

In 2003, the Waldorf School of the Peninsula received full membership in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and the highest level of accreditation from both AWSNA and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



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Education is not a question of what knowledge children need to acquire to enter society, but what capacities in human beings can be developed to bring new forces into society.

Rudolf Steiner



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Waldorf School of the Peninsula

Educating for the future

Mission — Our mission is to awaken children to their own individuality and unfold their higher capacities of thinking, feeling and willing, thus creating a truly human world through an education that is a source of social change. Waldorf education reaches beyond content to freeing the human spirit.

History — The Waldorf School of the Peninsula was established in 1984 with a preschool, kindergarten and grades one through four. In April 1995 we acquired our permanent site and although it is part of Silicon Valley, the area surrounding the school has retained a distinctly natural

character. The pleasant country aspect of the neighborhood provides a quiet and natural environment that is an ideal space for children and our school.

Our world has dramatically changed through the technological advances created in Silicon Valley. We are aware of the need to develop an ethical foundation to support our emerging global world. Waldorf education places importance on the development of the individual child as essential for a healthy society. Year by year the curriculum expands with the maturing child, matching themes that mirror the child's inner development, skills, knowledge and modes of expression.

Waldorf School of the Peninsula Curriculum Overview

	History & Literature	English & Grammar	Mathematics	Geography & Science	Gardening	Art	Handwork	Music	Eurythmy	Movement	Foreign Language
<i>Grade One</i>	Nature stories and multicultural fairy tales • traditional and seasonal rhymes and verses	Written letters, grammar, and spelling from story imagination • reading preceded by recitation and writing • grammar • speech exercises • plays	Four math processes through story, imagination and manipulatives • quality of numbers • counting • times tables through rhythm and movement • mental math	Nature observation through stories, poetry, and walks • awareness and appreciation of plant, mineral, and animal kingdoms	Gardening through imitation and imagination • developing awareness and respect for nature • basic gardening skills • garden crafts	Drawing simple forms based on straight and curved lines • drawings introducing letters • wet-on-wet watercolor painting • modeling beeswax forms based on fairy tales	Finger knitting • felting • making knitting needles • knitting with two needles • farm visit to see sheep wool and plant dyes	Songs in pentatonic scale • pentatonic flute • seasonal songs and singing games	Rhythms of language • vowels and consonants • gestures • short pentatonic melodies • forming a circle	Imaginative games • jump rope • swinging, skipping, hopping, climbing • string play	Songs, games, poems, and plays • cultural traditions • vocabulary • numbers
<i>Grade Two</i>	Fables, saint legends, and folklore from many cultures	Oral and written poetry and storytelling • individual and group recitation • cursive writing • reading lesson books and literature • spelling • plays	Practice of four math processes • computation • times tables • rhythmic counting exercises • mental math	Natural world of animals through fables • relationship and responsibility between human beings and nature • nature observation	Simple tasks emphasizing cooperation • themes related to respecting nature • observation and imaginative play • crafts	Dynamic and flowing forms introducing cursive writing • drawings with symmetrical forms • wet-on-wet watercolor painting • modeling beeswax scenes	Knitting and purling • knitting skills: learning to cast on, bind off, change colors, add and decrease stitches to create patterns	Pentatonic songs and flute • note values • listening skills • traditional folk songs • circle dances and traditional folk dances	Movement exercises: contraction and expansion, concentration, dexterity, and opposites • rhythms of language • forming circles and figure eights • high and low tones	Circle and singing games • movement emphasizing opposites • jump rope and hopscotch • Bothmer and Spacial Dynamics® exercises, and tumbling exercises	Oral language experiences • vocabulary • phrases, questions, and responses • numbers
<i>Grade Three</i>	Stories and legends of biblical times that introduce history • Native American tales	Grammar • narrative writing • daily recitation and recapitulation of main lesson stories • independent and group reading • spelling • plays	Applications of four math processes • double-digit multiplication • long division • measuring concepts and historical and current units of measurement • mental math	Practical experiences in farming, house building, and clothing • visit to biodynamic farm • study of human shelters, clothing, and fiber • building project	Creating healthy soil • seed saving and propagation • planting of seven major cereal crops • spinning wool, making loom, and weaving cloth	Form drawing: symmetry, mirror forms, and balanced designs • expressive drawings • wet-on-wet watercolor painting • modeling clay and beeswax coils and animals	Crocheting useful articles (hot pads and slipper bag) • dyeing, spinning, and weaving wool	Diatonic flute • listening skills • rounds • songs from our musical heritage • C major scale	Dexterity and concentration exercises • rhythmical stepping movements • vowel practice • geometrical shapes • major and minor third	Circle games • line, ring, and ball-tossing games • Bothmer and Spacial Dynamics® exercises • tumbling exercises • introduction to circus arts	Oral language practice • longer and more complex phrases and vocabulary • conversational work
<i>Grade Four</i>	Local Native American studies and California history • Norse myths and sagas • Kalevala • Edda • poetry related to animals, local geography, and history • alliterative poems and poems with a strong beat	Grammar • essays, descriptive writing, and book reports • daily recitation • reading of historical fiction and myths • spelling • plays	Factors and multiples • four processes and fractions • proper and improper fractions • mental math	Local and California geography • Ohlone Indian study • mapmaking • animal kingdom in relationship to humans	Human and natural history of the school site • harvesting, threshing, winnowing, and grinding grains • bread baking with harvested grains • beneficial bird species • craft: wooden birdhouses	Drawing Celtic knots, braided forms, and main lesson themes • animal studies in clay • map making and painting • wet-on-wet watercolor painting	Using embroidery and sewing needles • cross-stitched sachet cushion with mirrored pattern in four quadrants and across the diagonal	Diatonic flute • violin or cello • musical notation and musical concepts • sight reading • rounds • songs from main lesson themes • songs in minor key	Movement exercises • forms based on the circle • grammar and language in spatial form • eurythmical alphabet • listening exercises • C major scale, major and minor thirds, and intervals	Movement and game skills • circus arts: unicycling, juggling, tight wire walking, and pyramid building • Bothmer and Spacial Dynamics® exercises • orienteering	Introduction to written work • basic grammar • main lesson themes including the importance of Spanish roots in local history • vocabulary
<i>Grade Five</i>	Ancient India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece • heroic myths and epics • rise of democracy • Sanskrit, hieroglyphics, and cuneiform • Greek alphabet • American folklore	Grammar • compositions emphasizing description • editing and self-correction • reading • oral and written book reports • spelling rules and dictionary use • words with Greek roots • plays	Four processes with fractions and decimals • geometrical figures • acute, obtuse, and reflex angles • introduction to Pythagorean Theorem • mental math	North American geography • botany: the plant in relationship to humans and the earth • simple to complex plants • plant species	Botany and the characteristics, structures, and cultural requirements of plants • plant observation • uses of plants • principles of Goethean scientific thinking	Freehand geometrical drawings • drawings and wet-on-wet watercolor paintings of plants and main lesson themes • paintings that create mood through color	Knitting in round using four needles • sewing • consolidation of stitching skills • reading and following a pattern	Diatonic flute or recorder • violin • music concepts, theory, and composition • rounds and two and three part harmony • American folk songs • songs from ancient cultures	Soul qualities and movement • stepping rhythms • themes from ancient cultures • grammatical forms • geometrical forms and transformations • major scale	Team games • gymnastics and rhythmic exercises • Pentathlon and classical Greek sports: javelin, discus, long jump, wrestling, and running	Studies of Mexico and Latin America • increased complexity of oral and written work through songs, poetry, plays, and stories
<i>Grade Six</i>	History of Western Civilization from Rome through the Middle Ages • rise of Islam • feudal system • crusades, knights and chivalry • Arthurian legends and medieval tales	Grammar • outlines and expository, narrative, and descriptive writing • essays, report writing, and business letters • independent reading including biographies and research • recitation of classical verses and narrative poems • spelling • plays	Fluidity in four math processes • fractions and decimals • business math • geometric rules and principles • precise construction of geometrical forms • mental math	World geography including South America and Europe • physics including acoustics, optics, heat, and the laws of magnetism • cause and effect • astronomy • mineralogy	Soil structure and soil fertility • preparation of garden beds • pruning • tool maintenance • basket weaving	Precise geometric and projective drawings • charcoal shadow drawing of geometric forms • portrait drawing • calligraphy • watercolor paintings • clay models of main lesson themes	Knitting using four needles to make a pair of socks	Music theory • singing and recorder ensemble in three and four part harmony • alto recorder • chants and songs from ancient Rome and medieval period • folk songs and folk dancing	Challenging concentration exercises • grammatical forms • metamorphosis of geometrical forms • musical scales • tone and intervals • listening exercises	Specific exercises for exactness, clarity of form, order, and structure • rod exercises • team sports • Medieval Games	Dramatic poetry, songs, and dialogues • grammar • questions and answers • reading • vocabulary • cultural celebrations • plays
<i>Grade Seven</i>	History through biographies from 1400 to 1700 • Age of Exploration • colonialism • Renaissance • Age of Discovery • Reformation • biographies	Grammar • creative writing themes • extensive and diverse writing assignments; research, essays, poetry, interviews, short stories • independent reading and book reports • spelling • recitation and short talks • plays	Algebra • simple equations • powers and root numbers • four processes with negative numbers and natural and positive rational numbers • area and perimeter • Golden Mean • platonic solids • book-keeping	World geography • Africa • map making • chemistry: combustion, acids, bases, salts, and water cycle • physiology • nutrition • physics: light, magnetism, electricity, and mechanics • astronomy	Weather observations and basic phenomena • compost • construction of trellises and structures • gardening and community service activities with developmentally disabled young adults	Drawings: shaded black and white, geometric, and perspective • platonic solids in various modalities • veil painting • Renaissance painting and drawing techniques • clay models of humans and animals	Knitting spiral hats using mathematical progressions • knowledge of fibers and materials	Music theory • world music • emphasis on ensemble work with soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders • Gregorian chants • songs of the Renaissance • African rhythms, songs, and music	Concentration exercises with copper rods • expanded grammatical forms • soul gestures • poetry and humorous pieces • complex shifts in geometrical forms • musical intervals • major and minor scales • beats and rhythms	Vigorous training exercises • orienteering • circus arts • sprint work, tumbling, vaulting, gymnastics, and aerobics • Spacial Dynamics® exercises	Basic language skills and fluency • grammar • expansion of reading and writing skills • cultural history, biographies, and literature • songs, poems, and plays
<i>Grade Eight</i>	Historical events and revolutions, from post-Renaissance to the present • United States Constitution and structure of government • world literature and biographies	Grammar • descriptive, epic, lyric, and humorous writing • short stories, essays, independent research projects • recitation of historical speeches and selected world literature • spelling • full-length class play	Algebra • commutative, associative, and distributive laws • density and weight • construction of platonic figures • transformations of geometrical forms • calculation of volume and surface • Pythagorean Theorem and application	World geography • Asia and the Pacific • current events • community service • physics: magnetism, electricity, simple machines, and aerodynamics • simple motors and levers • organic chemistry • anatomy • science project	Producing and marketing plant products for fundraising • sustainable practices and pride of place through maintenance and improvement of Middle School garden areas	Three-dimensional and perspective drawing and painting • charcoal drawing • self-expression with various artistic mediums • veil painting and compositions • clay models of human form	Advanced knitting and felting techniques • use of sewing machines to make clothing.	Choral, recorder, and instrumental ensemble work • contrasts of major and minor • music theory • improvisation • songs with strong rhythms • African American spirituals and gospel songs • popular music	Concentration exercises • poetry with polarities • soul gestures • geometrical transformations • ballads and humorous pieces • major and minor scales	Team games and sports • long-distance running and track and field events • circuit training • circus arts, gymnastics, tumbling, and aerobics • Bothmer and Spacial Dynamics® exercises	Grammar • written compositions • reading • vocabulary • biographies • historical and cultural topics • developing clear expression through conversations and short presentations