



Dear children, parents, and family members,

I am so pleased to welcome you back to school. I am sure that although it will be a different year from what we might have expected or hoped for, it will be an exciting year full of growth and learning as we transition to middle school!

We welcome several new students and their families: Nala Dennis, Madison Hoffman, Carson Mattar, Saif Siddiqui, and Iyan Valadez. And we say farewell to Marielle Zuckerbrot and Damien DeRosa. My heart is full of love and gratitude for those who are leaving for distant shores, for those coming aboard, and for those continuing this great adventure with me.

We also welcome new teachers, who teach both in the middle school and the high school:

- Ms. Gleason–Math
- Ms. Stemkoski – Physics
- Coach Flanagan – P.E.
- Frau Schneider – German
- Ms. Innella – Teaching a skills-based class encouraging inner strength and emotional balance (S.E.L.)
- Maestra Ramirez – Spanish

As you can see, these changes make 6th Grade more exciting and filled with greater opportunities!

Here are some upcoming events and important information:

- New student orientation is **Tuesday, September 2nd**.
- Grades 6-12 will begin the school year online. If your child needs to borrow a computer from the school, please contact IT Support at support@waldorfgarden.org.
- First day of school is **Tuesday September 8th**. Reminder – this is a half day!
- First parent meeting is **Tuesday, September 22nd** from 7-8pm. Zoom Code: 996765751, Password: 081261.
- First Main Lesson is September 9th, 9am. Zoom Code: 482181941, Password: 085390.
- Office Hours are Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 4:30-8pm. Please feel free to email me anytime at hartc@waldorfgarden.org.

Here are the subjects we will be covering in 6th Grade:

GEOLOGY

Sixth grade studies the continents and major land formations. Plate tectonics, volcanoes, mountain formations, glaciers, rivers, earthquakes and caves are all studied in depth. This provides a basis for the study of minerals and the rock cycle.

ROMAN HISTORY

Students hear tales of Romulus' and Remus' brutal beginnings, followed by the era of the early kings and the founding of the Republic.

Biographies of Hannibal of Carthage, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Caesar Augustus illustrate to students both the glories and tragedies of this mighty empire.

ASTRONOMY/METEOROLOGY

Students engage in numerous night observations studying the rotation of the stars around the celestial pole, the zodiac and circumpolar stars, the sun, the phases of the moon, and the planets.

In meteorology, students learn about the four seasons and weather.

Students keep a weather log, identifying clouds, checking wind speed and direction, and noting weather changes.

GEOMETRY

Constructing geometric figures using a compass and straightedge is an exercise in precision and artistry that allows students to understand mathematic relationships in visual, kinetic, and artistic ways. In addition to creating geometric progressions of polygons and spirals, students learn the laws of complementary, alternate, and opposite angles. The children will discover formal proof that the sum of the angles of a triangle equals 180°.

BUSINESS MATH/ECONOMICS

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.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Topics include the fall of the Roman Empire and the impact of the Germanic and Asian invasions on its former territory, leading to the creation of feudal societies. Students also study the spread of Islam, and 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 such as monks or peasants.

GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA

Students learn about South American geography, with its vast mountain ranges, rainforests and mighty Amazon river, and focus on ancient civilizations and their

relationship to the land. They will also learn about the flora and fauna of this fascinating continent.

PHYSICS

In physics, students engage in the exciting adventures of formal laboratory science. Active exploration, observation, and analysis of phenomena in acoustics, optics, thermodynamics, electricity, and magnetism occur through games, demonstrations, and experimentation. A new style of writing, the scientific laboratory report, provides students the opportunity to express their newly discovered insights in both written and illustrative form, and develop critical thinking.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom, and continuing to expand our horizons together as we navigate middle school.

Warmly,

Mrs. Hart

6th Grade Teacher

The Waldorf School of Garden City

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