



WALDORF  
SCHOOL  
of GARDEN CITY



*Middle School  
Curriculum Guide*



## Our Mission Statement

The Waldorf School of Garden City educates children to meet the world with purpose, gratitude and respect. Our curriculum, inspired by Rudolf Steiner, progresses in accordance with child development, awakening students to the experience of knowledge, strengthening their sense of moral responsibility, and empowering them to act with courage and conviction. The School's aim is to graduate a diverse group of young men and women distinguished by the scope and acuity of their minds as well as the depth and integrity of their character.



## Sixth Grade

Rocks. Gems. Caves and Mines. For sixth graders, these words take on more meaning as they study geology, both in the classroom and while exploring glacial caves at our extended campus in Glen Brook. Additionally, students' classroom learning of calligraphy and medieval history is extended through various field trips. Students are engaged in a yearlong journey into the world of architecture, sculptures, paintings, and tapestries.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

The sixth grade reads and discusses works such as *The Bronze Bow*, *Adam of the Road*, *Parzival*, and *Otto of the Silver Hand*. These materials serve as the primary resources for vocabulary and reading comprehension review. Students also learn to break the writing process into steps, allowing time and inspiration for outlining, drafting, editing, and proofreading. Through assignments such as research projects and creative compositions, sixth graders become well-versed in library and reference book research methods.

### MATH

The increasing maturity of the sixth graders allows them to strengthen their command of number facts and practice basic operational algorithms. The core math curriculum includes heavy review of previously studied topics such as estimating, rounding, decimals, fractions, and problem solving. Students also apply the formulas for perimeter and surface area for basic figures.

### BUSINESS MATH

Students examine the transformation from bartering to money-based economies. They also learn to calculate percentages to pay taxes, find the value of a discount, and understand the power of compounding interest.

### GEOMETRY

Constructing geometric figures using a compass and straightedge is an exercise in precision and artistry that allows students to understand mathematic relationships in a visual, kinetic, and artistic way. In addition to creating geometric progressions of polygons and spirals, students learn the laws of complementary, alternate, and opposite angles. A formal geometric proof is introduced for the first time: the sum of the angles of a triangle equals  $180^\circ$ , an exercise that bridges the transition to an in-depth study of the triangle.

### GEOLOGY

Students evaluate how slow changes on the earth over geologic time can yield dramatic effects, such as the growth and regression of mountains, the ebb and flow of oceans, and the emergence and disappearance of entire continents. Students also examine the rock cycle and characterize primary types of rock, glaciation and weathering, and prominent minerals. Practical applications of

these natural wonders such as metals, industrial minerals, and fossil fuels are also introduced.

## ECOLOGY

This class examines the relationships between organisms and their environments. Students construct a picture of the Earth as a living organism, with each element holding an important role as part of an interconnected whole. Topics covered include the flow of energy through ecosystems in food webs, the importance of biodiversity, the affect of climate on regional ecosystems, the process of growth over time after disturbances in an area, plant and animal habitats and adaptations, and the changing relationship of human beings to the Earth. Students frequently explore the campus ecosystem as part of their extended classroom.

## PHYSICS

Students are introduced to the areas of acoustics, optics, heat, magnetism, and electricity. Experiments and games using objects of different materials are vital in the study of acoustics. Conductors and insulators are the primary topics in the heat unit, while optics is analyzed using color simulations in the darkroom. Students learn the basic qualities of magnetism, such as polarity, attraction and repulsion, force field. The electricity unit establishes the concepts of static electricity, current, and voltage.

## METEOROLOGY

Lessons examine the four seasons and the role of the Sun as the creator of weather. With many in-class experiments students discover the properties of air, water, heat, and wind. Students keep a weather log, honing their skills of identifying clouds, wind speed and direction, and weather changes.

## ASTRONOMY

Here at the Waldorf School of Garden City, astronomy is taught primarily from a geocentric and phenomenological perspective. Students embark on numerous night observations, using that as supplementary material for their study of the rotation of the stars around the celestial pole, the zodiac and circumpolar stars, the Sun, the ecliptic, the Moon's phases, and the planets.

## AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

Students embark on a grand journey through the Americas as they study the geography of Central, and South America. Lessons take them back in time to the emergence and movement of the islands that formed in the Caribbean's, as well as the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations. From the heights of the Andes to depths of the Amazon River Basin, sixth graders revel in the majesty, diversity and challenges of this continent. Students also explore the basics of climatology, such as the relationship between latitude/altitude and temperature, atmospheric and oceanic currents and their role in precipitation.

## CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

Our northern neighbor provides a sharp contrast to Latin America. Students learn of the rising of the western mountains and the effect of glaciers, leading to a type of terrain that proved to be a challenge for human life. Immigration, spanning from the legendary land trail leading from Asia to North America that guided early movements to the European colonization following 17th Century exploration, is examined.

## ROMAN HISTORY

The story of the Aeneid bridges the ancient Greek unit in fifth grade to the Roman history course in the sixth grade. Students hear tales of the Romulus' and Remus' brutal beginnings followed by the tumultuous times of the legendary early kings to the founding of the Republic. Biographies of Hannibal of Carthage, the Graachi, Scipio Africanus, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Caesar Augustus illustrate to students both the glories and tragedies of this mighty empire. The reading list also contains contemporary works such as *The Shadow of Vesuvius* by Eilís Dillon and *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare.

## MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Topics include the fall of the Roman Empire and the impact of the German and Asian invasions on its former territory, such as the creation of feudal societies. Students also study the spread of Islam, along with the Crusades. Many of these topics are presented through the biographies of historic personalities like Pope Gregory, King Richard the Lion Heart, and Mohammed or through archetypes like monks or peasants. The students supplement their understanding of medieval history by reading poems in both Old and Middle English.

## FRENCH

Students continue their reading, writing, and oral exercises from the previous years. Readings include *La Chèvre et Les Biquets*, *Le Jambon de Pâques*, *A Travers La France*, *Le Bucheron et Sa Soupe*, and *Les Lunettes De Maitre Louis*. Vocabulary is taken directly from these stories, and grammar lessons focus on different verbs and their conjugations in different tenses.

## GERMAN

Sixth graders focus on mastering sentence structure and verbs as well as expanding their repertoire of commonly-used vocabulary. Short stories, songs, poems, and specific topics continually offer new vocabulary, while reading comprehension skills are improved through questions about the texts.

## CLASS PLAY

Each year, sixth graders work together to put on a class play. In addition to acting, the students are in charge of all aspects of production, including set design, props, costumes, music, and lighting, with assistance from teachers and

parents. Recent productions have included *A Roman Comedy* and *Lover's Knot* by Robert Trostli.

## ORCHESTRA

Students practice sight reading and intonation. Students participate in performances throughout the year.

## DANCING

This course teaches line dances and group dances of eight people in circular and rectangular formations. These exercises reinforce coordination and cooperation, as children practice stepping in time to the music and following the caller at all times.

## MUSIC

Music lessons focus mainly on two instruments: the voice and the recorder. To further good vocal habits, students learn to support musical phrases with appropriate breathing and clear pronunciation for a full and pleasant choral sound. As usual, students add rhythm to their rhyme by adding body percussion and movement to their exercises, a challenge that teaches them sustained concentration and effort. Additionally, students also study medieval music, deconstructing pieces dating from 12th to 14th century England, Spain and France. These songs and dances come to life as the students sing, play, and embellish the tunes with recorders, harps, and percussion instruments.

## PAINTING

Themes for painting class include the landscape of northern Canada and the warm Amante style of Mexico. Other assignments include capturing the likeness and spirit of the Roman aqueducts and galley ships using the wet-on-wet watercolor method. Students also attempt veil paintings of fiery volcanoes, a challenging technique that demands much concentration, attention, and patience.

## ART

Art projects consist of self portraits, stained-glass windows, beeswax sculpting, and set painting. Students also develop the rudimentary skills for calligraphy, tessellation, and black and white shading.



## HANDWORK

As sixth graders enter pre-adolescence, the handwork curriculum supports their new sense of self, depth of feeling, and independence. Students cultivate artistry, imagination, and focus through the creation of stuffed animals. Students create their own patterns and profile drawings, cut and sew their pieces of felt, and stuff for the final step. The result is a wonderful assortment of differently colored, shaped, and expressioned animals, a composition that reflects the individuality of the children who made them.

## WOODWORKING

The main task of the sixth grade woodworking class is to create a spoon and fork set out of a piece of green cherry wood from Glen Brook. Students compare different samples of spoons to help them choose a design for their own utensils. Then begins the process of hatching, sizing, roughing, sanding, and oiling. The end result is a beautiful set of woodenware, as well as a deeper understanding of convex and concave shapes.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sixth graders begin to fill various leadership roles around the court including taking care of attendance, assisting in the locker rooms, setting up the fields, and collecting equipment. Fall sports include track and field, soccer, and Capture the Flag, activities that call for stamina, spatial awareness and teamwork. Dodge ball games are introduced to develop control, accuracy, sensitivity, and strategy. Other games include juggling, European handball, volleyball, and ultimate Frisbee.

## EURYTHMY

Eurythmy exercises are inspired by the culture of ancient Rome. Attention is placed on precise forms, the practice of mental imaging, and vigorous exercises requiring dexterity. Students begin to work with the copper rods to strengthen their orientation in space, stimulate blood circulation, and develop muscle tone. Each lesson begins with a concentration and coordination exercise to stimulate the mind and body.

## GARDENING

The gardening curriculum aims for the children to learn and appreciate organic gardening skills. They care for a plot of land by improving the soil, making and using compost, planting trees, flowers and bushes, harvesting their produce, and weeding. During the winter months the children learn how to winterize the garden and prune trees. The children will also experience a brief introduction to Biodynamic Agriculture, a practice of enlivening the soil that enables the land to sustain itself through time.

Sixth graders also learn to make schoolyard salve by crushing, soaking, and melting plaintain and comfrey leaves with beeswax. This soothing remedy is distributed throughout our classrooms to aid childhood scrapes.



## Seventh Grade

The seventh grade curriculum plays tribute to the emotional and physical changes going on in students' lives. The Coming-of-Age Trip, an additional trip to Glen Brook, strives to aid burgeoning adolescents in this time of turbulence and uncertainty. As they continue their questioning in the classroom, students are anchored in the firm objectivity of the physical world. The seventh grade class trip to Glen Brook is combined with the physics main lesson seminar to teach mechanics with real life applications. Students are introduced to the idea of the incline plane, the lever, the mathematical law of the lever, and their many derivatives. But nothing beats firsthand experience and there are plenty of opportunities provided at Glen Brook. Students poke and prod, heave and hoist as they expand their knowledge of simple machines.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

The seventh grade core language arts curriculum consists of spelling and grammar exercises, and in-class literary discussions. Students also read several works of literature to increase their active and passive vocabularies.

### MATH

Daily math lessons concentrate on extending problem-solving and number theory skills. Students incorporate the use of ratio, proportion and percent to calculate the lengths of similar figures in a unit on indirect measurements. Word problems involving percents, estimation, probability, decimals, and fractions serve as additional review.

### ALGEBRA

This seminar introduces students to the Golden Rule of Equations: what is done to one side of the equation must be done to the other. Children practice one-step and two-step equation-solving and are introduced to calculations with positive and negative numbers as well as the concept of absolute value. This course culminates in an introduction to polynomials.

### GEOMETRY

Geometry in the seventh grade focuses on the divisions of the circle and regular polygons as well as properties of angles. Lessons utilize a visual approach, as students make observations through their precise drawings of the geometric forms.

### PHYSIOLOGY

Seventh graders explore the human being through the internal structures that support its health and well-being. Major body systems include the digestive, circulatory and respiratory systems, as well as the skin and urinary systems.

### CHEMISTRY

Students are introduced to inorganic chemistry and the properties of earth,

air, fire, and water. Major topics include combustion and the water cycle, the qualities of acids and bases, and the lime cycle.

## PHYSICS

The seventh grade physics seminar touches upon the areas of acoustics, electricity, the five simple machines, and light. Through playing, listening and measuring, students rediscover Pythagoras' mathematical relationships between string lengths and intervals. Students learn of Galvani and Volta, as well as other famous inventors, and probe the mysteries of light in their experience of the camera obscura.

## GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA

Students embark on an academic journey through the Silk Road beginning with Marco Polo. From there they begin to explore surrounding oceans, mountains, and rivers as well as the countries and their capitals. Topics of focus include Siberia, its climate, natural resources, and biodiversity, as well as geography of mainland and maritime Southeast Asia. Students also experience the customs and culture of certain parts of Asia through tea times and activities such as brush painting.

## THE MIDDLE AGES AND AGE OF EXPLORATION

This seminar focuses on European History during the Late Middle Ages until the Hundred Years War and the life of Joan of Arc. Students probe the lives of famed navigators Prince Henry of Spain, Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan.

## RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

This seminar focuses on Europe during the Renaissance, with a particular emphasis on Florence, Italy. Students study Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Lorenzo di Medici, and Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation. Other topics include England's War of the Roses, the defeat of the Armada, and the rise of the Anglican Church. The artistic component constitutes of a partial reproduction Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel based on student collaboration.

## FRENCH

Seventh grade French classes focus on the construction of more elaborate sentences, both written and oral. Students incorporate new vocabulary words from daily readings into their compositions. Grammar exercises include proper conjugation of common irregular verbs in the affirmative and negative forms.

## GERMAN

Students read several texts throughout the year to encourage reading comprehension and vocabulary skills. Common grammar topics include the construction of questions and the conjugation of irregular verbs. Daily in-class dialogues enhance everyday conversational skills. Songs, tongue twisters, and poems round out the curriculum.

## DANCE

Students learn variations on the common folk, square, and line dances through the addition of new steps and figures. Rehearsals teach students to listen carefully, treat partners with courtesy, and step with the tune of the music.

## CHORUS

Seventh and eighth graders split into the Seventh and Eighth Grade Boys/Girls Chorus as boys' and girls' voices develop and change. Students practice sightreading and intonation, as well as compose their own pieces and compile their work into a single motet for multiple instruments.

## ORCHESTRA

The seventh and eighth grade orchestra is exposed to new and challenging pieces such as Rite at Stonehenge, and Mabel Creek Overture. New techniques such as "col legno," meaning to play with the stick of the bow rather than the hair, are also introduced.

## CLASS PLAY

Students combine individual effort and teamwork to reenact a multi-act play, overseeing all aspects of production from costuming to props, music, and special effects. Past selections include *Robin of Sherwood*, a three-act play by J.R. Crawford.

## ART

Students use watercolor, charcoal, and pastels to compose nature scenes in conjunction to the material presented in science class on environments and biomes. Considerable time is also spent drafting spheres, cylinders, and rectangular solids to introduce the T-square.

## PERSPECTIVE DRAWING

Students are instructed in the use of a ruler and triangles to complete basic exercises and drawings in perspective. Assignments improve attention, precision, and individual creativity and design.

## HANDWORK

Seventh grade handwork class teaches students the art of felting wool, include the wet-felting and needling felting techniques. As a final project, students create a pair of slippers, utilizing the skills associated with carding, layering, and felting wool.

## HANDWORK

The major task of the seventh grade woodworking class is to make a mallet from roughly-split sections of green hickory or sycamore logs. After completing their mallets, students use them on bowls carved from blocks of green cherry from Glen Brook or, in some cases, kiln-dried poplar.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students build strength and cardiovascular fitness through team sports such as volleyball, team handball, softball, and baseball. Students always follow safe playing techniques and the rules of sportsmanship during practices and games.

## EURYTHMY

Eurythmy classes aim to actively engage students and establish a balance between motor skills, concentration, social awareness, and self control. Lessons offer challenging coordination exercises, some with copper rods, dramatic and/or comical poetry. Mental imaging before actual movements and versatile geometrical forms are essential substitutes for the traditional teaching tools of pencil and paper. Students also cooperate in groups to choreograph eurythmy movements to a poem.

## INTEGRATED MOVEMENT

This playful unit allows children to develop dexterity with juggling props, scarves, balls, rings, Chinese yo-yo's, devil sticks, and stilts. Gymnastics is also incorporated through tumbling and acrobatics with the mini trampoline and leap frogs. Strength and alignment are emphasized through handstands. The skills developed in this unit are adapted into a scene for the Class Play.

## GLEN BROOK

During the seventh grade, students learn to lift their weight at Camp Glen Brook. The mechanics unit includes hoisting each other to the ceiling of the barn in a “bosun’s chair,” and raising heavy objects using levers, pulleys, and fulcrums. Students also experience the high ropes course for the first time, an exercise in both physics and teamwork.

Students of the seventh grade also embark on a Coming-of-Age Trip with members of the eighth grade class. A trip to Glen Brook specially designed to tackle important issues that arise during puberty, students will gain the confidence and the perspective they need to support them through this period of personal transitions.

## GARDENING

The gardening curriculum aims for the children to learn and appreciate organic gardening skills. They care for a plot of land by improving the soil, making and using compost, planting trees, flowers, and bushes, harvesting their produce and weeding. During the winter months the children learn how to winterize the garden and prune trees. The children will also experience a brief introduction to Biodynamic Agriculture, a practice of enlivening the soil that enables the land to sustain itself through time.







## Eighth Grade

The eighth grade is a time of growth and reflection as students begin preparations to enter the High School. Their journey with their Class Teacher culminates in the Eighth Grade Project, a cumulative exercise that gives students the opportunity to use the skills, capacities, and talents they have developed during their first eight years of Waldorf education. Each student explores a topic that expanded their horizons, deepened their understanding of the world they live in, inspired them, and helped them learn something that would facilitate growth in themselves or the community they live in. Our elementary graduates exhibit their cross-disciplinary proficiency through a written report, a creative display board, and a three dimensional artistic, dramatic, or mechanical creation.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

The English language arts core curriculum focuses on readings such as *Cry, the Beloved Country*, *A Girl Named Disaster*, *Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution*, *Across Five Aprils*, *Dragonwings*, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*. Students write narrative and research essays, composition assignments are usually integrated with the other topics in the overall eighth grade curriculum. Grammar review covers verbs, pronouns, punctuation, and capitalization.

### CREATIVE WRITING: SHORT STORY

This class focuses on plot elements such as exposition, character, setting, conflict, suspense, climax, and resolution. Students practice developing plots, characters, and settings to advance a story. Works from Kurt Vonnegut, Edgar Allen Poe, Langston Hughes, O. Henry, Gerald Durrell, Guy de Maupassant, and Ray Bradbury round out the reading list that doubles as inspiration for each student's own short story.

### MATH

The eighth grade core math curriculum focuses on number systems other than base 10 and algebraic applications with rational numbers. Topics of review include number patterns, percents, proportions, the Pythagorean Theorem, and irrational numbers. The term concludes with an introduction to graphing linear equations, an introduction to polynomials, and an opportunity to participate in the LI Math Fair.

### GEOMETRY

Students review basic procedures for geometrical constructions and move on to examine the properties and common ratios for the five Platonic Solids: dodecahedron, hexahedron, tetrahedron, octahedron, and icosahedron.

### BIOLOGY

Students expand their knowledge of their bodies by studying the anatomy of the human skeleton. They learn the names, shapes, and functions of the

major bones, with a special emphasis on how the muscles are designed to take maximum advantage of the laws of mechanics. The foot and lower leg are presented as examples of levers. The artistic and practical components of the course include sketches of human bones, and a life-size human skeleton, as well as a clay rendition of a model femur.

## FOOD CHEMISTRY

This seminar focuses mainly on organic substances such as sugars, starches, proteins, and fats. Students begin by observing the plant and dissecting the process of photosynthesis as a means of energy conversion. Class activities include making potato starch, lipsticks, and hand lotions.

## PHYSICS

This seminar introduces scientific (SI) units, hydraulics, density, and electromagnetism. Students learn the ways in which modern cities anticipate and deliver water needs to its residents and businesses. Eighth graders examine hydraulic machines and practical applications of Pascal's law. The story of Archimedes and the king's crown introduces the idea of density, which segues into a review of pressure. Students expand upon previous studies of triboelectricity and the achievements of Volta, Oersted, and Faraday, all of which provide the basis for understanding the electromotor.



## UNITED STATES HISTORY

A thorough review of United States history, from the first settlers of Jamestown, Virginia to the war for independence and the establishment of the fifty states.

## THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

This seminar continues the story of the development of the Western world, beginning in England with the reign of James I through the English Civil War and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. Students then travel to France to explore the monarchies of Louis XIV, XV, and XVI and the French Revolution. The beginnings of the European Industrial Revolution is explored as the curriculum starts to weave economics into politics.

## THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

Topics of interest cover the period from the mid 18th Century to the mid 19th Century and follows the theme of industrialization and its effects. Students begin with the textile factories of England's Industrial Revolution to the invention of the steam engine and end with America's own Industrial Revolution, from the expansion of the railroad to the clash between the agricultural South to the industrial North as a basis for the Civil War and the use of slave labor. Debates on the pros and cons of industrialization in terms of its impact on society and the environment are regular features of class discussion. Additionally, students write several compositions and engage in daily discussions on provocative topics such as slavery, economics, human rights, technology, warfare, and leadership.



The Chemistry main lesson block focuses on organic substances and how they are used in the home and in industry. Students participate in a variety of laboratory work and document their findings.

## RIGHTS FOR ALL

Students follow the theme of civil rights from the Reconstruction of the South to present time. Specific topics include the Jim Crow laws, the Women's Suffrage movement, the Great Depression, Prohibition, FDR's New Deal, World War I and II. Students contrast dictators like Hitler and Stalin to leaders such as Gandhi and King. Studies conclude with discussions of recent and current events, such as the 9/11 attacks, and the wars in the Middle East, as well as background lessons on the U.S. government, the Bill of Rights, and Constitutional amendments. This class frequently incorporates a field trip to Washington D.C.

## AFRICAN GEOGRAPHY

This seminar presents a broad overview of the geography, culture, and history of Africa. The curriculum encompasses presentations on topics ranging from art to socioeconomic conditions by guest speakers such as Dr. William Watson and "Uncle" Steven Lloyd. Students write compositions on African topography and geography, as well as biographies of African leaders. Readings include *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.

## SPANISH

The eighth grade offers students an introductory course to Spanish that includes an overview of basic vocabulary and pronunciation. Class projects include skits based on familiar fairy tales and presentations of classic Spanish songs such as *Des Colores*.

## GERMAN

Students concentrate on applying the language skills they have acquired so far to further their listening and reading comprehension skills through various texts, poems, and songs. Grammar exercises include activities that emphasize adverbs and modal verbs. A unit on Mozart also familiarizes students with new vocabulary and a deeper understanding of German culture. Eighth graders also spend time examining the geography of Germany and complete a geography book describing and depicting basic geographical facts.

## FRENCH

Students expand their vocabulary through an exploration of French culture including influential figures, educational system, government, fashion, sports, and cuisine. Grammar exercises include irregular verbs, negations, and prepositions, as well as direct and indirect objects. Students spend time watching French movies such as "The Chorus." The eighth grade French unit concludes with a trip to "A La Carte," a cooking school where students help prepare and enjoy a traditional French four-course meal.

## CLASS PLAY

The eighth grade play signals the culmination of our students' lower school experience, and, as such, is a major undertaking of the class. Students combine



their refined acting and speaking skills, previous experience in theater production including set design, costumes, hair and makeup, props, backstage management, choreography, and music to present a sophisticated, classic play of their class teacher's choosing. Past choices have included Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, a rich comedy of nuanced diatribes and layered plots, to *Fiddler on the Roof*, a work that epitomizes personal growth and transitions and features an incredible score.

## CHORUS

The seventh and eighth grade boys' and girls' choruses generally meet separately to develop sight-reading abilities and performance skills. They come together to sing for the Thanksgiving Assembly and their graduation ceremonies. Pieces performed in the past include Somewhere *Over the Rainbow* and *For Good*.

## ORCHESTRA

Students immerse themselves in arrangements of *The March of the Meistersänger* by R. Wagner and the *Pavanne* by G. Faure, both of which develop ensemble skills and sensitivity to music.

## VISUAL ARTS

Students experiment with different ways of expressing tone through black/white and color drawings. Their experience with perspective is expanded to include

concepts such as aerial perspective and color as a tool to create an illusion of depth in a landscape. Color is also introduced as a manipulator of moods through observations at sunset, dawn, and dramatic weather situations. Each student completes several color exercises in pencil, crayon or paste, and landscapes or stilllives in watercolor or pastel.

### **HANDWORK**

Eighth grade handwork students learn the fundamentals of sewing. Using their own bodies as the standard of measure, students construct a pattern, which they use to create an article of clothing. Possible projects include skirts, shirts, boxer shorts, and pajama pants.

### **WOODWORKING**

Students build stools using wood from a forty-inch thick oak tree from Glen Brook. This exercise teaches common tools such as froes, hatchets, drawknives, and spokeshaves, as well as quality traits such as patience and respect for workmanship.

### **EURYTHMY**

Students begin their year with an introduction to body awareness through the senses and movement in the six directions of space. The class progresses to rhythm activities from Africa and performs group dances such as Tumba alle Tumba, a piece that calls for individual control in moving with scarves and long wooden rods as well as group cooperation. The curriculum rounds off with numbers using complex body percussion inspired from the South African Gumboot style of dance. Activities to enhance balance, flexibility, and individual awareness serve as warm-up and cool-down exercises in lessons.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The eighth grade physical education curriculum encompasses units of soccer, team handball, and basketball. Students learn the basic skills, techniques, terminology, and rules for each sport.

### **GLEN BROOK**

In the farmhills of Glen Brook, students live and learn American history by actively engaging in the diverse activities that made up life in colonial New England—from maple sugaring at the Camp’s sugarhouse, to stone cutting and woodwork.

Students of the eighth grade also embark on a Coming-of-Age Trip with members of the seventh grade class. A trip to Glen Brook specially designed to tackle important issues that arise during puberty, students will gain the confidence and the perspective they need to support them through this period of personal transitions.



### **GARDENING**

As the eighth graders prepare to graduate our gardening program, they are given the unique privilege of experiencing life and work on a real farm. Once a week, they travel to Grossman Farm, a five-acre, organic and biodynamic farm, where they assist with all types of farm tasks.

The gardening curriculum aims for the children to learn and appreciate organic gardening skills. They care for a plot of land by improving the soil, making and using compost, planting trees, flowers and bushes, harvesting their produce and weeding. During the winter months the children learn how to winterize the garden and prune trees. The children will also experience a brief introduction to Biodynamic Agriculture, a practice of enlivening the soil that enables the land to sustain itself through time.

As soon-to-be initiates of the High School, the eighth grade traditionally bestows a class gift to the School Garden. Past gifts include the construction of a labyrinth in the nature trail, and the planting of cherry and pear trees on our campus.



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