

*Lower School
Program*



The
WALDORF SCHOOL
of GARDEN CITY



"My teachers fostered a true joy and appreciation for learning. The way class material was taught penetrated your senses. The curriculum's structure was highly engaging." –JOHN COFFEY '74



STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEACHERS

In the first grade your child will meet their class teacher who will accompany them on their journey through several years of the Lower School. The relationship between the children in the class and their teacher is one of the strengths of the Waldorf School of Garden City. Like any social group the class will face challenges but together, they will find ways to work through differences, share achievements and support each other under the steady guidance of their class teacher. In the Lower School, class teachers teach the core subjects of language arts, math and social studies complemented by the work of specialty teachers in fiber arts, music, movement, horticulture, and foreign languages.

A great deal of careful thought and planning goes into creating classroom environments that foster and sustain the intellectual curiosity children bring to learning. Teachers encourage students' imagination and initiative while guiding them in productive ways throughout their Lower School years.

A MULTI-FACETED EDUCATION

In the first grade students are introduced to the Main Lesson—a daily session presented by the class teacher where topics in math, literature, history and science, are intensely explored for up to four weeks. The topic and the way in which it is presented are chosen to resonate with a child's age and developmental stage.



THIRD GRADE STUDY OF HUMAN SHELTER

In the third grade students learn about the different houses that are made around the world and how they vary, depending on the geography, climate, and raw materials available. They learn about construction techniques used over time, from simple nomadic structures to contemporary wood-framed homes. Combined with illustrative chalk drawings this information is then recapitulated in the children's main lesson books. Students build models of different structures. They are then given the experience of hammering nails and sawing lumber. Many teachers complete a building project with their class to provide a hands-on experience from concept to finished product.





Your child will learn through a variety of methods and activities including recitation, singing, rhythmical movement, writing, enacting through class plays and carefully selected trips all of which help to reinforce your child's learning experience. The structure of the day allows time for your child to reflect on and process information in a meaningful way. As your child progresses through the school they will revisit topics in greater depth and with an increasingly mature approach. Thus your child is building on a knowledge base and there is a sense of continuity and purpose in what they are learning rather than jumping about from subject to subject with no

real sense of context or meaning. Students complete their own “textbooks” for each of the Main Lesson topics in which they are immersed. Class trips beginning in the third grade to the school’s 240 acre farm known as Glen Brook, are seen as a vital part of your child’s experience.

A STUDY OF ANCIENT CULTURES

One example of our holistic approach to learning can be seen in the study of ancient cultures in the fifth grade. Beginning with Ancient India and continuing through golden ages of Persia, Babylonia, Mesopotamia and Egypt, students are first oriented in time and then given a picture of the geography and climate of these regions of the earth. Studies of the ancient cultures are the foundation for the focused and multidimensional study of Ancient Greece. Study of the mythology is a significant part of the work. The students are engaged in the retelling and illustration of these stories in their Main Lesson book. The geography of Greece is studied so the children can understand how the physical landscape effects the development of culture. *The Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are popular resources for stories of the relationships between gods and men. Written history then becomes the sources for stories about the cultures of Athens and Sparta, their wars with each other and with a common enemy, Persia. The Golden Age of Greece is considered through short biographies of Socrates and Alexander. A class trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York



City is an opportunity to view art and artifacts from all the cultures that are studied, especially Egyptian mummies and Greek statues.

A highlight of this subject is the Greek Pentathlon. Students are trained in their physical education classes to compete in a multi-school event in the spring. Physical agility, speed, grace and honor are encouraged in the events of running, discus, javelin, wrestling and long jump. During the event children are invited to share poetry, music and dance. Students compete against other fifth grade students from local Waldorf Schools.



VISITING AND APPLYING TO THE WALDORF SCHOOL OF GARDEN CITY

Choosing a school is an important decision and a campus visit is one of the most important steps in making the right choice. Most of our families tell us that when they visited WSGC, met our students and faculty, and experienced our community spirit, they knew they had found their school.

The Waldorf School of Garden City has established an online application process to help families request information and manage the application process.

Please visit www.waldorfgarden.org/admissions
for more information.



WALDORF
SCHOOL
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