



## LAGO VISTA WATCHDOGS PROGRAM

### What is WatchDOGS?

WatchDOGS (Dads Of Great Students) is an innovative educational initiative to promote father involvement in schools. There are two primary goals of the WatchDOGS program.

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer during the day at Lago Vista Elementary School. WatchDOGS may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow, participate in our Afternoon Bus Program, and actively engage with students by helping with other assigned activities.

## BECOMING A WATCHDOGS VOLUNTEER

### Register

To become a WatchDOGS volunteer, please submit your Lago Vista WatchDOGS registration form to Mrs. Lisa Wolf at [lisa\\_wolf@lagovista.txed.net](mailto:lisa_wolf@lagovista.txed.net) to sign up. She will assist volunteers with training, paperwork, and with ordering the official WatchDOGS t-shirt.

### Application and Background Checks

To ensure the strength and integrity of our program and the safety of our students, we require all volunteers to complete a Volunteer Application and a Criminal History Record Check. Please note that if you have already completed this process for Lago Vista ISD and were approved, you will not need to complete this task again.

### Volunteer Schedule

Once approved as a school volunteer, Mr. Eric Holt will work with all WatchDOGS participants to coordinate volunteer dates. If you will be assisting with a specific event or activity (i.e., STAAR testing, field day, etc.), this will be communicated in advance.

### Cancellation/Rescheduling

We asked that you please provide at least one week's notice to cancel or to reschedule your scheduled volunteer day for a later date.

### Last Minute Cancellations

Please notify Mr. Holt at [eric\\_holt@lagovista.txed.net](mailto:eric_holt@lagovista.txed.net) or by phone at 512-267-8300 x.4500 if you are unable to make your scheduled volunteer date. Please do not be a "no show."

# WATCHDOGS EXPECTATIONS

- **Be smart** – follow the school’s policy on appropriate conduct and behavior with the students and faculty.
- **Be alert** – if a situation arises, please report it to a school official.
- **Be available** – the goal is to be of service to the school, teacher and students.
- **Be a positive role model** – as a WatchDOGS volunteer, you are a hero to our students!

## Lago Vista WatchDOGS should ALWAYS:

- Arrive on time:
  - 7:30AM (Full Day & Half Day AM)
  - 11:30AM (Half Day PM)
  - 2:45PM (Afternoon Bus Program)
- Check into the front office when you first arrive.
- Wear the official WatchDOGS shirt while volunteering.
- Wear a volunteer name badge or identification provided by the school each time you visit.
- Be respectful of Lago Vista teachers and rules.
- Monitor assigned hallways, entrances, building, etc.
- Contact a school official immediately if a student shares information that causes you concern.
- Be sensitive to protect personal or academic information about students or classes.
- Encourage students to always act and be their best selves.
- Encourage the importance of education, working hard, listening, etc.
- Be a positive male role model in the students’ lives.
- Have a GREAT time enriching the lives of our wonderful students!
- Smile and feel like a rock star as the kids show how fun it is to have you in their lives!

## Lago Vista WatchDOGS should NEVER:

- Go into student bathrooms for any reason – use marked staff restrooms.
- Be alone or unsupervised with students.
- Use any personal electronic devices (phone, tablet, computer, etc.) while working with children.
- Espouse political or religious belief to students.
- Try to discuss your child’s academics with their teacher during classroom time.
- Discuss any confidential or sensitive information found in classrooms.
- Use any form of tobacco on school grounds.
- Use profanity or derogatory language.
- Disrupt classes when they are in session.
- Engage in any conduct that brings disrespect to himself or the students, the school, or the WatchDOGS Program, or any volunteering program.
- Administer medication or punishment. If a student is ill or misbehaving, please alert the teacher or a school official.
- Take photographs, or make sound or video recordings of the students. The need to do so must be discussed with the principal.

# WATCHDOGS ACTIVITIES

## Support WatchDOGS can provide each day:

- Help with traffic flow of vehicles and students at arrival and dismissal times. (Your child may join you.)
- Assist the office with deliveries or escorting students.
- Eat lunch with students and help during lunch periods.
- Assist during recess.
- Play or referee on the playground or in the gym.
- Read with classes or tutor small groups of students.
- Work with flash cards and/or educational games.
- Speak to classes about the importance of education.
- Support fine arts and technology classes with your presence and/or experience.
- Actively and positively engage with students and others.
- Encourage students with lots of smiles and high fives!

## Support WatchDOGS can provide when volunteering for the Afternoon Bus Program:

- Assist with seating and greeting children when they are entering the bus.
- Reinforce and model safety rules (i.e., stay in your assigned seat, keep the aisles clear, hands to yourself, always listen to the driver, etc.).
- Help children understand the reason for safety rules.
- Praise appropriate behavior whenever possible.
- Point out signs, traffic signs (shapes, colors, letter recognition), stop lights, community interest points (library, post office, cultural sites, etc.) to help the bus ride be a learning experience.
- Talk about directions indicating when turns are left or right, etc.
- Ask the children what they learned at school, what they liked best about the day, etc.
- Interact with the bus driver in a positive manner.
- Find creative ways to make the bus ride an extension of the school day learning!



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE LAGO VISTA  
WATCHDOGS PROGRAM!**



# LAGO VISTA WATCHDOGS PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

WatchDOGS Volunteer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Preferred): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Secondary): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name	Grade/Teacher	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Date(s) you would like to volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in participating in the Lago Vista WatchDOGS Afternoon Bus Program.

*I have read and agree to adhere to the Lago Vista WatchDOGS Guidelines.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
WatchDOGS Volunteer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this registration form to Mrs. Lisa Wolf at [lisa\\_wolf@lagovista.txed.net](mailto:lisa_wolf@lagovista.txed.net).