average		Below Average	
Math (describe level: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Individual Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Behavior/Social Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Self-direction/Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Motivation for Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Additional Comments:

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Reference

Name of Applicant _____ Grade _____

Name of Teacher _____ Subject _____

School Name _____ Phone/Email _____

How long have you known applicant? _____

Compass School seeks to admit a wide range of students regardless of academic ability. Your honest appraisal of this student helps us understand how we can best meet student needs in our planning. We thank you in advance for your help.

Please indicate *your* view of the child's abilities and skills:

	Top Decile	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Bottom Decile
Math (describe level: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Individual Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Behavior/Social Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Self-direction/Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Motivation for Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please discuss this student's strengths and weaknesses.

Learning Strengths:

Learning Weaknesses:

Comments:

This student is currently receiving (please check all that apply):

Special Education 504 Plan Counseling OT/PT Other Services

Describe (please use other side for additional comments):

Questions? Email Brian Whitehouse, Director of Admissions—brian.whitehouse@compass-school.org or call direct at (802) 463-2517.

Please mail or fax to Compass upon completion. Thank you for your insight!

Permission for **Release** of Records

This form must be given to the Registrar at the school where the student currently attends.

Compass School is required to obtain written consent from the parent/guardian or eligible student before personally identifiable information from a student's education records is disclosed to any party other than those who are permitted access by law. Consent is also required before personally identifiable information is used for any other purpose than to aid in the planning for and provision of appropriate educational services to the student. If the student has received special education or Title I services in the last 2 years prior to admission, Compass School would like to have these records available.

Date _____

Student's Name _____

Town of Legal Residence _____

To the Registrar:

The student listed above is enrolling at Compass School. Please send us the student's academic records, including:

- Cumulative Student Records Folder, including proof of physical and immunization records
- Achievement Test Scores
- Transfer Grades for Current Courses
- Official Transcript
- If applicable, Record of Discipline/Behavior Reports
- If applicable, most recent IEP/504 documentation (including most recent psychological evaluation)

I hereby give my permission for Compass School in Westminister, VT, to receive the information requested above.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Fax To: (School Rep Name and Number): _____

NOTES:

Please send records to the attention of:
Brian Whitehouse, Director of Admissions

Student Support Services

At Compass, our goal is to guide all students to meet their potential in school and to ultimately become lifelong learners. The small size of our school allows students to learn and appreciate the attributes of their peers and teachers. This creates a close learning community where trust is ensured and healthy risks can be encouraged. Our flexible programming allows students to explore their interests and develop along their academic path. We understand that some students will need additional support to achieve the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to fully engage in all that Compass has to offer. Therefore, we offer multiple levels of support for our students.

Academic Services

Compass School is licensed to provide support services, as well as specialized instruction, to students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), Other Health Impairment (OHI), and high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as defined by the State of Vermont, Department of Education.

If a student classified under one of our approved categories is accepted, he or she will require additional support to meet academic expectations. The cost of these services is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. In addition, if the enrolled student's educational team determines additional support is necessary for meeting and maintaining academic expectations, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide these services and pay for them. We will work with families on an individual basis to arrange for and finance additional support services.

Compass offers small group and individualized programs according to the needs of each student. Needs may vary, from requiring assistance with organization, time-management and study skills to needing specialized instruction in a basic skill area. A student's needs are generally documented in an IEP, 504 plan or in previous cognitive and academic achievement testing. The goal, for all students, is to remediate and maintain both academic and study skills. In addition, learning objectives for tutorials include students identifying their individual learning styles and practicing self-advocacy skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

If you have any interest or questions regarding these services or associated costs, please contact the Director of Support Services at Compass School, Kellie Crowder (kellie.crowder@compass-school.org).

Academic Support Service Levels

Level I. Directed Study

(All students at Compass receive this as part of regular programming)

Group size: 8-12 students

Time: 45 minutes 4 times a week

Supports: Teacher-directed study time

Level II. Academic Support

Tutorial Size: 3-5 students

Time: 45 minutes 4 times a week

Supports: Case management* and attention to development of skills below:

Time Management

Organization

Study Skills

Periodic In-class Support

Additional Academic Assistance

Level III. Direct Instruction**

Tutorial Size: 1:1 to 1:3

Time: Instructional time varies in accordance with students needs

Supports: All included in Level II and direct instruction in one or more of the following basic skill areas:

Oral expression

Listening comprehension

Written expression

Basic reading

Reading fluency

Reading comprehension

Mathematics calculation

Mathematics reasoning

** Case Management includes: periodic in-class support, classroom teacher communication regarding implementation of modifications and accommodations, special education file management and, in some cases, sending district communication.*

*** In order to receive Direct Instruction Services at Compass, students must submit diagnostic evaluations and other materials that describe their specific learning disability. These required diagnostic evaluations may include the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS III or IV), accompanied by a narrative report and sub-test scores, and may require achievement testing (e.g., Woodcock Johnson) indicating current levels in reading, written language, and math.*

Counseling Services

Students come to Compass with a variety of skills and challenges, similar to any middle and high school population. They may be struggling with short term concerns related to peer and/or family relationships, managing the desire for increased independence, or making healthy choices. A small percentage of any student population have more serious concerns such as learning issues, complex family systems, poor coping skills which may lead them to engage in risky or harmful behaviors, or addiction.

In collaboration with parents and teachers, the counselor helps students identify problems that may be interfering with their learning and/or their healthy development. The counselor's role is to then develop and carry out an intervention plan to address these challenges. A plan may include weekly, bi-weekly or as-needed check-in's or meetings, meetings with parents, and consultation with teachers. The clinician will also counsel a family to seek more intensive therapy from an outside clinician when indicated. Compass School maintains the right to assess a fee for all students designated with a 504, IEP or other Specific Learning Plan (SLP) in accordance with the case management expectations and student support services needed.