



the
waldorf
school
OF ATLANTA

CHILDHOOD FIRST.

At the Waldorf School of Atlanta, learning has a sound—and a pace.

At the Waldorf School of Atlanta, we offer a revolutionary notion—that in the midst of our high-speed world, children should be provided a timeless space in which to do their sacred work.

It's a way of teaching and learning that has a sound—and a pace.

Indoors:

The teacher's voice, telling an absorbing story. Chairs being pushed back for an active language lesson in Spanish. Upbeat group singing, and confident voices reciting poetry. The rustle of beanbags tossed among students in an oral review of multiplication tables. Simple melodies from wooden flutes, classical music from violins and cellos.

Outdoors:

Playground laughter, the scrape of garden tools, jump-rope rhymes, a happy creak of swings. Clucking chickens. Birdsong.

WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS LEARNING?

Exactly what they need for their later schooling and for life: Abundant facts, certainly, along with foundational concepts and skills—and in upward-spiraling complexity, as the children mature into readiness.

At each stage of their education, we nurture the innate imagination, empathy and will in each child. They learn to think clearly. To respect others, themselves, and the natural world. To cherish imagination and beauty. To examine problems and construct solutions. To embrace high ideals. To act from their own initiative—and with sustained purpose.



Ready. And willing.

Experts in child development are now confirming what Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf schools, understood a hundred years ago: children learn both eagerly and naturally.

Look at your own child. A small child takes life in through the senses. She watches, listens, touches, moves; she plays and explores, imitating the speech and actions of adults. As your child grows and develops, his imagination becomes more active, and he relates experiences to his own feelings. Your older child, reaching new levels of mental maturity, increasingly analyzes and evaluates what she observes.

Every detail of Waldorf education supports these unfolding cognitive stages. Our curriculum—rich in every branch of academics and enlivened with the arts and practical skills—honors your children at each stage, nurturing their current capacities and preparing them for new learning to come.

Rather than hurrying children prematurely into academic tasks beyond their intellectual and emotional development, Waldorf protects childhood by introducing skills and concepts at a cognitively appropriate pace. The time is well spent, allowing mind, body, and spirit to work creatively together at each developmental level:

- ♦ As your kindergarten child measures ingredients for today's bread-baking, her eyes and hands enjoy what, years later, she will call fractions.
- ♦ Both hands knitting naturally dyed wool, your first grader simultaneously produces something useful, gains small motor dexterity, and exercises both sides of his brain.
- ♦ Your second grader draws a colorful beach scene whose grammar-enhancing story, which she knows by heart, unforgettably distinguishes *to*, *too*, and *two*.



“Waldorf education places the development of the individual child as the focal point, convinced that the healthy individual is a prerequisite for a healthy society.”

— The International Conference on Education, UNESCO

- ♦ Scientific observation comes alive for your fifth grader as he “adopts” a tree on campus, then makes botanical drawings of it each season to illustrate its structure and life cycle.
- ♦ Translating her academic study of light and optics into real-life experience, your seventh grader makes a pinhole camera, then diagrams and describes its operation.

From early childhood through high school, Waldorf classes go far beyond the routine dispensing of academic information. Progressively, they also develop the nimble, humane, and discerning minds these young people will need in an unpredictable future. Our teachers steadily build each student's individual capacity for sensitive engagement, original thinking, clear reasoning, and — what many students today lack — the initiative and ability to translate thoughts into action.

Over many years, Waldorf schools have proved that such learning lasts.

They began the day reciting “I open myself to new experiences” — and now the third graders are gathered in the nearby woods, absorbed in their teacher's science-based explanation of how to treat a forest respectfully: “We'll cut our branches only from trees that can't grow well.” The young, supple branches, arched and then lashed together with ropes, become a rudimentary shelter, under which the class constructs a fire pit. When weather allows, the teacher guides them in making a safe fire — and objectively observing how fire behaves. “Notice that the flames burn upward,” he says. “The air is their fuel.” These 10-year-olds are well on their way to advanced studies in botany, woodworking, and combustion.

“Starting in Waldorf kindergarten, my daughter's love of nature began to flourish. She now adores being outside. I learn a lot from her, too: every time she finds a caterpillar or inchworm, she tells me all about it. I can see that she's proud and happy about what she knows and what she can do.”

— mother of a first grader

How do young children learn most naturally? By moving and playing—so our teachers use those channels to help kindergartners develop essential skills: memory, vocabulary, beginning numeracy, agility, and coordination. Even with a new circle time routine, the children can soon anticipate every detail. Without a hitch, they sing “Valderee, valdera” straight through. Shifting smoothly into “Fiddle-dee-dee, grasshoppers three,” they crouch ... and leap! Small fingers spread an imaginary picnic, then dexterously “Count the ants, 1-2-3-4-5.” By the time their brains are ready for formal reading and writing, these children will be more than halfway there—and still eager.



“Waldorf is teaching us how to be better parents. We were so young and had no idea. I used to let my son sit in front of the TV for hours, and kept the radio blasting in the car. Now we know the importance of daily routines and quiet time. And when he asks me a question, he really listens to the answer. He’ll listen for a long time, interested and curious.”

— mother of kindergarten child

EARLY CHILDHOOD: PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The rhythm of the day

“Good Morning, dear Earth. Good Morning, dear Sun,”
the day’s opening verse begins.

The children know it well, and they also know what comes next: a period of busy learning through practical tasks. Each day of the week has its own morning activity, from watercolor painting and seasonal crafts to homey projects such as baking bread, making vegetable soup, and housekeeping.

Like little sponges, very young children soak up—and give back—everything they see and hear. Waldorf early childhood teachers seek to provide an environment wholly worthy of imitation, one that includes both work and play.

The classroom itself, comfortable and tidy, sets the stage. Like every Waldorf kindergarten, it’s part playroom and part kitchen, with furnishings of natural wood, fresh flowers, and baskets of simple toys. In the backyard, there’s a private playground, full of learning-rich tools: tire swings, sandbox, slide, and climbing structures; plants, wheelbarrows, buckets, and spades.

Within these cozy spaces, children quickly attune to the rhythmic progression of each day, each week, and the changing seasons of the year. After free play, we tidy up the toys. We enjoy a morning snack and then head outdoors — rain or shine. When we come inside, we change to our indoor shoes and wash our hands. Lighting a candle signals storytelling: We busy our hands modeling beeswax as we listen to (and later repeat and act out) the fairy tale’s rich language. The story over, we extinguish the candle, thanking it for its light.



Children of this age want to do what their teacher does. When she sings, waters the plants, polishes the furniture, expresses wonder and gratitude, the children follow her every move. Memory strengthens; vocabulary burgeons; attention span and hand-eye coordination develop apace. Wonder and kindness thrive, too.

As the day ends, the children recite another verse, one that their families also will soon know by heart: “I will try in me to find, good thoughts, good words, good deeds. Goodbye, dear friends.”



Storied knowledge

In the elementary years, Waldorf makes lively use of a time-honored practice: teaching children through stories that recount the deeds of heroes, the qualities of animals, the history of a people, moral lessons, spiritual truths, and cultural wisdom and crafts.

Stories also promote solid learning in every academic subject, from the alphabet letters and basic arithmetic up through zoology and Greek history.

Day after day, your Waldorf child is able to put herself into the larger human story, experiencing the adventures of life and legend. Such storied learning becomes “stored” learning, because your child takes it in through her imagination and feelings—literally, “by heart.”

As your first grader at Waldorf learns to read, he is immersed in a rich world of literature and images connected with each letter of the alphabet, presented pictorially and experientially. He memorizes and enacts alliterative rhymes about the “S” snake; he retells the story of the “Q” queen’s travels over “M” mountains and “W” waves. Into the next year, he continues to follow the antics of mischievous characters representing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.



Third graders begin their first history block with the ancient tales of the Hebrew people. They relive Joseph and his coat of many colors—having previously written it out in story form—while drawing that event with thorough attention to detail, color, and shading. When fourth graders study Norse mythology, they use their new skills with fractions to create mathematically precise form drawings of intricate geometric plaits and knots. In the fifth grade, Waldorf students from the Southeast come together for a pentathlon, bringing their studies of ancient history to life in a reenactment of the original Greek Olympiad.

Such infusion of multiple arts into *all learning* is unique to Waldorf education. Here, drama, visual arts, handwork, music, movement, and poetry are not “extras,” but integral contributors to every day’s learning.



“The greatest scientists are artists as well. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination circles the world.”

— Albert Einstein



“The pace here is so refreshing. Children get the emotional space and time they need, and no one is in a rush. This education really works.”

— mother of a fifth grader & an eighth grader



What's that sound again? The sixth graders have spent years refining their sense of pitch—singing in harmony, practicing the dynamics of choral speaking, differentiating the vowels of Spanish, tuning the cello strings—but now physics class poses a new challenge: showcasing the laws of acoustics. With patience and precision, the students cut copper tubing into lengths that, when struck, produce an accurate musical scale. At Grandparents Day their copper-tube rendition of a 16th-century round brings down the house.

"The creative Waldorf teaching has been great for my children. When a topic comes up in our family—like astronomy or the American Revolution—I'm astonished at the amount of information they know. They both love learning and are very proud of their main lesson books, proud of doing their best work."

— mother of a sixth grader & a recent Waldorf School graduate

MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 6–8

Venturing forth

Even for students long steeped in tales of valor, the rocky shoals of adolescence may require new encouragement.

At this threshold of upheaval, the Waldorf sixth grade curriculum offers firm academic grounding in math, composition, and science, along with memorable depictions of cultural cause and effect: Arthurian legend, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, and medieval society and the Crusades. Your young scientist might meet the subterranean world on an overnight caving expedition; a budding astronomer, she searches the night sky for constellations, recounting their ancient stories.

Seventh grade urges students toward further discovery, tracing routes of the world's great explorers and honing written language through creative writing. With the study of Renaissance history, culture, and science, your son may undertake a research project, replicate the painting of a Renaissance master, tackle the polyphonic harmony of madrigals, and, inspired by the futuristic inventions of Leonardo da Vinci, construct a wind car fitted with brakes and rudder. Other new investigations include the Reformation,



"My contention is that creativity is now as important in education as literacy, and we should treat it with the same status."

— Sir Ken Robinson



algebra and geometric theorems, perspective drawing, human physiology, hands-on community service—and perhaps the challenge of several days' kayaking or rock climbing.

Then comes eighth grade: an important milestone for this small community of teacher and students that likely has journeyed together for multiple years. Amid studies of the great revolutions and the dawn of new societies, it's time to weigh tradition against progress. Reading Shakespeare, writing lab reports, and examining current events, students move toward evaluating *what is true*. As your young scholar considers the reach of world geography and the scope of world religions, her questions continue to mount.

Waldorf's lively art of learning is working well.

Curriculum

	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4
Main lesson + 8:10 TO 10 AM + blocks are three to four weeks long	+ fairy tales and nature stories + pictorial and phonetic introduction to letters, reading approached through writing + alliterative verses and tongue twisters, choral speaking + numbers and counting, introduction to the four arithmetic processes	+ legends and animal fables, hero stories and nature stories + introduction to punctuation and grammar + place value, multiplication tables, column addition, carrying in subtraction, number riddles and patterns	+ Hebrew stories + habitats and house building, farming, gardening, cooking + cursive writing + parts of speech, short compositions, reading, spelling, recitation, dictation + higher multiplication tables, long division, measurement, money, time, weight	+ Norse and Native American legends + poetry and letter writing, grammar, original compositions + local history and geography, map-making + human and animal studies, life cycles + fractions, long division, mastery of multiplication tables
Fine and applied arts	+ watercolor painting + beeswax modeling + knitting + drama + form drawing	+ watercolor painting + beeswax modeling + knitting + drama + form drawing	+ watercolor painting + beeswax modeling + crocheting + drama + form drawing	+ watercolor painting + beeswax modeling + cross stitch + calligraphy + drama + form drawing
Music	+ interval flute + singing	+ pentatonic flute + singing + harp	+ flute + singing: rounds + violin or cello	+ flute + singing: harmony + violin or cello
Movement	+ eurythmy + games	+ eurythmy + games	+ eurythmy + games	+ eurythmy + games
Foreign language	+ Spanish	+ Spanish	+ Spanish	+ Spanish

A day of well-planned lessons

First—that is, after the morning verse and some music and movement—each grade spends an uninterrupted ninety minutes on an intensive main lesson, part of a three-week focus on a multifaceted topic in language arts, math, history, or science. Following a break for morning snack and recess, teachers reinforce academic skills with active lessons such as mental math, spelling games, and exercises in grammar and vocabulary-building, all presented in stimulating, creative ways.

Rotating specialty subjects such as Spanish, painting, drawing, poetry, music, eurythmy, handwork, and nature studies —often correlated with the main lesson—build a

wide range of abilities. Each day also includes a lunch break and free time outdoors.

The intensive morning sessions become the basis for students’ main lesson books, beautiful handmade records of their learning. These books take the place of standard textbooks. In the early grades, the teacher creates a colored-chalk illustration on the blackboard, introducing the day’s main lesson. Students then draw the image themselves, taking in the lesson or story while following the teacher’s guidance on pictorial details, drawing technique, and color shading.

As students move up through the grades, they begin to add their own images and written compositions, producing progressively more sophisticated pages. Each main lesson book reflects the student’s best handwriting and careful attention to wording as well as to colorful illustration.

	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
Main lesson + 8:10 TO 10 AM + blocks are three to four weeks long	+ ancient mythology and legends from India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece + North American geography + original compositions, research projects, book reports, speech work + botany + decimals, fractions, calculation of area, ratio, long division	+ Roman empire, medieval society and history + compositions, book reports, research projects, speech work, oral presentations, discussion, debate + percents and business math, metric system + physics, geology, astronomy, botany + South American geography	+ Renaissance, voyages of discovery + European and African geography + creative writing, research papers + physics, astronomy, inorganic chemistry, human physiology + introduction to algebra, exponents and roots, ratio and proportion	+ literature, short stories, Shakespeare, compositions, grammar, spelling + measurement, algebra, geometry, Platonic solids + world geography, Asian and American history + physics, organic chemistry, physiology, anatomy, meteorology
Fine and applied arts	+ watercolor painting + clay modeling + knitting socks + woodwork + drama + geometric drawing	+ calligraphy + clay modeling + hand sewing + woodwork + drama + geometric drawing	+ painting + clay modeling + felting + woodwork + drama + perspective drawing	+ landscape painting + clay modeling + machine sewing + woodwork + drama + charcoal drawing
Music	+ recorder + three-part singing + violin or cello	+ soprano and alto recorder + choral music + wind ensemble or orchestra	+ soprano, alto, and tenor recorder + choral music + wind ensemble or orchestra	+ soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorder + choral music + wind ensemble or orchestra
Movement	+ eurythmy + games, Greek Olympics	+ eurythmy + sports	+ eurythmy + sports	+ eurythmy + sports
Foreign language	+ Spanish	+ Spanish	+ Spanish	+ Spanish

Waldorf teaching: a story of relationship

At the center of Waldorf learning stands the classroom teacher, the person who initiates the meaningful person-to-person handshake with every first grader, every morning — and continues to shake that child’s hand daily for years to come, moving up into new grades along with the class.



Because teachers immerse themselves in the next grade’s academic material each year, their own love of learning stays fresh as they consider how to present new skills and knowledge to these young people whose personalities and learning styles they know so well. The teacher’s commitment to each student continually deepens over time, and a close community results as the classmates come to trust this adult as a reliable source of guidance, wisdom, and understanding.

Specialty teachers, too, work with Waldorf students through all the grades, so that a consistent community of adults know and care for your child. The instructors who teach Spanish, music, movement, woodwork, and handwork share their talents while paying close attention over the years, as your wide-eyed first grader, struggling with unfamiliar consonant sounds or finger-tasks, gradually becomes a teenager proficient in a wide array of arts and academic skills.

Academe of the Oaks

A short drive from the Waldorf School of Atlanta, Academe of the Oaks offers a stimulating next academic step to teenage students who are either long familiar with this educational philosophy or entirely new to it.

Academe of the Oaks, which has been educating students in grades 9–12 since 2003, is an independent Waldorf high school committed to academic excellence and guiding students towards meaningful lives. Rooted in the 90-year international tradition of Waldorf education, it engages every student in rigorous academics that are integrated with fine and practical arts. Opportunities for social responsibility and community involvement support the development of the whole person.

Every aspect of the Waldorf high school experience—from the science lab to the athletic field, from artistic expression to community service—is considered not only as academic and social preparation but also as a contributor to the student’s developing sense of self. The education at Academe fosters creative exploration within a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum.

This curriculum develops the life of cognition while encouraging students to think imaginatively. Each year of the high school trains a different cognitive faculty: in ninth grade, the powers of observation; in tenth, the powers of comparison; in eleventh, those of analysis; and in twelfth, synthesis. Within each of the cognitive faculties, the curriculum embodies an underlying theme to help guide the students through their studies, keeping in mind that each student develops at his or her own pace yet all students eventually pass through the same developmental landscapes.



AFTER ACADEME OF THE OAKS

In recent years, graduates from Academe have been accepted at a variety of colleges and universities, including:

Cornell University; New England Conservatory of Music; Emory University; Boston University; Royal College of Music, England; University of Georgia; Bard College; Skidmore College; University of North Carolina; Auburn University; Warren Wilson College; Reinhardt College; Roanoke College; Emory and Henry College; Bennington College; Hampden-Sydney; Georgia State University; Stanford University; Princeton University; Duke University.

“Academe of the Oaks has inspired me to discover new talents and interests I had never considered. At the end of each day, I have a greater understanding of the world and a feeling that I have just discovered a whole new meaning to life. I think this comes out of the way they teach here: The teachers take you above and beyond what you would be taught in a textbook and actually lead you, step by step, into the full experience of the subject so that it becomes real and stays with you.”

— a recent graduate from Academe of the Oaks

Curriculum

	GRADE 9 Trains powers of observation with the question: <i>What?</i>	GRADE 10 Trains powers of comparison with the question: <i>How?</i>	GRADE 11 Trains powers of analysis with the question: <i>Why?</i>	GRADE 12 Trains powers of synthesis with the question: <i>Who?</i>
Main lesson + 8:30 TO 10 AM + blocks are three to four weeks long + intra-curricular academic subjects are explored in depth	Natural Sciences + biology: anatomy + physics: thermodynamics + chemistry: organic Mathematics + descriptive geometry + combinations and permutations Earth Sciences + geology History/Social Studies + revolution and reform + indigenous America + early America and the American Revolution Aesthetics + history of art Literature + tragedy and comedy	Natural Sciences + biology: human physiology + physics: mechanics + chemistry: inorganic Mathematics + Greek geometry with conic sections + surveying Earth Sciences + meteorology History/Social Studies + ancient civilizations + Africa: history and culture + civics and the building of a nation Aesthetics + history of poetry Literature + origins of language	Natural Sciences + biology: botany + physics: electricity and magnetism + chemistry: atomic theory and elements Mathematics + projective geometry Earth Sciences + astronomy History/Social Studies + Rome to the Middle Ages + the Arab world + Civil War to world power Aesthetics + history of music Literature + Parzival	Natural Sciences + biology: zoology + physics: optics + chemistry: chemical technology Mathematics + calculus Earth Sciences + ecology History/Social Studies + symptomatology + America and the modern world + economics and world history + political philosophy Aesthetics + history of architecture Literature + Transcendentalists
Continuous courses	English + the novel + the autobiography + the research paper + grammar skills Mathematics + advanced algebra I + advanced algebra II Foreign language Movement + physical education + eurhythmy	English + <i>The Odyssey</i> + African-American writers + poetry + grammar skills Mathematics + geometry + algebra II + trigonometry Foreign language Movement + physical education + eurhythmy	English + The Romantics + Shakespeare + Dante + grammar skills Mathematics + analytic geometry + advanced algebra II + trigonometry + precalculus Foreign language Movement + physical education + eurhythmy	English + Russian literature + 20th century writers + Islamic literature + grammar skills Mathematics + calculus + applied mathematics Foreign language Movement + physical education + eurhythmy
Fine and practical arts	+ basketry + black and white drawing + blacksmithing + ceramics + painting + quilting + choir + drumming + guitar + harmonica + orchestra	+ black and white drawing + ceramics + drama + jewelry + sculpture + spinning + woodworking + choir + drumming + guitar + harmonica + orchestra	+ bookbinding + photography + quilting + sculpture + veil painting + weaving + choir + drumming + guitar + harmonica	+ batik + drama + film + ceramics + painting + quilting + choir + drumming + guitar + harmonica + orchestra
Service learning	+ continued service + gardening + field trips	+ continued service + gardening + field trips	+ continued service + gardening + field trips	+ continued service + gardening + field trips

Waldorf education, in summary

- ♦ a comprehensive, fully coordinated academic curriculum, structured and paced in accordance with scientific principles of cognitive development
- ♦ the formation of each individual student: mind, heart, senses, spirit, and will
- ♦ attunement to the rhythm of the school day, the week, the seasons, and home routines
- ♦ active, non-competitive learning, enlivened by the arts, nature, movement, and practical skills, and characterized by respect for all people, all cultures, all religions, and the earth
- ♦ ongoing cultivation of community within each class, within the whole school, among parents and teachers, and as an extended family that includes grandparents and friends
- ♦ our aim: agile, proficient learners who can focus easily, think clearly, feel deeply, behave responsibly, initiate and complete projects, and generate their own ideas and motivation in ways that enrich our world

PROGRAMS

MORNING GARDEN

Parents and their young children meet one morning a week for songs, movement, snack, conversation, handwork, and outdoor playtime, guided by a trained Waldorf teacher.

EARLY CHILDHOOD (pre-school & kindergarten)

5 days per week: Monday through Friday;

♦ ages 3 1/2 to 6

3 days per week: Monday through Wednesday;

♦ ages 3 to 5

Each early childhood class, led by a teacher and an assistant, contains 14 to 20 children of mixed ages. Half-day and full-day options are available, and extended care is offered until 6:00 p.m. daily.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRADES 1 – 5

8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.; exception: Thursday dismissal is 1:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADES 6 – 8

8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM, GRADES 1 – 8

Available each school day: games, outdoor play, study time, and varied sports and enrichment activities.



For more information, please visit:

www.waldorfatlanta.org

www.academeatlanta.org

www.whywaldorfworks.org



ANNUAL EVENTS

SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS AND TRIPS

September 29, Michaelmas: a romp of a field day, honoring courageous deeds; after an outdoor lunch, St. Michael tames the dragon, and students enjoy high-spirited games such as relay races and obstacle courses

November 11, Martinmas: bonfire, drama, songs, and a nighttime procession of lanterns celebrate the warmth and kindness of St. Martin

Winter solstice, Advent: seasonal decorations, songs, and stories; younger children's candlelit Advent Garden, a shining spiral of light

Spring, May Fair: maypole dancing to live music, drama and singing

Year-round, class trips: from overnights to week-long journeys of experiential learning, related to the academic curriculum of each class

SCHOOL FAIRS AND EVENTS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Fall, Holiday Fair: an Artist Market, live music, homemade dessert items and Food Trucks, puppet show, Enchantment Shop for children, and other children's activities such as candle dipping, face painting, obstacle course, and crafts

Spring, Auction: a huge live and silent auction featuring priceless handmade items, gift certificates, and services donated by parents, teachers, students, and local businesses

Spring, Commencement: graduating students share their memories and reflections; Grade 8 performances; a display of student work, and a reception

Year-round, assemblies: in honor of opening day, winter holidays, Martin Luther King, Jr., grandparents and loved ones, and year's end, and including special ceremonies, class performances, and choirs and middle school orchestra

Year-round, class plays: annually each grade performs a play; every student in that class has an active role



Childhood comes only once, and Waldorf wants it to be joyful. We seek to fill your child's young years with hearty learning. To nourish his natural gifts of wonder, curiosity, and idealism. And — all in good time—to build in each child a sturdy academic foundation, while ensuring that her spirit continues as it began: strong and free.

The Waldorf School of Atlanta

School. Independent, non-sectarian, and thriving; founded in 1986 by a group of parents. One of over 1,000 Waldorf schools worldwide based on the work of Dr. Rudolf Steiner, we educate Early Childhood through Grade 8. Our school is aligned with the nearby Waldorf high school, Academe of the Oaks, offering Grades 9–12.

Students. Approximately 250 students through Grade 8, from families representing international, ethnic, economic, and religious diversity.

Teachers. Fully certified by accredited Waldorf teacher training institutes (two years beyond the bachelor's degree), and participating in continuing education programs annually. Most academic subjects are taught by the class teacher, who typically moves up each year with his or her students; specialty teachers, who also support student learning and development over several years, instruct students in Spanish, music, handwork, woodwork, movement, and eurythmy (expressive movement inspired by music, poetry, and meaning)

Curriculum. A richly creative, developmentally appropriate blend of academic studies (including Spanish) and the fine, performing, and practical arts. All subjects are taught experientially and artistically as well as intellectually.

Arts. Closely related to the curriculum, and evident throughout the school. Every student learns to draw, paint, sculpt, sing, recite, play an instrument, knit, build, garden, produce handcrafts, and move expressively. Participation in orchestra and recorder ensemble begins in middle school. In eighth grade, more challenging artistic activities are introduced, such as glass blowing and metalworking.

Community. Warm and welcoming to the whole family. Events such as seasonal festivals, class plays, class trips, fairs, and service projects offer many opportunities for volunteering; they create close connections among families by attracting parents' avid participation in the life of the school. The Waldorf community also generates plenty of casual get-togethers for students and families: potluck dinners, pool parties, and other class gatherings, as well as student play-dates and parent socials.

Movement and sports. In each grade, prescribed games and activities that develop students' balance, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness. A few examples: jumping rope, balance beam, climbing walls, juggling, running, javelin and discus throw. Younger students learn teamwork through cooperative games; older students, through more traditional activities such as football, ultimate frisbee, and soccer. Competitive sports begin in middle school, with basketball, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball offered at the end of the school day.

Evaluation. Provided throughout the year via periodic classroom assessments, main lesson block reviews, quizzes, tests, and homework. Results are communicated through parent conferences and mid-year reports, culminating at year's end in an extensive narrative report from students' main teacher and specialty teachers.

Parent education. A key ingredient of Waldorf schools. Parent evenings, held three times a year, bring parents and the class teacher together to discuss the students' developmental characteristics and the ways in which lessons and other activities are tailored for students at this stage. Additionally, lectures by guest speakers, handcraft groups, such as quilting and knitting, adult choirs, art, drama and music classes, family game nights and more — events that are open to the public.

Service. An integrated learning opportunity for Grades 7 and 8. Students combine compassion and practical skills as they collaboratively choose, research, plan, complete, and then reflect on active service projects and field trips that benefit the local community. Projects range widely, from physical labor (yard work, gardening, clearing trails) to producing useful handmade items for needy infants, adults, families, and patients.

First step. Visit us! We offer introductory programs on Waldorf education, during which you can observe classes, view student work, and talk with our administrators; individual visits are welcome as well. To find out more, call our Enrollment Director (404-377-1315).



PRESCHOOL – GRADE 8

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