

Davis Waldorf School Parent Handbook

Revised 8.7.2024



Davis Waldorf School

PARENT HANDBOOK

UPDATED 8/7/2024

*Receive the children in reverence;
Educate them in love;
Send them forth in freedom.*

- Rudolf Steiner

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SCHOOL HOURS

Preschool 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Kindergarten 8:25 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1st Grade 8:15 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.*

2nd Grade 8:15 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.*

3rd Grade 8:15 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.*

4th Grade 8:15 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.*

5th Grade 8:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.*

6th Grade 8:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.*

7th Grade 8:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.*

8th Grade 8:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Extended Care Until 5:30 p.m.

**On Fridays all grades students are released at 1:00 pm following the Early Release Schedule.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION AND SCHOOL HOURS	2
WELCOME TO DWS	6
MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND PHILOSOPHY	8
OUR MISSION	8
OUR VISION	8
OUR VALUES	8
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	8
NON-DISCRIMINATION PHILOSOPHY	9
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	10
EARLY CHILDHOOD: PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN	10
GRADES	10
SUBJECT CLASSES	11
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	11
FAMILY AND SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP	12
RHYTHM AND SLEEP	12
SCREEN-TIME GUIDELINES	12
COMPETITIVE SPORTS	13
PARENT MEETINGS	13
PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES	14
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES	14
END-OF-YEAR REPORTS	14
CLASS PARENTS	14
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	15
SCHOOL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	16
DAILY SCHEDULES AND ATTENDANCE	17
ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY	18
TARDY POLICIES	19
ABSENCE POLICY	20
AFTER SCHOOL CARE	23
SUNFLOWER AFTERCARE PROGRAM - GRADES	23
JUNE BUG AFTERCARE PROGRAM - PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN	23
SIGN-IN AND SIGN-OUT FOR AFTERCARE	24
VACATION CARE	24
SUMMER CAMP	24
SCHOOL RULES AND POLICIES	25

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE	25
INCIDENT REPORTS	25
STUDENT INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT	25
PROBATION POLICY	26
SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL PROCESS	26
DISCIPLINE IN OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS	27
GENERAL CAMPUS RULES	27
PARENTS AND VISITORS ON CAMPUS	27
PARKING LOT RULES	27
BICYCLE/SKATEBOARD SAFETY	28
KINDERGARTEN YARD RULES	28
GRADES PLAYGROUND AND CAMPUS RULES	28
SNACKS AND LUNCHES	29
BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS	30
TOYS FROM HOME	30
DRESS CODE	31
CELL PHONE POLICIES	32
CELL PHONE POLICY FOR STUDENTS	32
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY DURING SCHOOL EVENTS	32
FIELD TRIPS – TIMING	33
FIELD TRIPS – VOLUNTEER CHAPERONE GUIDELINES	33
HEALTH AND SAFETY	36
STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL	36
SICK AT SCHOOL	36
MEDICAL TREATMENT	36
MEDICATION AT SCHOOL	37
SMOKE POLICY	37
HEAT POLICY	39
HYGIENE	39
HEAD LICE	40
LINES OF COMMUNICATION	40
SOCIAL INCLUSION APPROACH	40
NORMAL PEER DISAGREEMENTS, AGGRESSION, AND BULLYING	40
BUSINESS MATTERS	43
COMMUNICATION	43
COMMUNICATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	43

DIRECTING COMMUNICATION	43
NEWSLETTERS and Dates & Details	46
SOLICITATION FOR BUSINESS	46
LEGAL NOTICE - Penal Code 290 Registrant	46
TUITION POLICY	46
CLASS SUPPLY FEE	47
FUNDRAISING	48
SCRIP PROGRAM	48
CLASS FUNDRAISING	48
COMMUNITY SPHERES	49
THREE ADULT SPHERES OF RESPONSIBILITY	49
PARENT WORK	50
FACULTY AND SCHOOL DIRECTOR	50
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	51
APPENDIX A - Grades Curriculum	53
APPENDIX B - School Festivals and Events	56
APPENDIX C - Mixed-Age Classrooms	62
APPENDIX D - Teaching Writing and Reading	64
APPENDIX E - The Importance of Sleep	66
APPENDIX F - Health and Illness Guidelines	69
CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS	69
WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK	70
KEEPING YOUR CHILD HOME	71
SICK AT SCHOOL	71
SYMPTOMS GUIDELINES	72
APPENDIX G - Incidental Medical Services for Licensed Early Childhood Program	74
APPENDIX H - Committees	77
APPENDIX I - Dress Code FAQ	79

WELCOME TO DWS

Davis Waldorf School was founded in 1986 by a group of parents who wanted Waldorf education for their children. The first kindergarten opened in Fall 1986 in the living room of a parent's house in Winters, CA. The school soon outgrew the living room and moved to a farmhouse west of Davis. For five years the school grew into a community, housing the expanding grades in portable classrooms, holding assemblies and plays in the property's open-air barn and laying straw pathways through the flooded yard each winter.

In 1992, a generous gift of land from John and Judy Whitcombe enabled the school to move to our current 5-acre site. The campus and buildings were carefully designed to harmonize with the ecology of the landscape and the principles of Waldorf education. One of the most distinctive features of our lower grades classrooms is the rammed earth used in the interior walls. Formed of native California clays in beautifully swirled layers, the walls serve as integral works of art, encouraging a sense of connectedness to the earth.

Relocating the school was a community endeavor, with landscaping and prep work done by parents and faculty. Landscaping was planned and implemented with a long view and attention to ecological health and beauty. The current portable building that houses our handwork and aftercare programs was transported from the old site. The Almond House, our current preschool building, was donated by John Whitcombe. These buildings, along with the rammed-earth classrooms, formed the original DWS facilities.

Since those early years, DWS has expanded to include parent-child classes, three preschool and two kindergarten classes, one class for each grade 1- 8, and diversified our curriculum offerings with strings, music, Spanish, handwork, woodwork, games and gardening programs.

In 2005, the upper grades wing was installed so we could provide programs for our older students, and in 2010, we built new wings for both the kindergarten and administration using innovative green buildings. The school continues to grow, and we are in the process of planning the next steps in our campus development.

We grew for many years as a "Waldorf-inspired" school, supported by the tireless commitment and work of the parents and the teachers, and the school has been accredited as a full member Waldorf school by the [Association of Waldorf Schools of North America](#) (AWSNA) since 2016.

The school has gone through many changes in its life, depending on and responding to the needs of our community. Our focus is always on what best supports the child's academic, social, and physical development, while we also respond to the needs of our time. Our academics are rigorous and our

graduating classes regularly average well above grade level across all academic subjects on a nationally-normed standardized test administered in the winter of their 8th grade year – and they also know how to knit, garden, turn a lathe to create a beautiful piece of woodwork, sew their own clothes, sing, play recorders and stringed instruments, and treat each other with kindness and respect. We support the social and emotional health of everyone on our campus through ongoing collaboration among the teachers, parents, and students, and the Student Support Group offers resources and support for children experiencing challenges in the academic, social, and physical realms. The early childhood classes are harmonious, flowing gently between activity and rest throughout the day, with time for play and work, story time and circle time, plus a nourishing meal to feed the body and soul. Grades teachers bring their lessons in a lively and artistic way, with attention to both content and beauty as students explore stories and language skills, math, hands-on science, mythology, history, drama, poetry, music, drawing, painting, and more. We have established a Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DISJ) committee and are steadily working to increase the diversity of viewpoints and inclusion of the stories of many different peoples across the world throughout our preschool through 8th grade curriculum. Our goal is to address historical inequities and strive to bring the entire rainbow of human experience to the children over their years at our school so that each person's whole being is honored.

We welcome you to our school and offer this Parent Handbook as a guide to the Davis Waldorf School and community!

MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND PHILOSOPHY

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to teach the whole child through a living and integrated curriculum to awaken their ability to become an independent-thinking, compassionate, and resilient human being empowered to do good in the world.

OUR VISION

To awaken and nurture the full capacities in every human being so that each may enter into life in full freedom.

OUR VALUES

At the Davis Waldorf School, we teach to the whole child in order to cultivate the values of resilience, relationship, and reverence.

Resilience

We seek to develop imagination, integrity and courage in every child so that they may develop the confidence to overcome challenges and live in freedom.

Relationship

We support the building of relationships with the self, others, and the natural world. We commit to being an inclusive, welcoming school that honors diversity in all its manifestations, both in the classroom and in the whole world community.

Reverence

We revere the connection between ourselves and the natural world and we commit to caring for others and the environment

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Davis Waldorf School is one of nearly 1,200 Waldorf elementary schools throughout the world. In addition, there are over 2,000 Waldorf early childhood international programs. The first Waldorf school opened in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919 at the Waldorf-Astoria Cigarette Factory when its owner, Emil Molt, asked Austrian scientist, philosopher, and educator Rudolf Steiner to create a school for the

children of the factory workers. In September 2019, Waldorf schools around the globe celebrated 100 years of Waldorf education.

The aim of Waldorf education, as stated by Rudolf Steiner, is “to develop free human beings who are able, within themselves, to impart purpose and direction to their lives.” This can only be done through educating the whole child – head, heart and hands – so that each child may unfold the full range of their gifts and capacities.

It has become commonplace to accept a “great divide” between many fundamental aspects of our human nature – between intellect and feeling, body and spirit, imagination and practical ability. Waldorf education seeks to reclaim the wholeness of human potential for every child by carefully nurturing and developing the thinker, the artist, and the doer in each one. That is why the Waldorf curriculum integrates academic, artistic, and practical studies. Teachers strive to bring out these capacities in each child so each one can in time bring all the gifts of heart and mind, imagination and discipline to whatever purpose and direction they choose for their lives.

NON-DISCRIMINATION PHILOSOPHY

The Davis Waldorf School believes that no person should be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in the School on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic under federal, state, or local law including that which is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the California State Penal Code. State law requires that all students shall be permitted to participate in sex segregated school activities and programs, including athletic teams and use facilities consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the student’s records (Education Code 221.5). For the purposes of this policy, “facilities” includes restrooms and sleeping arrangements for school activities (field trips, etc.).

Davis Waldorf School further believes that individuals with disabilities are entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to the School’s services, privileges, and/or advantages, etc., subject to the conditions and limitations established by law, or state and federal regulation.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EARLY CHILDHOOD: PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Waldorf educators seek to protect the wonder and magic of early childhood. The Waldorf early childhood programs provide a nurturing, homelike environment full of natural beauty. From the central nature table with its changing seasonal figures, to the simple, unfinished toys that stimulate the child's imagination, a Waldorf classroom is an enchanting space. Baskets of river rock, seashells, slices of birch branch, simple cloth dolls, and wooden frames draped with gauzy cotton or shimmering silk come alive during creative play. These simple things are transformed by the children into villages, castles, ships and forests as their imagination unfolds. Play is the children's work; it exercises their creativity and imagination and lays the groundwork for a life-long love of learning.

Teachers and children engage in artistic activities such as watercolor painting, coloring, beeswax modeling, eurythmy, and meaningful domestic tasks such as bread baking, handwork and building. Circle games, stories, and puppet shows also nourish the child's developing imagination.

The children discover and observe changes in nature through weekly walks in the neighboring fields and parks. Seasonal festivals are celebrated through crafts, stories, songs, and special activities that deepen the child's connection to the rhythms of nature throughout the year.

Waldorf early childhood programs strive to recognize the spirit in each child and to affirm their natural sense of gratitude, wonder, and reverence.

Our preschool and kindergarten classes are mixed ages. There are many benefits to mixed-age groupings in Early Childhood. The child develops a close relationship with the teachers over two years. The older child becomes familiar with the class and thus can be a helper to the younger ones. The younger children often look up to the older ones, aspiring to be like them. Please see Appendix C to read a summary of Nancy Blanning's thoughtful article about mixed-age groupings.

GRADES

The school day begins with the Class Teacher greeting each child with a handshake and a warm "Good Morning" and then the Main Lesson is presented by the class teacher. Ideally, Class Teachers will carry a class for several years, and they typically stay with a class for multiple years as the class journeys from

grade 1 through 8. Some teachers at DWS practice looping in grades 1-4 and 5-8. Whether a Class Teacher loops or not, the school is committed to providing a quality Waldorf education for each and every class.

Because the Class Teachers come to know their children well, they can work creatively to bring the curriculum in a way that meets the needs of their class, accommodating individual learning styles as needed. The teachers work in close partnership with parents to ensure the best possible educational experience for each child. The warm sense of community that characterizes the Waldorf class provides a secure environment for learning, where each child's gifts are recognized as unique and valuable contributions in the world. While the Class Teachers become a stable anchor in the children's lives throughout the formative years, the children also learn from a variety of subject teachers.

To view highlights of each grade's curriculum, please refer to **Appendix A**.

SUBJECT CLASSES

After the Main Lesson in the morning, the children have special subject classes. These vary from grade to grade and may include Language Arts, Math, Strings, Music, Painting, Clay/Beeswax Modeling, Handwork, Woodwork, Spanish, Form Drawing, Games, and Gardening.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Davis Waldorf School is committed to inclusivity and to offering the benefits of Waldorf Education to all students. Our teachers incorporate many learning modalities in our teaching and embrace various learning styles. However, the school does not have formal special education services, specially trained personnel for all special needs, or access to funding for additional services for students with special needs, such as may be available in public schools. We provide reasonable accommodations to all students, but additional services such as tutoring, aides, occupational therapy or other services are not provided by the school and additional expenses are covered by the family. Even with reasonable accommodations, the Davis Waldorf School may not be able to meet the learning needs of all children.

FAMILY AND SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP

*The child goes forth each day
And what he sees that day,
That he becomes. ~ Walt Whitman*

As Waldorf parents and teachers, we are joining together in a special partnership for the care and development of our children. We are continually humbled by the time, energy, and support our parent community provides. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to engage in supporting your child's education and the wider community - volunteering for festivals and field trips is always a great way to get involved. We also encourage parents and guardians to familiarize themselves with the Parent Handbook and to attend parent evenings and other community meetings to learn more about what is happening in the classroom and on campus and to expand their knowledge about our school and Waldorf education.

RHYTHM AND SLEEP

We experience the rhythm of the year in the cycle of the seasons, the rhythm of the month in the cycle of the moon, and the rhythm of the day in the passage from darkness to light. Each class has its own rhythm of daily activities which act as an anchor for the children. The school day unfolds in a predictable rhythm, allowing the children a healthy experience of child-directed and teacher-directed activities. Thus, activities flow from focused, on task moments to the active moments of rigorous work and play.

Well rested children are successful in school! A full twelve hours of sleep per day is a healthy goal for children seven and under. For students in the grades, bedtimes also need to allow enough time for adequate rest to prepare for the following school day. Please see Appendix E for more information regarding healthy sleep recommendations for children. Please give special consideration to Sunday evenings. In the Waldorf school, the Main Lesson given on Monday mornings in the Grades lays the foundation for the entire week's work. For that reason, we ask you to consider planning your weekends to allow for some "settling in" time on Sundays.

SCREEN-TIME GUIDELINES

One of the foundations of Waldorf education includes freeing the children from all forms of screen viewing. Children often do not have the ability to discern what is healthy and appropriate and need adult guidance when it comes to media. Additionally, scientific research has shown a direct correlation

between exposure to media and detrimental changes in brain development. See the Parents tab on the school's website for more information at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>.

We have observed that the powerful images imparted through media can be difficult for a child to process. In an effort to work through these images, children often repetitively re-enact what they have seen on the screen in the classroom and in the play yard. This hinders their ability to freely engage their own imaginations, a freedom so necessary for creativity and independent thought. Because of this, we recommend that there is no screen-time in early childhood, and request no media usage on school nights for all students. Weekend screen-time should be age appropriate and time-limited on non-school nights (Fridays and Saturdays) with parent approval.

It is a school rule that media is not discussed in the classroom or on the playground, except if it is brought as part of a lesson in the curriculum in the Middle School.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Competitive individual and team sports are introduced in the fifth grade and taken up in earnest in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. They provide an opportunity for the students to further develop their physical and social skills. In the younger grades, we encourage the children to play self-initiated “pick-up” games during recess that are child-led rather than adult directed.

Davis Waldorf School does not recommend that children below fifth grade play competitive team sports. Competitive team sports introduced to young children may bring a premature competitive consciousness. Focusing on competitive team sports can initiate an “us-versus them” or “me-against-you” attitude at a developmental time when children often more naturally engage in a “let us all play together” spirit. Some children can become burned out at a young age by intense focus on a particular team sport and then may not be interested in playing later as a teen or young adult. We recognize that each family makes their own decision regarding competitive sports for their children, but we ask that you consider these factors in your decision-making process.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent meetings link you to your child's classroom experience. Each Class Teacher schedules parent meetings throughout the year with an average of 4 meetings per year. The frequency and format of the meetings will vary depending on the grade.

At parent meetings, teachers may cover the grade's curriculum and schedule of main lesson blocks, discuss class expectations and child development, plan for class activities, offer discussions on Waldorf methodology, suggest activities for home that relate to the children's activities in class, etc. Parent meetings provide parents an opportunity to ask questions, offer input about social issues in the class, discuss the children's developing needs, share parenting experiences, prepare for field trips and special events, and help plan for and shape their children's learning. Additionally, parents get to know one another through participating in the planning of class and school activities and learn more about the social relationships among the children. At least one parent is required to attend every parent meeting. Please inform your child's teacher if you will not be able to attend a parent meeting.

As on-campus childcare is not provided for parent meetings, parents are encouraged to secure their own childcare arrangements or to form a cooperative arrangement between each other to provide care for their children. Ideally this care occurs off-site, as the school is not responsible for safety or supervision if children are on campus during parent meetings.

PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

We have a variety of lectures, workshops and events planned throughout the year for parents to participate in learning more about Waldorf education, human development and their child's experience. Please review the Dates & Details, the Newsletter and/or the school website for information about these events as they are scheduled.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are held in late November. The Class Teacher will discuss your child's academic and social progress and provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and ask questions. To facilitate the meetings, school is closed M-W during Thanksgiving week.

END-OF-YEAR REPORTS

The end of year report is a detailed narrative prepared by your child's Class Teacher describing your child's academic and social progress over the course of the year. Reports are normally available by the end of July and are shared digitally with parents/guardians. This report is the official transcript of your child's Waldorf education. If you would like to add anything to the report, you have 30 days after receipt to submit your written comments to the office for inclusion in your child's student records

CLASS PARENTS

Class Parents are a support for the Class Teacher and act as a liaison with the Office or Parent Council and the school community. Common duties include: helping with communications between the teacher and other parents in the class (i.e. setting up a phone tree), making and maintaining volunteer lists (i.e. potluck sign-ups), and organizing the auction project. If you are interested in taking on the role of Class Parent, please speak to your class Teacher.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our parent community supports the school through their participation in committees, their work on annual events like Annual Giving, the school auction, and festivals, and their help with maintaining the school grounds throughout the year. As a guideline, we suggest 40 hours per year of volunteer community service from each family. Please fill out a **Volunteer Information form** so we can contact you about opportunities that best fit your skills and availability. For a list of committees, please see **Appendix H**.

Parent volunteers in the classroom must complete a **Volunteer Agreement** and must undergo a “volunteer level” background check. Getting a **Livescan** as soon as possible is highly recommended. Results can be delayed due to fingerprint quality or other unforeseen issues. A Livescan only needs to be done once for your entire time here at Davis Waldorf School and is required for all overnight field trips. In addition, getting Livescanned early saves the school time and money, as the volunteer background checks need to be completed each year. If volunteering on campus during school hours, please sign in at the office to receive a visitor badge that must be worn while on campus. Please return the badge to the office and sign out before you leave campus. **Please see the Parents tab on the school website for links to all of these forms:** <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>

SCHOOL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

At the Davis Waldorf School, we honor the spirit in all living things. Our school's aim is to awaken the child's natural reverence for the wonder and beauty of life and the natural world. While religion is not taught at our school, we do observe traditions and celebrations associated with Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and other religions that reflect the diverse faiths of all of our families. If you are interested in celebrating special holidays in your child's classroom, we encourage you to give suggestions to your child's Class Teacher. Parent participation helps to make these festivals meaningful and special. Parents are also welcome to keep their children home in observance of their own religious/spiritual practices.

Please refer to **Appendix B** to view a list of festivals and events currently celebrated by the school.

DAILY SCHEDULES AND ATTENDANCE

Our school has staggered start times to reduce traffic congestion and increase student safety. Please refer to the table below for exact class start and dismissal times. Please arrive at least five minutes earlier than the starting time so your child can visit the bathroom, get a drink of water, and/or socialize briefly with friends.

Children should not be dropped off without clearly visible adult supervision. Students may be dropped off between 8:00 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. for supervised before-school care, provided at no additional charge. Please pick up your child promptly at the end of their school day. If your child is not picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal time, he or she will be signed into our Aftercare program at the drop-in rate for a minimum of a quarter hour. If you know you will be late, please call the office at 530-753-1651 to let us know.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Program	Start of Day	End of Day*
Preschool	8:00 AM	12:45 PM
Kindergarten	8:00 AM	1:00 PM
1st Grade	8:15 AM	1:45 PM
2nd Grade	8:15 AM	2:25 PM
3rd Grade	8:15 AM	3:10 PM
4th Grade	8:15 AM	3:10 PM
5th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
6th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
7th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM
8th Grade	8:30 AM	3:10 PM

** On Fridays, all programs (except preschool) are released at 1:00 pm.*

DAILY SCHEDULE - GRADES

	Lower School Schedule 1st-4th	Upper School Schedule 5th-8th
Main Lesson	8:15 - 10:15 AM	8:30 - 10:30 AM
Snack / Recess	10:15 - 10:55 AM	10:30 - 10:55 AM
First Period	10:55 - 11:40 AM	10:55 - 11:40 AM
Passing	11:40 - 11:50 AM	11:40 - 11:50 AM
Second Period	11:50 AM - 12:35 PM	11:50 AM - 12:35 PM
Lunch	12:35 - 1:20 PM	12:35 - 1:20 PM
Third Period	1:20 - 2:05 PM	1:20 - 2:05 PM
Passing	2:05 - 2:15 PM	2:05 - 2:15 PM
Fourth Period	2:15 - 3:00 PM	2:15 - 3:00 PM
Dismissal	3:10 PM*	3:10 PM*

* On Fridays, all programs (except preschool) are released at 1:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

When your child will be absent from school, **please call or email the office before 9 a.m. to report the reason for the absence.** It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child(ren) arrives at school on time. In the case of older children, they will share in the responsibility for timely arrival on their own by bus, bicycle, or walking. We ask that students arrive at school in a timely manner, ready to begin class when the bell rings. Teachers begin to teach immediately, and morning activities such as movement, speech and music bring the class together and prepare them for work. It is important that your child is present for these activities and that the class not be interrupted by latecomers.

- **PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN (SIGN IN SHEETS)**

Parents are required to sign in their child(ren) into class each day with a full signature on the sign-in sheet at the entry to your child's classroom. Parents are also required to sign out their child(ren) as well, either from the child's class at the regular dismissal time or from the Aftercare program. While there is a 15-minute grace period for dismissal from the regular school day, the teachers often have parent or faculty meetings to attend, so please be prompt when picking up your child. Due to licensing regulations, only authorized adults 18 or older are able to sign a child out of our preschool and kindergarten programs.

- **GRADES**

Grades teachers close their classroom door after shaking the hand of the last child in line. After the door closes, any student not inside is tardy and must go to the office for a late slip. The student may need to wait to join after the class has completed the opening exercises – please consult with your child’s teacher. Grades students who are late to subject classes during the day will also be sent to the office for a late slip. Students need to report to the school office to receive a late slip if arriving after:

- 8:15 a.m. for Grades 1-4
- 8:30 a.m. for Grades 5-8

TARDY POLICIES

We recognize that there are various challenges in arriving on time, including traffic or just the morning not flowing as smoothly as it might. But because lateness can be disorienting for the child and even make them feel left out because their class has started without them, and also often disrupts the flow of the class, it is very important for every child to be on time to school.

The Office Coordinator will email the parents/guardians of any children who were marked absent by the teacher and who have not checked in with the front office. For planned absences, the office must be informed by phone or emailed prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence.

Preschool and 1st Year Kindergarten

If you arrive later than 8:30 a.m. to the Kindergarten or 9:00 a.m to the Preschool, you must go to the office to notify them that your child is in class for the day. You must also sign-in at the classroom as usual.

Grades

A child who is late to class must go to the office for a late slip to take to the class teacher. This includes children who are late to a subject class during the school day.

2nd Year Kindergarten and Grades

If a child reaches a total of **15 tardies** in a year, the office coordinator will send the teacher and parents/guardians a notice. The child’s teacher will contact the parents/guardians to see how to support the child in getting to class on time. If there is a way we can help, please let us know.

If a child reaches a total of **30 tardies** in a year, the office coordinator will send the teacher and parents/guardians a notice stating that, and that as a result, it is impossible for the child to be receiving the full benefit of this education. This document will become part of the child's permanent school record.

ABSENCE POLICY

The Administrative office keeps attendance records of each student. While teachers welcome direct communication about attendance, you must also notify the front office of any absences. Students who will be picked up during the day need to be signed out at the office front desk and then signed in again upon return.

Absence Due to Illness

When children are ill, we want them to recover and to avoid infecting others. Please refer to the Health and Safety section and **Appendix F** of the parent handbook for guidelines on when to keep your child home due to illness.

Absences for Other Reasons

We recommend appointments for your child be scheduled during non-school hours, as much as possible. Absences for reasons other than illness should be avoided whenever possible and should be coordinated with your class teacher.

Please be aware if you have a planned absence, there may be times where teachers can provide supplemental materials to be completed on that trip. Please give the teacher at least a week's notice when requesting a packet for a planned absence. However, packets are not always possible before a trip, and make-up work may be given upon return.

Absence Policy for 2nd Year Kindergarten and Grades

Our goal is to support each child in receiving the full benefit of this education. The only way to truly receive the full benefit is to be in school, but sometimes that is not possible. This plan is designed to ameliorate the impacts of a child's missing many school days.

- I. Once a student has **15 cumulative absences** in the school year, the office coordinator will send an email notifying the parent and teacher that the student has missed 3 weeks of school

and the importance of school attendance. The class teacher and parents will make a plan for how the child can stay caught up on their work.

2. At **30 cumulative absences** in the school year, the office coordinator will send a second notification and will include the teacher and the Director of Pedagogy. The teacher will call a meeting with the parents. Together, the teacher and parents/guardians will create a plan to support the child in staying on track with their classwork. The teacher will notify the parents/guardians that if the absences continue to accumulate, at **40 absences** they will be sent a document stating that their child is not receiving a full Waldorf education as they have missed 8 weeks of school. This document will also then be added to the child's permanent record.
3. At **40 cumulative absences**, the document will be sent to the parents and a copy added to the child's permanent record.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The purpose of our Aftercare programs is to provide a supportive continuation of the school day in a familiar and secure environment. To sign up for Aftercare in advance, please submit an Aftercare Contract to the office. Aftercare contracts are included in the Back to School Packet released in August and are available online on the school website. Please refer to the contracts for detailed program policies. Drop-In care is available based on space and staffing availability.

SUNFLOWER AFTERCARE PROGRAM - GRADES

The Sunflower Program is available from dismissal until 5:30 p.m. on school days. Our Aftercare program is intentionally designed as a “breathing out” time for the children after their busy school day. Therefore, supervised play and free choice activities are offered as opposed to structured group activities requiring participation. Crafts, reading, homework, building, and game options are available by child choice.

JUNE BUG AFTERCARE PROGRAM - PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The June Bug Aftercare Program runs from 12:45 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on a daily basis in the kindergarten and preschool classrooms and play yards. Children are expected to attend the school day in order to participate in the Aftercare program. Each child who participates in the Aftercare program is asked to lie quietly for the first portion of the program so as to provide them with the benefits of a quiet resting time and to minimize disturbances for any nappers. If children have fallen asleep by 1:45, they are allowed to follow their own sleep schedule and are gently awakened at 3:00 p.m, when they join the children who are already awake for outside play. We ask that parents not pick up their children before 3:00 p.m. so as not to disturb the children at rest.

A healthy snack is offered to all children upon waking up from their rest period. The children engage in indoor and outdoor free play after this snack and again after the late afternoon story time. At 3:30 p.m., the children from both the kindergarten and preschool Aftercare programs combine into one group for play in the kindergarten yard. Afternoon arts and crafts activities are available for those children who are interested.

SIGN-IN AND SIGN-OUT FOR AFTERCARE

In both aftercare programs, there is a binder with a page to track monthly hours spent in aftercare for each child. Preschool through 2nd Grade children are walked to the appropriate Aftercare program by a staff member and signed in. Children in 3rd Grade and up are responsible for getting to the program. Aftercare billing begins when school is dismissed, regardless of sign-in time. When you, or a person authorized by you, picks up your child, the time is noted when the adult signs out the child. Aftercare ends at 5:30 p.m. You may pick up your child as late as 5:30 p.m. with the understanding that the final 20 minutes of the program includes cleanup. The aftercare teacher leaves promptly at the end of the day. After 5:30 p.m., there is a late pick-up fee. Please refer to the current year's contract for more details.

VACATION CARE

Vacation care for both the Sunflower and Junebug programs is scheduled through a separate contract and may be available during school holidays, provided minimum sign-ups are collected. Vacation care is not available during the 1-2 weeks after school dismissal in June, the 2-3 weeks before school begins in September, and one week during Winter Break. Please refer to the current year's contracts for more details.

SUMMER CAMP

Summergarden camp for grades students and our June Bug camp for younger children are offered during the summer. Information and signup details are made available in early spring through the School Newsletter. The June Bug camp typically is available for 8-9 weeks in the summer and is only available to current students in our preschool and kindergarten programs. Our grades program is for students entering second grade and above, runs for 4-6 weeks in the summer, and students from outside of our school are welcome to sign up.

SCHOOL RULES AND POLICIES

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to respect themselves, others, the environment, and the school, and to reflect this respect in their actions, manner, and speech. Refer to the “Social Inclusion” section for further details.

At the Davis Waldorf School, faculty and staff work to provide a well-balanced and developmentally supportive educational experience for our students. Excellence in academic life, social life, practical skills, and a growing capacity for self-discipline are all characteristics of a well-balanced education and school environment. Consistent guidance in the classroom and on the school yard support a student’s growth into a self-disciplined person. It is important that teachers and parents work in partnership to establish and clarify expectations around appropriate behavior on campus. Classroom rules are set by the Class Teacher. Rules for outdoor spaces are specified in the “Kindergarten Yard Rules” and “Grades Playground and Campus Rules” sections.

INCIDENT REPORTS

Faculty and staff document incidents where a child causes significant harm to another child or adult at the school, where their behavior could potentially cause significant harm, property was intentionally damaged, and/or other extreme behaviors. Parents will receive a copy of the relevant Incident Report, which will also be added to the child’s file. Parents may choose to provide further explanation in writing, which will be attached to the report in the file. Parent provided attachments must be submitted to the office within 30 days of the original Incident Report.

STUDENT INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT

The Student Support Group (SSG) is made up of a group of DWS teachers and staff committed to working together with teachers and families to support the children from preschool – 8th grade to be as successful as they can be. The Student Support Group works in the realms of academics, social-emotional wellness, and discipline, working chiefly through the Support Circle process. As needed, the SSG can help connect students in need of support services with support specialists or service providers. SSG may also assist teachers with whole-class, small group, or individual social

wellness work, and will be called in to support when a child is dealing with serious or chronic behavioral issues.

The Support Circle is the cornerstone in our process of “building a village” around the child. Either teachers or parents can call for a Support Circle for a child. The SSG facilitates conversations between the parents and the teacher to create a plan to build on the child’s successes and address their challenges.

For each Support Circle, the parents, teacher, and two members of SSG attend, one to facilitate and the other to take notes. Both teacher and parents will share their observations of the child’s successes and challenges at home and at school, and together we will create a plan for support that will likely include both a school and a home component. Notes will be shared and plans will be made for a follow-up meeting as needed.

Other tasks of the SSG include working with teachers in supporting new child interviews, enrollment, and re-enrollment; tracking modified education plans created by the child’s teacher; helping to create a temporarily modified schedule for a student; and supporting teachers and families with the probation and dismissal process when necessary.

If you have any questions about the Student Support Group, please contact ssg@daviswaldorf.org.

PROBATION POLICY

Following the previous work of the Student Support Group, if positive changes are not made, probation may be necessary. A probation plan will include a timeline for necessary changes, establish parameters of communication, and will vary in accordance with the behavior in question, the age of the child, the cooperation of the family, and the outlines of the plan. For further details please see the **Communication Handbook link on the Parents tab on the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>** .

SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL PROCESS

When a situation calls for immediate action, or when the teacher, parents, and Student Support Group recognize that the child’s needs go beyond what the school can provide, we will follow the dismissal process. The teacher, the Director of Pedagogy, and the School Director are the decision-making body and will decide upon what action steps to take. The dismissal process can occur over the course of many months, or, for a serious behavioral incident, immediate suspension and/or dismissal may be

implemented. For further details please see the **Communication Handbook link on the Parents tab of the school website** at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/> .

DISCIPLINE IN OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Young children in our Early Childhood programs learn best through imitation and example. The teacher may take a child by the hand as she picks up scattered toys or comforts the child who has been hurt. It is sometimes necessary for a child to be a helper to the assistant or to sit, watch, and learn while the rest of the class engages in a group activity with the teacher. For ongoing disruptive behaviors, the teachers work closely with the parents to develop age-appropriate strategies for dealing with the situation. In the case of a child being sent home, your child's teacher will contact you as soon as possible after school to discuss how to best support your child.

GENERAL CAMPUS RULES

1. Dogs are not allowed on campus unless they are "on-duty" service dogs.
2. No smoking, alcohol, or drugs are allowed on campus.
3. No weapons of any type may be brought on campus, even in a closed and locked car.

PARENTS AND VISITORS ON CAMPUS

All parents and visitors are required to check in with the Office Coordinator prior to entering any of our classes or joining our campus tours. They will be given a numbered badge to wear that identifies them as a visitor. Teachers will notify the Office Coordinator of any guests that they have invited to the school, including individuals or groups visiting classes (e.g., former students, alumni students, a group of firemen or a parent presenting in class on a particular topic). Visitors that arrive without having made prior arrangements with a teacher will be asked to check in at the school office.

PARKING LOT RULES

- Please observe the posted speed limit (25 mph) when approaching the school and drive slowly (5 mph) through our parking lot as children may be crossing.
- Preschool through 2nd Grade parents may park on campus for no longer than 15 minutes when dropping off their children in the morning.
- Parents of 3rd through 8th Grade may drop off at the front or back parking circles.
- 10-minute parking is available in the front or back parking circles before 9:00 a.m.
- All families are welcome and encouraged to park and walk from the convenient lot at the Davis Christian Assembly at 3030 Sycamore Lane.

- The parking spaces marked “reserved” are for faculty and staff. Please do not park in these spaces during school hours.
- **There is no parking on the west side of Sycamore** (the highway side). Violation of this city rule may result in ticketing.

BICYCLE/SKATEBOARD SAFETY

1. Bicycles and skateboards may not be ridden on campus at any time – this includes in the driveway, parking lot, grassy area, or turn-around area.
2. Riders must wear helmets at all times. Following the bike lane, riders enter the campus using the pedestrian walk, and walk their bike through the gate to the bike racks.

KINDERGARTEN YARD RULES

Some children and parents enjoy play time in our yards after school. Please remember our playground rules and that the nap program is in progress after the regular school day ends.

1. Shoes stay on
2. Tree climbing is limited to designated trees. No stumps or other objects should be under climbing trees, and climbers must not climb so that their head is above 12 feet from the ground.
3. Chase games must have direct adult supervision, be friendly, and take place in areas designated by the teacher.
4. Redwood Cottage doors should remain open. Please clean up afterward.
5. Building materials may be used with adult supervision if used safely and put back afterward.
6. Only designated plants like mint can be picked freely after school. Please check with a teacher before picking fruit and/or flowers.
7. Rock walls and borders are to remain in place. Please help your child stay on the pathways.
8. Rough play, bullying, and teasing are never allowed.
9. The Tire Swing, Blackberry Hill, Woodland Creature Area and Sand Box are closed during nap time.
10. At 1:45, the yards are closed to accommodate the Aftercare Programs.
11. Please note that the Grades’ playground area is not available when Grades’ recess is in session.
12. Early Childhood students are not allowed to play on the metal dome in the Grades’ playground, unless they are participating in a teacher-led activity.

GRADES PLAYGROUND AND CAMPUS RULES

1. Close adult supervision required. Parents must be with their children when on the playground if no teacher is present.
2. No walking or sitting on the berm, wall or top of playground structures.
3. No foul language.
4. No hurting others (physically or with words).
5. No playing in bathrooms.
6. Teeter-totter - Maximum of 4 children, no standing or sudden jumping off.
7. No balls before school or after pick up times and no throwing any items other than balls.
8. Ropes are for jumping or harnesses, not tying to people, trees or structures.
9. No stumps or rocks under trees or playground equipment.
10. Tree climbers must not climb above the height of the bottom edge of the roof.
11. Tree branches for climbing must be at least the size of the child's thigh.
12. Grades 1 – 3 are not permitted to play organized ball games such as soccer, basketball, or similar games.
13. Grades 2 and up may play with rubber balls, with teacher supervision.
14. The Grades Garden area is only to be used by children when under teacher/adult supervision.

SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Please plan your mornings to include ample time for a relaxed and nutritious breakfast. Protein is especially important in the first meal of the day and foods with sugar should be avoided.

Please send your child's food and beverage in reusable containers with a cloth napkin and metal utensils in order to reduce unnecessary waste. Please do not send heavily sugared items. If sweets come in the lunch, they may be held and returned after school concludes. Children staying after 3:15 p.m. in one of our aftercare programs are provided afternoon snacks.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

- *Snack* – We prepare and provide a healthy mid-morning snack for the children from organic whole grains, vegetables and fruits. Our meals are social events; we set the table with placemats and flowers, sing or say a blessing, and eat together. Your child's teacher will provide a snack menu, and will be available to discuss alternatives due to allergies and other dietary restrictions.

- *Lunch* – We ask that the children in Preschool and Kindergarten bring a nutritious lunch in a lunch basket or pack, free of media images and that can fit into the refrigerator. Please pack two cloth napkins (one for use as a place mat).

GRADES

- Please pack ample nutritious foods in a lunch basket, backpack, or other plain container.
- Children in the grades need to bring a large morning snack that includes protein in addition to their lunch items. They work hard in main lesson and need to refuel so they have energy for the next classes.
- Teachers encourage the children to eat their protein course first, and to re-wrap and bring unfinished foods home.
- We have filtered water available at school for beverages.

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS

If your child wishes to invite all of the children in their class, you are welcome to distribute the invitations at school. However, if invitations are selective, we ask that you extend them outside of the school environment.

TOYS FROM HOME

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Special care is used in the selection of toys in Preschool and Kindergarten. They are available for all the children to learn to share. We ask that other toys be left at home. The exception to this is a stuffed animal may be brought in for June Bug Aftercare, to be specified by the Aftercare program.

GRADES

Students need to leave their personal toys, games, trading cards etc. at home. Some classes have a sharing day – check with your Class Teacher.

DRESS CODE

All Clothing should be practical and safe for the activities for that day. Our Dress Code has been formatted into convenient "yes" and "no" columns for clarity. For answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to **Appendix I**.

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tops, shorts and skirts that allow one to be practical and safe during all movement activities ● Articles of clothing and jewelry that allow for freedom of movement ● Sturdy footwear appropriate for Games class, including sandals with heel straps ● Light make-up (6th, 7th, and 8th grades only) ● Subtle, not distracting nail polish ● Earrings or jewelry smaller than a dime, including necklace pendants, bracelet charms, or rings ● Active wear, such as leggings, bicycle shorts, etc. are encouraged to be worn underneath shorter articles of clothing for comfort and freedom ● Davis Waldorf or Waldorf event t-shirts/sweatshirts ● Head coverings worn for religious purposes ● Raingear readily available, including rain pants, boots, and jackets ● Logos and words should be smaller than the size of your palm ● Logos from local organizations and clubs the child has participated in (e.g. - local sports teams, swim clubs, UC Davis, etc.) regardless of size ● Non-scary natural images regardless of size ● Clothing with positive slogans such as “Positive Vibes Only” or “Today I Choose Joy” regardless of size ● Words on clothing that commemorate a place in nature such as “Lassen Volcanic National Park” or “Santa Cruz” regardless of size ● For 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students only: music/band shirts. These must remain within the positive slogan and non-scary images guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Articles of clothing with media, negative slogans, flashy images, cartoons, or moving sequins ● See-through articles of clothing ● Baggy clothing that impairs movement ● Hair obscuring the face ● Large hair accessories ● Hats, sunglasses, or hoods in the classroom ● Flip flops, other loose shoes, or bare feet ● Any dangly jewelry or hooped earrings ● Media oriented images on clothing or jewelry ● Temporary tattoos and writing on skin with markers or pen

CELL PHONE POLICIES

CELL PHONE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Cell phones may not be used during school hours (including recess, lunch, and breaks) for any reason. If a child needs to be in communication with anyone off campus during the school day, they may come to the office and use the school phone in our reception area. However, the office phone is available only for school purposes (e.g., calling about a forgotten instrument/lunch/homework). If the parent needs to contact the child, they may call the office and we will promptly relay the message.

Middle school students who need to carry a cell phone for before or after school communications with parents or to arrange for rides, activity schedules, etc. must store the cell phone in a phone lockbox located in each 5th-8th grade classroom. The phone may only be used for communication with parents, before or after school hours, and only in front of the school office, in the front parking circle, or off campus. If a student uses a cell phone during school hours, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Multiple infractions will result in the teacher calling a meeting with the student and parents, and may result in the loss of the privilege of bringing a phone onto campus.

CELL PHONE POLICY FOR ADULTS

We ask that you use cell phones only in your cars, the school office, or the front parking circle so that your focus is on the children here on campus.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY DURING SCHOOL EVENTS

In an effort to promote a screen-free environment for the children, we ask that adults be mindful of our cell-phone use on campus and at events.

The school requests that no videography or photography occurs during the following events: Lantern Walk, Winter Spiral, Knighting Ceremony. For all other events, including class plays, the teacher may designate a parent or staff member to record or take pictures. This will ensure that parents have documentation and the focus of the audience is on the event.

Everyone is welcome to take photos after the play, performance or event has concluded (i.e. while the children are still in costume). Photography and videography will be allowed at events that are open to the public, specifically our Opening Ceremony, Halloween Festival, Winter and Spring Concerts, Open House, May Faire, Closing Ceremony, and Graduation.

The intention behind this policy is to support the pedagogical and educational purposes of plays, performances, festivals and school events in a Waldorf school. The primary purpose of these events is teaching, not performance. The goal of the event may be to learn to read and speak fluidly with good inflection or to expand on a topic of class study. The interaction between the children, and between the children and the audience, is a rich experience for the students. The audience's presence, unhindered by cameras and other recording devices, is incredibly valuable.

FIELD TRIPS – TIMING

Normal school hours do not apply to field trips. Classes may leave before school begins and return well after school ends. Please check with your class teacher for the field trip's itinerary. The Class Teacher or Class Parent will contact the other class parents via email, group text, or phone tree when the class is starting back to school so that parents can estimate what time they need to be at school to pick up their child.

FIELD TRIPS – VOLUNTEER CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

Davis Waldorf School believes that field trips provide a valuable educational experience for our students. Without the help of volunteer chaperones, many field trips would not be possible. We thank parents for giving time and support to these important activities. In order to help ensure that school-sponsored field trips result in safe and rewarding experiences for all participants, we have prepared these guidelines to provide information about volunteering as a field trip chaperone.

Prior to your field trip, the teacher will provide you with information regarding the activities planned for the trip, expectations for supervising students, and emergency procedures. While most trips unfold according to schedule, they are subject to the realities of traffic jams, last minute changes at the destination and bus company or public transportation glitches.

In addition to any materials provided by your Class Teacher, we have developed the following general guidelines to help chaperones. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the School Director.

1. All drivers/chaperones must complete a "Volunteer Agreement".
2. All field trip drivers for occasional short day trips must undergo a "volunteer level" background check.

3. All overnight field trip chaperones must undergo a “supervisory level” background check through the FBI and Department of Justice via the LiveScan database system. This requires fingerprinting through a LiveScan system using the form provided in the Back to School packet, or you may request a form from the front desk or registrar. The school will pay the cost of the LiveScan service on a limited and as-needed basis. Two weeks’ advance notice prior to a field trip is required in order to ensure enough time for the Livescan to be processed.
4. All school rules apply for school-sponsored events. Chaperones are expected to comply with school policies, follow the directions given by the supervising staff member, work cooperatively with other staff and volunteers, and model appropriate behaviors for students.
5. Chaperones:
 - a. may not use cell phones or text while driving
 - b. may not play music, unless it’s instrumental, without class teacher approval
 - c. may not show videos of any kind
 - d. may not make unnecessary stops
 - e. may not purchase snacks for the children in their car
 - f. may not use, sell, provide, possess, or be under the influence of drugs/alcohol
 - g. may not use tobacco in the presence of, or within the sight of, students
 - h. may not possess any weapon
 - i. may not administer any medications, prescription or over-the-counter, to students. Any necessary medications will be administered by the teacher.
 - j. may not conduct personal or business correspondence or calls while chaperoning
 - k. may not allow students to use cell phones without class teacher approval
 - l. must follow rules of what items and activities are allowed in the vehicle and on the trip
 - m. may not consume alternate food or beverages during class meals on a trip without prior approval from the teacher
 - n. may not shift car assignments without teacher approval
6. Students must be supervised at all times while at school-sponsored events. As a chaperone, you will supervise a small group of students, helping them learn and making sure they behave appropriately. Students must stay with you, their chaperone, at all times. Go over use of the buddy system with students in your care. Account for all participants regularly and before changing activities. Be sure you know when and where to meet the rest of your group at the end of the visit. Chaperones must be readily available, be mindful of safety concerns, and respond to student needs.

7. Student behavior is your responsibility. School rules related to student behavior apply. Go over rules and standards of behavior, safety rules, and any site-specific rules with students. Ensure that students do not get involved in extra activities that are not pre-approved.
8. Eating, drinking and gum chewing are not permitted outside of designated areas and predetermined times.
9. For the protection of both the student and the chaperone, chaperones should not place themselves in situations in which they are alone with an individual student who is not their child. Chaperones work with groups of children and sleep with a group of students in a tent.
10. Family members, animals or friends of a chaperone may not participate in a school-sponsored field trip or event without pre-approval from the teacher and school director.
11. Follow all emergency procedures (medical emergency, natural emergency, lost child, serious breach of rule, etc.). Know who is first aid trained, where the first aid kit is, where the cell phone is kept, and know where the envelope of parental permission slips with emergency phone numbers and medical information is.
12. Student cell phones, iPods, gaming equipment and similar electronics are not allowed on field trips. Chaperones may collect and give to the teacher to hold such items. They will be returned to the student at the end of the trip.
13. Every driver must have an Automobile Usage Statement on file and meet all of the requirements of our Automobile Usage Policy, including providing a clean DMV report annually.
14. Field Trip staging (especially for overnight trips) in the school parking lot and drop-off circle causes traffic congestion and student safety issues during the morning drop-off times and afternoon pick-up times. The church parking lot must be used unless departing before 7:45 am or returning after 3:30 pm.
15. Parents/Guardians may pick their child up from the field trip location by completing the **Early Field Trip Departure form available on the Parents tab of the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>** .
16. The pickup person must be a parent/guardian or an adult previously designated as an emergency contact.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL

Please inform the office by email (preferred) at office@daviswaldorf.org or call 530-753-1651 before 8:15 a.m. when your child is going to be absent from school. If you do not call, we may call you to verify your child's absence.

In case of a contagious disease, please inform the office as soon as possible so that other parents may be informed quickly. Your child's identity is kept confidential.

If your child is sick (see **Appendix F** - Health and Illness Guidelines), please keep them at home until he or she is well enough to participate in all normal classroom activities.

Colds and flu are normal illnesses for young children. All working parents know the desperate feeling of needing to go to work when a child is not well. We sympathize, but urge you to arrange for back-up childcare for these occasions. Our lively programs are not a soothing environment for a sick child. Children with a high temperature should not return to school until 24 hours after their temperature has returned to normal without the aid of medication. For example, if a child's fever goes away at 10:00 a.m., the child should stay home that day and the next.

SICK AT SCHOOL

If your child becomes sick at school, they will be sent/taken to the office to rest and to wait for parent pick-up. Our Office Coordinator will first call all parent phone numbers and then emergency phone numbers until someone is reached. To reduce the spread of infection and for the comfort of your sick child, please pick up your child within one hour of being called.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

If your child has an injury more serious than a minor cut, the teacher or office staff will call you or your emergency contacts. We will let you know at pick-up if your child has received care for a minor injury. We will obtain emergency medical treatment as necessary if you cannot be reached immediately or if we cannot delay in seeking treatment.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

In order to administer medication to your child, we must have the **Parent Consent for Administration of Medication** and the **Medication Assistance Authorization** forms submitted **to the office** together with the medication. One of these forms must be completed by the child's physician. All medication must be brought to school in its original container. We will package the medication in a special bag and deliver it to your child's classroom. *Additional forms are required for EpiPens or treatments for other severe medical conditions. **Please find both forms on the Parents tab of the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>.**

GUIDELINES FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

(A) Medications shall be administered in accordance with the product label or prescription directions.

(B) The parent or guardian must give to the school written approval and instructions for each medication to be administered to the child using the **Parent Consent for Administration of Medication** and the **Medication Assistance Authorization** forms.

1. This documentation shall be kept in the child's student file together with the medication..
2. The instructions from the child's authorized representative shall not conflict with the product label directions on the medication container(s).

(C) DWS staff shall note on the **Parent Consent for Administration of Medication** form and inform the child's authorized representative daily when medications have been given.

(D) When no longer needed by the child, or when the child withdraws from the school, all medications shall be returned to the child's parent or guardian or disposed of after an attempt to reach the parent or guardian.

Please find both forms on the Parents tab of the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>.

SMOKE POLICY

- To mitigate smoke, we will employ the use of HEPA and UV air filtration systems in the classrooms that circulate the air.
- The school recommends students wear KN95 masks when the air quality is poor. Parents may provide well-fitting masks for their child to use during the school day. Please communicate your expectations around mask wearing in the event of poor air quality with your child's teacher.
- If the AQI is above 200 for more than two hours, school will be canceled. We do not anticipate that the AQI will be in the 200 range often. In the last 5 years, the AQI has only been in the 200 range a couple of times.
- If you have additional concerns, or if your child has a medical condition that is aggravated by poor air quality, we recommend keeping your child home from school. Please notify the office of the absence and reason.
- The Davis Waldorf School utilizes [Airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov) when making decisions regarding school closures. In the event of conflicting information on AQI, DWS will use the most commonly circulated AQI rates.

AQI	Grades	Early Childhood
Days between 100-125	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess, lunch and up to 3 periods taught outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for less than 2 hours
Days between 125-150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess, lunch and up to 2 periods taught outdoors • May have snack and lunch indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for less than 1 hour • Snack and Lunch will be indoors
Days between 150-175	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for recess and up to 1 period taught outdoors • Snack and Lunch will be indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outside for half an hour or less • Snack and Lunch will be indoors
Days between 175-200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be outdoors for a shortened recess • Snack and Lunch will be indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will remain indoors • Snack and Lunch will be indoors
Days above 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will be canceled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will be canceled

HEAT POLICY

To mitigate the possibility of heat-related illness, we will follow these guidelines:

- If the heat index is above 105, class activities must occur in the shade and the students must have access to water.
- If the heat index is above 115, the students must remain inside or be allowed to play in the water in the shade.

Heat Index

How to read the chart: find the temperature on the left hand side, then move to the right until you find the column for the approximate relative humidity. That number will be the temperature that it will "feel" like. Example: A temperature of 95 and relative humidity of 50% will "feel" like 107 degrees.

	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%
115	103	107	111	115	120	127	135	143	151								
110	99	102	105	108	112	117	123	130	137	143	151						
105	95	97	100	102	105	109	113	118	123	129	135	142	149				
100	91	93	95	97	99	101	104	107	110	115	120	126	132	136	144		
95	87	88	90	91	93	94	96	98	101	104	107	110	114	119	124	130	136
90	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	93	95	96	98	100	102	106	109	113
85	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	95	97
80	73	74	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	82	83	85	86	86
75	69	69	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78
70	64	64	65	65	66	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	70	70	71

HYGIENE

To help prevent the spread of colds, flu and communicable diseases, all teachers, assistants, aftercare staff shall request that students wash their hands with soap and water before snack or meal time and after using the restroom. Children should be taught to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away and wash their hands. Alternatively, they should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve, not their hand. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer may be offered as an alternative. Organic and chemical-free brands (such as E.O.) are used.

HEAD LICE

Please inform the office and the class teacher immediately if you discover lice. We require that children with head lice be rechecked before returning to class. Children with visible lice in their hair are not allowed back into class. Children do not need to be nit free as long as they have been recently treated. When lice are found on any DWS children, we send an email with treatment information to all families in the class and/or all families in Aftercare stating that a case of lice was reported. We keep the identity of the child with lice confidential. Parents of children with an active case of lice should work to make sure that their hair and environment is lice and nit free. Head lice are extremely contagious. An informational sheet is available in the office as well as at your local pharmacy should an outbreak occur. By working together, we can avoid the cycle of re-infection which causes missed work and school and can be extremely upsetting to families.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Please refer to our **Communication Handbook** linked under the Parents tab on the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>.

SOCIAL INCLUSION APPROACH

Davis Waldorf School is committed to promoting a social environment in which working, playing, and learning take place in ways that foster inclusiveness and recognize mutual humanity. DWS recognizes that social conflict is an integral part of human growth and development that must be guided rather than avoided. As a school, we strive to help children learn how to resolve conflicts. With this goal in mind, DWS has adopted the ‘Social Inclusion Approach’ developed by Kim John Payne.

The Social Inclusion Approach includes a process of intervention and mediation for issues such as teasing and bullying, based on a “justice without blame” premise. By eliminating blame from the process, an environment of openness is created. This encourages students to trust that problems can be genuinely resolved, and it also requires accountability. Naturally, interventions and mediations will differ according to grade level. This work will help support and maintain a healthy and safe environment for children and adults at DWS. The ‘Social Inclusion Approach’ strives to strengthen the children’s capacity for empathy, compassion, and perspective-taking before a crisis.

NORMAL PEER DISAGREEMENTS, AGGRESSION, AND BULLYING

Bullying is a term that is used in many different ways, and not always accurately. Conflict happens in the course of human interactions and learning to navigate conflict is an important social skill. We use the

following guidelines to identify and address each whether a situation constitutes peer to peer conflict, social aggression, or bullying, and address it appropriately.

1. **Peer to Peer Conflict:** in the course of normal child development there will be disagreements and even arguments over different topics. The conflict does not include the intent to harm and arises out of the situation at hand. It is not pre-planned.
2. **Social Aggression:** aggressive behavior without pre-planning, e.g., telling the other children to put down or tease a child because of how the child looks or is dressed, or pulling a chair out from under a child when the child is sitting down.
3. **Bullying:** involves planning and complex thought, and always includes premeditation with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm. Bullying is deliberate, persistent, targeted, has an unequal power component, and happens over time.

Can toddlers bully? According to Dr. Heather Wittenerg, child psychologist, very young children are incapable of bullying. A very young child does not have the cognitive capability to be intentionally cruel or to abuse a power differential. The ability to discern right from wrong, or to systematically humiliate a peer, is not possible until the child is older.

Acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility that are based on sex, gender identity or gender expression, regardless of whether they are sexual in nature, are not acceptable and prohibited by state and federal law.

Faculty and staff will promptly respond to any observed or reported incidents of aggression, bullying, or other breach of the DWS Code of Conduct (see the **Communication Handbook** under the Parents tab on the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>) involving DWS students during school hours or during school-sanctioned activities such as field trips or Aftercare. School staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident. For severe or repeated incidents, the staff member will complete an incident report and notify both the teacher and parents/guardians.

A student who continues to engage in social aggression or bullying despite the efforts of the class teacher and parents/guardians will be brought under the care of the Student Support Group, who will work specifically with the teacher, parents/guardians and the student to effect positive change. Parent and teacher attendance at Support Circle meetings is mandatory.

As part of this process, students may be given a probationary period to effect positive change. If improvements are not realized during the time set, it may be determined that the student is not being best served in this educational setting and the school may implement the suspension or dismissal policy

as outlined in the DWS Communication Handbook. The teacher, and/or the Student Support Group may also recommend involving mental health counselors. Child Protective Services (CPS) and/or law enforcement may also be involved at any point in this process, as needed. For further information, see Appendix A of the **Communication Handbook** under the Parents tab on the school website at <https://daviswaldorf.org/resources-for-parents/>.

BUSINESS MATTERS

COMMUNICATION

All community members are expected to honor the DWS Code of Conduct, to model healthy, respectful communication in their actions, manner, and speech, and to follow the guidelines detailed in the DWS Communication Handbook.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The Administrative Office functions as a communication center for the groups that make up the life of the school. Virtually all school business – financial, enrollment, communications, site management, event planning – passes through the office. The school’s administrative staff works to serve the needs of the students, parents, and faculty according to the policies, procedures, mandates and strategic vision established by the Board and Faculty.

DIRECTING COMMUNICATION

Contact the Class Teacher directly regarding any concerns about a child’s experience in the classroom. If the matter is not resolved, please communicate this to your child’s teacher. If the situation remains unresolved, the next step is to confer with the Director of Pedagogy. If the situation continues to be unresolved, contact the DWS Director.

Contact the Director at director@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Curriculum standards in Preschool and Kindergarten
- Hiring of new teachers
- Pedagogical policies, student assessment and support in the Early Childhood program
- Parent education
- Facilitating communication around unresolved concerns including helping to frame concerns, bringing concerns directly to the other party and activation of the Trust Group
- Management of human resources and policies
- Concerns or questions regarding the administrative staff
- Campus security, health, and safety programs (e.g. fire drills)
- Junebug Aftercare concerns (early childhood program)

Contact the Director of Pedagogy at pedagogy@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Curriculum standards in 1st through 8th grade
- Teacher support in 1st through 8th grade
- Teacher evaluations, mentoring and professional development
- Pedagogical policies, student assessment and support in the grades program
- Sunflower Aftercare concerns (grades program)
- Summergarden camp (grades program)
- After school electives
- Facilitating communication around unresolved concerns including helping to frame concerns, bringing concerns directly to the other party and activation of the Student Support Group

Contact the Director of Community Development at development@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Fundraising and Community Development
- School Events and Festivals
- Newsletters and Dates and Details
- Parent Council
- Marketing publications and School Website

Contact the Business Manager at business@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Financial or legal policies and procedures
- Budget development and budget management
- DWS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

Contact the Office Coordinator* at office@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Absences, tardies
- Drop-In Aftercare
- Vacation Care
- School Calendar and scheduling

**The Office Coordinator acts as primary receptionist for the front office, which includes serving as the main point of contact for visitors, parents/guardians, students, telephone calls, mail, and email. The Office Coordinator can also direct you to the appropriate staff member if you are unsure who to go to with a question.*

Contact the Systems Coordinator at systems@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Tech support for Blackbaud
- Questions regarding school website updates
- Class Community Pages
- Help accessing your child's End of Year Reports
- Questions regarding Google Drive or Email

Contact the Admissions and Marketing Coordinator at admissions@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- School Enrollment Statistics
- Enrollment Processes
- Social Media
- Newsletters and Dates and Details

Contact the Enrollment Department at enrollment@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Enrollment queries and enrollment deadlines
- School tours

Contact the Bookkeeper at bookkeeper@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Tuition
- Aftercare billing/payments
- Accounts receivable and payables

Contact the Registrar at registrar@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Student records (including immunization records)
- Communicable Illness Notifications
- Site maintenance
- Field trips and Volunteering

Contact the Board Chair at boardchair@daviswaldorf.org regarding:

- Board Committees (see Governance and School Committees section of the DWS website)

For questions about the Sunflower Aftercare (Grades 1 – 8) and Summer programs, contact the Sunflower Aftercare Program Coordinator at sunflower@daviswaldorf.org or the Director of Pedagogy at pedagogy@daviswaldorf.org.

For questions about the June Bug Aftercare (Preschool and Kindergarten), Vacation and Summer programs for Early Childhood students, contact the June Bug Aftercare Program Coordinator at junebug@daviswaldorf.org.

NEWSLETTERS AND DATES AND DETAILS

Important Dates & Details as well as a longer Newsletter will be emailed with important community updates, school news, and articles written by the Director, office staff, students, and faculty about classroom life and school events. Parents and others are welcome to submit articles to be considered for inclusion. Newsletters and other community updates are also available in the Community section on our website www.daviswaldorf.org.

These digital newsletters include important and timely information that may not be delivered through any other method. Please ensure that the office has your most current email address.

Parents and vendors who offer items of interest to the school community can advertise in the newsletter. Please contact the Admissions and Marketing Coordinator at admissions@daviswaldorf.org for submission details and deadlines.

SOLICITATION FOR BUSINESS

Solicitation for business is not allowed in any form on campus. All enrolled families, board members, and employees receive access to the online school directory and it is to be used for school and community activities and communication only. The directory or school emails may not be used for business solicitation or shared with any outside individuals or groups.

LEGAL NOTICE - Penal Code 290 Registrant

If you are a Penal Code 290 Registrant, you must notify the Business Manager promptly. Your access to the school will be strictly limited and clearly delineated in writing.

TUITION POLICY

As an independent private school, approximately 80 percent of our income comes from tuition payments. The tuition agreement that parents sign with the school is regarded as real funds and budgeted to cover our monthly fixed operating costs and other seasonal expenses. Our school employs a service to handle collection of tuition and childcare payments. Blackbaud offers a simplified

approach to increase the effectiveness of the Bookkeeper. All families must enroll in Blackbaud. You can be invoiced or you can choose automatic deduction from your checking or savings account.

Tuition outlined in the agreement will be invoiced and collected on the School's behalf by Blackbaud. Tuition is due and payable per Blackbaud agreement, whether or not a statement has been received. Past due accounts may incur a late fee of \$40. Returned checks will incur a \$30 fee. Students may be prevented from attending classes if their accounts are more than 45 days past due and no alternative payment arrangements have been made. If it is necessary to take legal action to collect any amounts payable, the Parent/Guardian(s) agree to pay attorney's fees and liquidated damages in the sum of 35 percent of the outstanding balance which shall be added to the amount due.

For a child new to the school, there will be a 6-week trial period, during which time the parent(s)/guardian(s) or Davis Waldorf School may terminate the enrollment agreement without further obligation. Tuition will be prorated for weeks of attendance. After 6-week trial period of attendance or if a continuing student withdraws from the school for any reason (e.g., illness, default of payment, move) after May 15th prior to the start of the school year, the parent/guardian will owe six full weeks of tuition from the day of written notice to the school registrar. The date of withdrawal will be determined by the date of receipt of written correspondence, but shall in any case be determined by and at the sole discretion of the Davis Waldorf School. The amount due for six weeks of tuition is determined by dividing the annual contracted tuition by 34 weeks and multiplying this number by 6.

CLASS SUPPLY FEE

Each child's account from preschool through 8th grade includes a fee to cover a variety of expenses that the class and subject programs incur each year. This amount is non refundable, not subject to TAP reduction, and collected with your tuition. The funds are used for a variety of class needs at the class teacher's discretion including, but not limited to, field trip expenses, extra-curricular activities, May Faire flowers, the class auction project, subject class materials, and gardening supplies. The school collects the funds to relieve the Class Teacher and parents from the need to front costs or the burden of collecting repayment from the class community. Class Supply Fees may not be used to buy gifts (for teachers, class parents, or others) or to reimburse gas money for drivers on field trips. If any Class Supply dollars are left over at the end of the year, they are returned to the general fund and do not roll over.

FUNDRAISING

Davis Waldorf School operates through the generous and constant participation of all our families. We are a community as well as a school. As with any community, we function best when there is a shared distribution of participation on the part of all our members.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

- Contribute to the Annual Giving campaign. We strive for 100% participation and have achieved that goal more than sixteen years in a row!
- Share the school's needs with friends and family.
- Participate in the Nugget Scrip program.
- Support class activities and roles in the festivals.
- Participate in fundraising events such as festivals, the benefit auction, etc.
- Provide or procure a gift or a personal service for the auction.

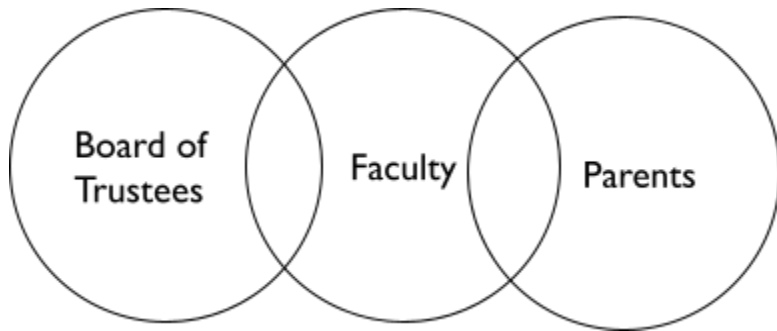
SCRIP PROGRAM

Davis Waldorf School has been participating in a scrip fundraising program. We hope that all families will use a scrip card when purchasing groceries from markets that provide this option. There is no charge to families, and DWS receives a 1-5 percent rebate of the purchase amount. Please register at the stores you frequent (such as Nugget Market, Food4Less, Safeway, Raley's) and indicate DWS as the beneficiary. This is "free" money for the school and results in several thousand dollars towards our fundraising efforts.

CLASS FUNDRAISING

At the Davis Waldorf School, we strive to minimize fundraising efforts on campus; therefore, we only allow limited opportunities for 6th-8th Grades to fundraise in the community. Please contact the School Director for more information. Classes are not allowed to fundraise on campus without approval of the Leadership Committee. Each class has a class fund to purchase needed items and every parent has contributed to this as part of their tuition. Parents are welcome to donate anything they would like as individuals – please let us know and we will provide a tax statement for your records.

COMMUNITY SPHERES



THREE ADULT SPHERES OF RESPONSIBILITY

*The healthy social life is found when,
In the mirror of each human soul,
The whole community finds its reflection, and when,
In the community, the virtue of each one is living.*

In addition to whole-school oversight by the Director, the Davis Waldorf School recognizes three adult spheres of responsibility which provide essential support for the healthy functioning of our school and community.

- *The Board of Directors* is responsible for protecting the legal, financial, and physical well-being of the school in addition to strategic and long-range planning.
- *The Faculty* provides the quality Waldorf education and pedagogy that the children receive.
- *The Parents* provide financial and social commitment and volunteer contributions to make it possible for the school to effectively serve their children.

Although each sphere carries its own specific tasks and responsibilities, there are many areas of partnership and cooperative effort. Faculty, Administration and Parents work as members of the Board and they share the work of most of the school's essential committees. The Parent Council serves as a facilitator to enhance communication within the classes, in the school community and with the Faculty and Administration. The administrative staff, teachers and parents also work together to put on many of the school's festivals and to support the education of the children in the classroom.

As a community, we are committed to working together with mutual respect, good will, and an earnest desire to help our school and Waldorf education thrive while providing an excellent elementary school experience for our children.

PARENT WORK

The Administration and Faculty work with parents to support the community life and ongoing fundraising for the school. Parents fill these vital roles in the community:

- Through volunteer participation – from membership on committees to painting classrooms and organizing fundraisers – parents provide essential, on-going support of the activities of the school.
- Through payment of tuition and support of fundraising – parents provide the financial foundation for the operation of the school.
- As partners, parents bring their respectful questions and concerns to their child's Class Teacher or designated community members.
- Parents endeavor to provide a home environment compatible with the goals and philosophy of Waldorf education and the Davis Waldorf School's policies.
- Parents support their child's class and Class Teacher by attending parent evenings and helping with class activities and special events.
- Parents deepen their understanding of Waldorf education through class meetings, study groups, and lectures.
- Class Parents and other interested parent volunteers come together within the Parent Council to support a healthy dialogue between the Administration and Faculty, as well as help with parent welcoming, parent education, festivals and fundraising.

FACULTY AND SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The Faculty work together to realize the goals of Waldorf education and to deepen their knowledge, understanding, and capacities through work and study. This forms the basis of classroom life, which is the central focus of each teacher. They share aspects of the principles and practices of Waldorf education with parents in class meetings, study groups, parent-teacher conferences, and lectures/discussions. The Faculty endeavor to enhance the healthy social life of the school, primarily through their daily interactions with parents and children during a school week and in the holding of the special events of festivals, assemblies, and ceremonies.

The selection of teachers is the responsibility of the Faculty. The work of the Recruitment Committee, which includes faculty members and the school director, is to guide and manage the recruitment

process. The ongoing mentoring and support of the Faculty is the responsibility of the Director and the Director of Pedagogy.

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the management of the evaluation of each Faculty member. We have implemented a 360° Evaluation process on a rotating basis for faculty members which includes a self-evaluation together with input from colleagues, parents, and an outside evaluator. This serves as the basis for an individualized development plan for each teacher that acknowledges a teacher's many gifts and supports areas in need of further growth. The Mentors help teachers accomplish items in these development plans.

The Faculty acts in partnership with the Board and the Administrative Staff in the responsible running of the school. The Faculty sends a representative to all committees and cooperates with the parents and the Board in outreach and recruitment efforts.

Two Faculty members, along with the Director, serve on the Board and provide monthly reports to the Board. The entire Faculty meet with the Board at retreats scheduled twice per year to discuss matters of pedagogical progress, Faculty needs, social relationships in the school community, strategic planning, and long-range planning for the school. The acceptance or non-acceptance of children into the classroom and the process of conditional acceptance, probation, suspension, and dismissal of children is the responsibility of the Faculty, with oversight from the Director and the Student Support Group.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is the executive body of the Association for Waldorf Education in Davis (A.W.E.D.) A board of directors, with elected officers, is required to maintain the school's legal status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation per the Internal Revenue Service. It is the responsibility of the Board to serve, protect, and help realize the school's goal of providing a Waldorf education to the children of this community.

The Board of Directors is made up of parents, Faculty members, the Director and may include other members from outside of the school community. The Board is responsible for the selection of its own members. Board members serve out of a growing understanding of and commitment to the principles of Waldorf education and their fiduciary duties to the organization. The Board fulfills its responsibilities

with the help of various committees working within the school. These committees interact with the Board by submitting reports about their particular goals, needs, and successes.

The Board administers the legal and economic affairs of the school. Activities include fund development, approval of employment and business agreements, and establishing tuition. The Board may establish committees or direct the Administrative staff to aid in fulfilling these responsibilities. The Board is responsible for maintaining and operating an adequate, safe site for the school, its students and employees. Additionally, the Board, along with the Faculty, is responsible for the long-range planning and development of the school.

The Board, Faculty, and key members of the Administrative Staff and Parent Council meet together at least two times a year to facilitate collaboration, communication and to further the development of the school. Emergency meetings may be called as necessary.

The Board keeps the school community informed of its activities and decisions through the timely publication of minutes available in the office and on the school's website. Monthly Board meetings are open and community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. After attending three meetings, community members may apply to be considered for Board membership. Please contact the Board Chair at boardchair@daviswaldorf.org for further information.

APPENDIX A - Grades Curriculum

GRADE 1

Language arts explored through fairy tales, nature stories, songs and poetry. Beginning reading through phonics, speech exercises, writing, and recitations. Experiencing the quality of whole numbers, Roman and Arabic numerals. Introduction to the four processes of arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) and the multiplication tables through skip counting. Form drawing (curved and straight lines, letters and numbers), pictorial recreations of main lesson stories, wet-on-wet painting, beeswax modeling of figures and scenes from stories. Handwork includes finger knitting, two-needle knitting from needles the children make themselves, cast-on, bind-off, finishing. Spanish includes songs, games, basic vocabulary, colors, counting, stories. Speech, singing, pentatonic flute.

GRADE 2

Multicultural legends of Light Bringers, saints and sages, fables, nature stories, folklore, and poetry. Continued development of writing and reading with phonics, speech and recitation, simple compositions. Introduction of cursive writing. Continued work on the four math processes and multiplication and division tables. Place value, vertical addition and subtraction with regrouping (carrying and borrowing), number patterns. Seasonal games, cooperative movement, jump rope, clapping and jumping games, finger games, dancing. Drama, speech, singing, pentatonic flute. Exploration of symmetry, mirror drawing, and running forms in form drawing. Painting using secondary colors, beeswax modeling of figures and scenes from stories. In handwork, purling, increasing and decreasing, combining knit and purl. Continued vocabulary building, days, months, seasons, family in Spanish. Seasonal games, cooperative movement, jump rope, clapping and jumping games, hop scotch, dancing.

GRADE 3

Old Testament and Hebrew legends, nature stories, stories of indigenous peoples, poetry. Reading, spelling, composition writing. Introduction to the parts of speech. Continued work on the four processes and math facts, long multiplication and division. American measurement, time, money. Shelters, clothing, and practical work including farming, cooking, gardening and animal care. Shelter project. Drama, speech, singing in rounds, recorder or diatonic flute, rounds, basic notation, rhythm. Form drawing with four-quadrant symmetry, metamorphosis drawings, painting, beeswax modeling. Handwork includes crochet (chain, single, double), seaming, hand sewing. Spanish continues with basic

grammar, time, food, conversation, commands, simple stories. Movement includes seasonal games, jump rope, cooperative movement, circle dances.

GRADE 4

Norse mythology, Kalevala, stories of the indigenous peoples of California, poetry, literature. Paragraph writing, composition, verb tenses, punctuation, dictionary use, spelling. Continued work on the four processes and math facts, long multiplication and division, word problems. Fractions. Local geography of our town and state, map-making. Zoology: study of the human and the animal, specialization of animals, animal research project. Drama, speech, singing, recorder or diatonic flute, beginning strings. Drawing/painting woven forms, Native American motifs, Norse myth illustrations, local landscapes and animals. Beeswax or clay modeling. Handwork introduces cross stitch and hand-sewing. Spanish includes verb tenses, writing, reading, spelling, short dictation. Movement includes running, jumping, throwing, obstacle courses, athletic lead-up games, folk dances.

GRADE 5

Ancient Indian, Persian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Greek mythology; biographies from Ancient Greece; literature. Composition, active and passive verbs, syntax, grammar, spelling. Decimals, fractions, metric system. North American geography and Native American stories, independent research project. Ancient civilizations of India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece; Greek history. Botany: simple to complex plants, climate zones. Freehand geometric drawing, drama, speech, singing in harmony, recorder or diatonic flute, strings. Painting, clay modeling. Five-needle knitting, felted slippers, woodwork. Spanish includes grammar and simple conversation. Movement includes preparation for the Greek games (javelin, discus, long jump, running, Greek wrestling) with focus on form and appreciation of movement.

GRADE 6

History from Ancient Rome through the Middle Ages, Arthurian legends, poetry, ballads, tales of chivalry, biographies, literature, plays. Descriptive and expository compositions, writing poetry, grammar, direct and indirect objects, clauses and phrases, vocabulary. Business math, introduction to economics, introduction to percents, simple formulas, simple interest, ratios, geometric drawing with tools. Physics: acoustics, optics, heat, electricity, magnetism. World geography, geology, astronomy, independent research project. Animal project in handwork. Drama, speech, singing, recorder or diatonic flutes, strings or choir. Painting, black-and-white drawing, clay modeling. Spanish includes

grammar, conversation, history, geography. Movement class explores seasonal sports, games, team building.

GRADE 7

The Renaissance and the Reformation; biographies, historical novels, poetry, literature. The Age of Exploration, world geography. Perspective drawing, independent research project. Creative writing, expository writing, compound and complex sentences, direct and indirect quotes, vocabulary. Pre-algebra, roots, powers, geometry. Physics: mechanics, heat, optics, electricity. Inorganic chemistry, human physiology. Creative writing, drama, speech, singing, soprano, alto and tenor recorders, strings or choir. Puppetry in handwork, creating a 'heavy baby'. Spanish includes exploring Spanish speaking countries, their geography, economy, religion, landmarks, currency, traditions, foods, and current events among other topics. Movement includes seasonal sports, games, team building.

GRADE 8

Literature, biographies, grammar, composition, Shakespeare, epic and dramatic poetry, folklore. US history from the 17th century to present, early American history, Revolutions (French, American, Industrial, Civil Rights). business and practical writing, report writing and oral presentation, various types of essay writing, vocabulary. Economic geography and global contrasts. Algebra I, Platonic solids, physics, organic chemistry, meteorology, human anatomy, 3-D drawing, volumes, painting, clay modeling. Drama, speech, singing, soprano, alto and tenor recorders. Handwork includes machine sewing, woodwork. Spanish continues with sentence structure, grammar, telling a story using both preterite and imperfect tenses, the lives of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta are presented as important community leaders. Movement includes seasonal sports, games, team building.

APPENDIX B - School Festivals and Events

BEAUTIFICATION DAY

Held on a Saturday in late August, families gather together to garden, weed, help with projects and tidy up our campus before the children come back to school. It's a fun way to both work with the community and beautify the campus.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN WARMING DAY

Preschool and Kindergarten Warming Day is a short time for each child to get familiar with the room with the parent(s) there for reassurance, while at the same time getting some housekeeping tasks done, such as learning which cubby will be theirs, picking out, labeling and hanging up an extra clothes bag, getting introduced to the classroom toys and meeting some of the other children.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The most notable festival including the parents/families of the Early Childhood program is the birthday celebration. These are special occasions to honor each child and to give thanks for their life.

IN-CLASS VOLUNTEERS FOR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

After a six-week adjustment period at the beginning of the school year, we welcome parent participation on a limited basis in the classroom. Specific volunteer activities vary from classroom to classroom, and each teacher will explain the classroom protocol they wish to have followed. Examples of activities may include baking, painting, sewing and gardening. Parent volunteers in the classroom must complete a Volunteer Agreement and are required to undergo a "volunteer level" background check, and provide documentation of MMR, TDAP vaccinations and TB results. This process is necessary for the safety of the students and not difficult to achieve. Upon arrival on campus to help in the classroom, please sign in at the office and receive a badge that must be worn while on campus.

OPENING DAY ROSE CEREMONY

On the first day of school for the grades, we commence the school year by introducing the new year's classes/teachers. We give parents a glimpse into the curriculum that will be delivered for that year. The new first grade class is welcomed into the grades by our eighth grade class. The eighth graders present a rose to each child, establishing their bond as first and eighth grade "buddies" for the year. The buddy

pairs then take a tour of the school together and the eighth graders bring their buddies to their new classroom. First grade parents create a sunflower arch in front of the classroom for the buddies as they enter the classroom for the first time.

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

The DWS community picnics on the lawn to kick off the new school year and to get to know new families and rekindle old friendships. Music, dance and camaraderie mark this event.

MICHAELMAS

The Michaelmas festival takes place in late September where we have a play and an all school pageant about conquering a troublesome dragon. Michaelmas is most commonly celebrated in Europe, but the message of courage in the face of evil is universal and timeless. Michael is an archangel mentioned in the Bible, the Torah, and the Koran. He appears as a spiritual figure and protector of humankind, inspiring strength and courage. The motif of the dragon conqueror can be seen in Chinese art, in Apollo and the serpent, in Krishna slaying demons, and in the story of Saint George and the Dragon. The students learn that everyone has their own “dragon” – fear, greed, thoughtlessness, or apathy. Michael overcoming the dragon with his sword of light is an image that calls us all to be courageous, to take command of the dragon and transform it. Michael’s qualities of courage, compassion, and steadfastness can be an inspiration to greatness.

ALL HALLOW’S EVE

All Hallow’s Eve, or as it is better known, Halloween, was originally one of the four Celtic “cross” festivals; that is, a festival occurring at a time between, instead of on, the Solstice or Equinox. It falls at a time of growing darkness as the nights are lengthening. At DWS, we celebrate Halloween with a blend of the old and the new. Families of all ages (ideally for children in fourth grade and younger) enjoy the “Protected Path”, a journey through the world of vignettes, fairy tales, and far-off lands. Led by an “Angel Guide”, they hear stories and gather treats along the way. Our evening includes a gathering around a bonfire for singing, food, and sharing of treats.

COSTUME NOTE: We ask that your child wear a simple costume rather than one that reflects a commercial “character” theme. Suggestions: gnomes, animals, fairies, magical creatures. No masks or full face makeup, please.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and in other cultures around the world. At one time it was thought that at this point the veil between the physical world and the spiritual world was thinner and that movement between the two was possible. It was also a time to honor those friends and companions who had passed on to the other side.

The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died. It is particularly celebrated in Mexico, where it is a national holiday. The celebration at DWS takes place on or near November 1st where we set up a display in the breezeway where students and community members can display photos and mementos of loved ones.

MARTINMAS

The kindergarten and the 2nd Grade classes each hold a lantern walk (on separate evenings) on or around November 11th. They light the lanterns they have made, sing the lantern songs they have learned during Morning Gathering Circle and walk around the school grounds as it gets dark.

WINTER SPIRAL

December celebrates a turning point when darker and shorter days become even more illuminated by candlelight. We experience a mood of anticipation, preparation, and waiting. In walking the spiral of the Winter Garden, the children receive, in reverence, the light for their own candles which they place around the spiral of evergreens.

ADVENT

The Grades students celebrate during the four weeks of the Advent (meaning “anticipation”) season on Monday mornings in December at an opening assembly that includes the lighting of candles on a wreath and the recitation of a verse that observes the kingdoms of minerals, plants, animals, and humans.

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

Celebrated on or around December 6th for Preschool through 4th Grade, a special visitor may leave some treats in the children’s shoes. St. Nicholas (the original Santa Claus or Sinter Klaus in Holland).

SANTA LUCIA

Following an old Italian and Swedish tradition, crowned with lighted candles, the oldest child or multiple children in the second grade lead a Santa Lucia processional with song, delivering traditional cookies or bread from class to class.

FAMILY CRAFT DAY

Family Craft Day is held on a Saturday in early December offering live music, storytelling, food, and the opportunity to make seasonal craft projects. Dipping candles, tin-tapping, building gnome homes, folding window stars, are just a few examples of the day's activities. Family Craft Day is a non-commercial way to welcome in the holidays and to make handmade gifts for loved ones, while supporting our 6th, 7th and 8th Grades and handwork program with this fundraiser.

WINTER CONCERT

The winter concert is held on a December afternoon/evening, featuring seasonal instrumental music, poetry, and songs performed by Grades students and faculty. This can be a joyous way to welcome in the holiday season and is a signature event that many grandparents and friends enjoy attending.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Lunar New Year is a whole school festival celebrated close to the first new moon in the lunar calendar. We clean our classrooms the week before our celebration to clear away the old year. The children decorate the rooms and school with red decorations and various crafts. The classes make noise makers to scare away Nian (the monster of the old year), and parade around the school, finally gathering together in a grand circle. We throw firecrackers (small poppers), sing, and welcome the new year. Optionally, a class or two may hold a Lunar New Year assembly.

OPEN HOUSE

Held in February, our Open House showcases the work of the children! Each classroom, Preschool - 8th grade, will be open with samples of work on display (grades only). The multi-purpose room will showcase our grades subjects and the subject teachers will be on hand for you to meet. The Davis Waldorf Fiddlers will round out the experience. Open to the public, this is a great event to bring friends and family to show them what a Waldorf school looks like.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Celebrated on or around February 14th, Valentine's Day is celebrated by creating special crafts, a focus on kindness in our stories and songs, and sharing our sentiments of friendship with one another.

Observation of Valentine's Day is at the discretion of the class teacher.

ANNUAL SCHOOL AUCTION

Our annual dinner is always a fun evening out for parents and their friends and family to get together as a group and raise funds to support our school. A live and silent auction is part of the evening filled with food, drinks and dancing. Participants support our school by bidding on unique items and class projects.

SPRING CONCERT

Our springtime evening concert features our strings and band classes in a variety of musical offerings, from small ensembles to large group numbers and usually featuring 8th Grade soloists. This is an impressive event that many grandparents and friends enjoy attending.

MAY FAIRE

Our May Faire is a festive celebration of Spring filled with flowers and songs. May Faire is held on the first Saturday in May and features festive music, arts and crafts, games and activities, food, a puppet show, a petting zoo and vendors offering unique items. Kindergarten students search for and find the members of the Royal Court (DWS alumni) and all students participate in the May Faire procession to their throne. Students of the eighth grade, clothed in all white, perform traditional May Pole dances with colorful ribbons. They are accompanied by live, traditional music performed by the 7th grade and others. Attended by as many as 500 community members, it is a beautiful way to welcome in Spring.

KINDERGARTEN BOATING DAY

A few days before the end of school, we invite parents and friends to join our individual classes on a field trip to a local river or lake for a sailing of boats hand-made by the students.

CLOSING ROSE CEREMONY - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

We "promote" each class to their new grade at this gathering. All families are welcome to join us as we celebrate the year's end. During the Closing Rose Ceremony, the 8th Grade class is recognized by their teacher to acknowledge and honor this time of completion of their education at our school. Each 1st Grader presents a rose to their 8th Grade Buddy in a parting gesture of warm appreciation and love.

GRADUATION

The Saturday after the last day of school, we welcome the whole community to the graduation of the eighth grade class. Students perform music, speak about their experience, and receive their diplomas and greet the community as Alumni for the first time. This is an inspiring and beautiful day.

APPENDIX C - Mixed-Age Classrooms

MIXED-AGE CLASSROOMS

Excerpts from the article -

“Mixed Ages in the Kindergarten: Oldest and Youngest Together, or Not?”

by Nancy Blanning from the WECAN publication Gateways.

School is a bridging step out into the world from the intimacy of the earliest years at home. In the home, the children are all together, learning through imitation as they observe the practical care of the household and family.

The family group has no segregation of ages. Everyone learns to adjust to the give-and-take of family life. Each one learns that personal needs will be met, but often we have to wait while someone more in need is cared for. Although there is the challenge of the practical adjustments within this family constellation, there is also the opportunity to draw out of the children flexibility, tolerance and generosity toward one another and individual needs. Having younger children in the group may call for slowing down the pace for each day and simplifying our expectations around the contents of each morning. This can be a plus for everyone.

The step the six-year-olds will take into first grade will call for all the social skills the kindergarten environment can cultivate. The wider-age grouping can provide an even stronger foundation for creating class community over the next eight years. Years later, on the grade school playground, the grade two children will know many of the grade one and three children because they will have had many long hours of play with them in the kindergarten.

Over the years, there has been the opportunity to observe mixed-age groups in comparison with older kindergartens at our school. The consistent impression has been that the older groups became more quickly self-aware than their age-mates in the mixed groups. The older groups were more conscious of each other's capabilities or lack thereof. A more competitive mood arose in the older groups. This suggests that having to adjust to and hold the younger ones in mind, for both teachers and students, helps the older ones to stay sweeter and younger in consciousness for a little bit longer.

The question of protecting our children from the rampant, negative influences of the world is overwhelmingly challenging for teachers and parents today. Negative moods, attitudes and behaviors are imitated by children of all ages, not only the older ones. Whether littler children in the classroom or not, we strive for ways to redirect and transform the images the children are bombarded with. That we strengthen, intensify and potentize all of what we do with the children is imperative; and the presence of the younger children can help us to remain even more vigilant.

In a mixed-age grouping, the little ones bring their sweetness and a wide-eyed admiration for the competence and achievements their older classmates demonstrate. The older ones have a subtle incentive to display their best, for the little ones to look up to. They can have the experience of being older and more competent, seeing their accomplishments contrasted to the developing skills of their younger classmates.

APPENDIX D - Teaching Writing and Reading

TEACHING WRITING AND READING

An excerpt from...

“Teaching our children to write, read and spell, Part 11”

by Susan R. Johnson, MD, FAAP, 2/11/09.

This and other articles by Dr. Johnson are available in their entirety online at

<http://youandyourchildshealth.org/>.

#1 Question: If I understand what you wrote in Part I, children that are pre-school age or in kindergarten should not be pushed to write, read or spell because it might create learning disabilities in the future.

Answer: Yes, this is true. Most young children, less than 7 years of age, have not finished developing their neurological pathways for writing, reading and spelling. First, children need to have fully developed their proprioceptive system so they can visualize and imprint in their memory the exact shapes of the letters and numbers they see.

Next, in order to read with comprehension and spell, children need to have developed their right brain for visual recognition of small words (ex. if, the, is, are, were, at etc.) and their left brain for phonetics, the ability to match a letter or letters to particular sounds. In addition, these children also need to have developed their bridge pathway or corpus callosum for simultaneous communication between the right and left sides or hemispheres of their brain. When all of these pathways for reading are developed, children will be able to instantaneously recognize small words by sight using their right brain, sound out larger words phonetically using their left brain and create imaginative pictures for the words they are sounding out, another activity of the right brain. When these reading pathways are fully developed, these children will be able to read fluently, make imaginative pictures from the words and sentences they are reading, comprehend what they are reading, and have a visual memory that enables them to spell more easily.

Now if young children especially 4, 5 and 6 years of age are pushed to read or spell, they can only do this activity by using their right brain since the left brain and bilateral integration of their cerebral hemispheres have not fully developed. These children will try to read all words by sight memory. They

will look at the first and last letters of a word and make a guess. A word like stop could be read as stamp, stump, or step. The right brain is working so hard trying to visually figure out the shape of each word, both large and small, that it is no longer available for creating internal pictures of the words.

These children still may read fluently, but they won't be able to sound out words, spell or have lasting comprehension. The right brain reading pathway becomes overworked and the children will end up being just sight readers with poor spelling and poor comprehension. Later on, these children often get labeled as having non-verbal learning disabilities since they have bright minds but aren't performing in reading, spelling, and also math (especially word problems that rely on children's internal picture-making capacities to solve the problem).

Another area of difficulty is writing. Often children's hands do not functionally separate from each other until after ages 6 or 7. Prior to this age, the movements made by fingers in one hand are mirrored by movements of the same fingers on the opposite hand. This makes writing very difficult for young children. In addition, printing is an activity involving the left brain while cursive writing, that is flowing and not mechanical, requires both the development of the right and left brain as well as bilateral integration, the connection between the two hemispheres.

APPENDIX E - The Importance of Sleep

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Excerpts from...

“The Physiological Basis of Sleep”

by Lisa Gimmick from the WECAN publication Gateways.

The young child has as one of its main tasks the development of a healthy body. This is so fundamental that we as adults often don't realize its importance and may take it for granted. The fact is, however, that throughout life, every deed, thought, or word spoken is sounded through and limited by the physical body.

The capacity of the child to learn in grade school through the awakened cognitive senses, for example, presupposes the well-developed nerve-sense-brain and lower-will senses in early childhood (Aeppli, p. 64). There is an increasing awareness of the importance of well-developed “lower” senses (touch, life, balance and movement) in order to have a strong foundation for future academic and social success.

The early growth years are crucial, and if we look harder at this enormous work of the young human being, we find that the only time that physical growth occurs is during sleep. In addition, sleep is the only time that the body restores and renews its forces from the demands of the day.

Recommended amounts of sleep for the child are (Fried):

- Newborn – 16 hours
- 8 mos. to 1 year – 15 hours
- 1 ½ to 2 years – 14 hours
- 3 years – 13 hours
- 4 to 5 years – 12 hours
- 6 to 7 years – 11 hours
- 8 to 9 years – 10 to 11 hours
- 10 years – 10 hours
- 14 years – 8 hours or more, dependent upon timing of rapid growth spurts

For young children, these sleep amounts include nap times. Naps allow a child's nervous system much needed rest. Children who do not nap have elevated stress hormones that also cause increased alertness and irritability.

The nap should last for at least 30 minutes (an hour is better) and is best spent in a stationary place (not in a car, rocking chair, etc.) Afternoon naps need to end by 2:30 or 3 p.m. The reason for this is because the liver begins its night restorative phase at that time¹ and sleeping later than 3 p.m. displaces the night-time sleep, causing the child to have difficulty falling asleep by 7 or 8 p.m. According to Philip Incao, M.D., "...the more hours of sleep before midnight, the better. Sleep after 3am is less restorative because of the liver rhythm, which begins its wakeful will-stimulating (more active flow of bile) mode from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m., roughly."

Interestingly for children, the more regular sleep they get, the easier it is to fall asleep. "Children who are not overtired sleep much better and more quietly at night," writes Norbert Glas, M.D. (p. 76). A child of 5 years or more may give up the nap if she is regularly going to bed early, by around 7 p.m., and is not showing signs of sleep deprivation which for children are the opposite of those shown by adults. Instead of yawning and becoming quieter, children become more excitable. Ina Schaenen makes a strong case for a 7:00 bedtime in her book entitled *The 7-O'Clock Bedtime*, saying that once the parent determines how much sleep the child needs, this need becomes "non-negotiable" (p. 6).

Although some may not sleep, all children including "non-sleepers" benefit from a rest-time. Being able to pause (to be still and quiet) is a skill that eludes even many adults. Children need desperately to learn this. As always, a fair amount of firm inner conviction is required of the adult to secure for the child what he needs.

Steiner said that, "Before age nine, the most important thing is for children to learn how to properly sleep." (Glocker, Forces, p. 47) Audrey McAllen describes sleeping as a "breathing rhythm between

¹ The liver's vitalizing-restorative, growth related processes occur in deep sleep. Its functions follow a rhythmic sleep-wake cycle. This is very important. Sensations from the day are received by the sympathetic nervous system and are reacted to by the metabolism, which secretes into the lymph response substances by the impacted organ(s). These secretions may be digestive fluids, insulin, adrenaline, cortisol (stress hormones), epinephrine, etc. They are sensed by the liver and form a kind of fluid stimulus record which, through the building-up processes of sleep, become transformed into the lung, heart, kidney, nervous system, brain, the liver itself, etc. Carbohydrates are synthesized into sugars and stored in the liver during its night "assimilatory phase" from 3 p.m. to 3am. During its day "catabolic" phase from 3 am until 3 p.m., the liver converts these stored sugars into the energy we need for our waking life. This explains why it is important to go to sleep early: 6:30-8:00 p.m. for children and 9-10 p.m. for adults. Staying up late causes the liver to reverse its storing-up activity intended for the next day and to instead begin converting glycogen to glucose for energy, thus we get a "second wind" (especially true for children). This explains the worn-out feeling the next morning and the daylong physiologic struggle to keep up. (Johnson).

soul-spirit and the earthly body.” She adds that learning to sleep and learning to eat, “to take in substance and transform it, an action of the ego” are the two most “important educational factors” in the life of the young child. (p. 24)

The body has been described as a temple. In whatever capacity we can manage it, much good can come from our attending to the needs of the child for adequate sleep, warmth, love, healthy food, and age-appropriate activities. This is truly a “gift that keeps on giving.”

APPENDIX F - Health and Illness Guidelines

HEALTH AND ILLNESS GUIDELINES

This section is intended to provide you with information about Health and Illness Guidelines at Davis Waldorf School (DWS). These guidelines are based on State of California and Yolo County Health Department guidelines and school policy. Please read this section and refer to it whenever you have a question regarding your child's health. The pages that follow will give you an overview of vaccination health, detailed guidelines for what to do when your child is ill and when you should keep him or her home from school.

Our hope is that all parents are compliant with the guidelines we have outlined. By keeping lines of communication open, we can make progress in boosting the immune health of our students, teachers and staff. Please join us in our commitment to maintaining wellness at the school.

CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

California schools (public and private) are required to check immunization records for all new student admissions at preschool, TK/Kindergarten through 12th grade, and all students advancing to 7th grade before entry. Parents must show their child's Immunization Record as proof of immunization as a condition of enrollment.

Please refer to shotsforschool.org for more information regarding the required immunizations for students in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st through 8th grade and answers to frequently asked questions, including information about Medical Exemptions and Conditional Admission.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION LAW

- [California Health and Safety Code, Sections 120325-120375](#)
Under these statutes, children in California are required to receive certain immunizations in order to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools, child care centers, family day care homes, nursery schools, day nurseries, and developmental centers (pre-kindergarten facilities). Schools, and pre-kindergarten facilities are required to enforce immunization requirements, maintain immunization records of all children enrolled, and submit reports.
- [California Code of Regulations Title 17 Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 8](#)

These regulations specify California school immunization requirements and provide additional clarifications of the law. Also available at www.oal.ca.gov.

- Under Senate Bills [\(SB\) 276](#) and [SB 714](#) (Pan, 2019), all new medical exemptions for school and child care entry must be issued through CAIR-ME beginning January 1, 2021. Medical exemptions can only be issued by MDs or DOs licensed in California and must meet applicable Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) criteria.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK

You must keep your child home and notify the school if your child contracts any of the following infectious diseases:

- Chicken Pox
- Meningitis
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
- Mumps
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Fifth Disease
- Poliomyelitis (Polio)
- Giardia
- Ringworm
- German Measles
- Roseola
- Hepatitis
- Scabies
- Hepatitis A
- Scarlet Fever
- Impetigo
- Strep Throat
- Measles (Rubeola)
- Salmonella
- Typhoid Fever

TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID

CDC guidelines as of July 2024:

Stay home and away from others (including people you live with who are not sick) if you have respiratory virus symptoms that aren't better explained by another cause. These symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache, among others.

You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:

- Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
- You have not had a fever and are not using fever-reducing medication.

- When you go back to your normal activities, take added precaution over the next 5 days, such as taking additional steps for cleaner air, hygiene, masks, physical distancing, and/or testing when you will be around other people indoors.
 - Keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus that made you sick, even if you are feeling better. You are likely to be less contagious at this time, depending on factors like how long you were sick or how sick you were.
 - If you develop a fever or you start to feel worse after you have gone back to normal activities, stay home and away from others again until, for at least 24 hours, both are true: your symptoms are improving overall, and you have not had a fever and are not using fever-reducing medication. Then take added precaution for the next 5 days.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD HOME

Early in the morning, it is often difficult to make a decision about whether or not your child is sick enough to stay at home from school. With minor symptoms, you often cannot tell whether your child is going to get better or worse during the course of the day.

As a general rule, children should be kept at home if their symptoms will interfere with classroom activities. For example, if the child has nasal mucus as described below, a persistent cough, or is irritable or very tired, the child needs to remain at home. Please see the Symptom Guidelines section on how to help determine if your child needs to stay at home or see a health practitioner.

It is helpful to notify the office of any symptoms that your child is experiencing when staying home from school due to illness. We keep a log in the office to track contagions and help raise awareness of “bugs” that may be “going around”.

SICK AT SCHOOL

In the event that your child is too sick to complete the school day and needs to leave school, the office will call you and request that you make arrangements for your child to be picked up by a responsible adult within an hour. Please keep your daytime phone numbers on the emergency form current in order to avoid delays in reaching you. There is limited space at school for sick children to rest comfortably. Unfortunately, we cannot give a child any medications for any condition without written parental approval and your physician’s written instructions, detailing the method, amount and schedule by which a medication (prescription and over-the-counter) is to be administered. See the **Medication at School** section of this handbook for more information.

SYMPTOMS GUIDELINES

(Source – Yolo County Health Department)

- **RUNNY NOSE**

Nasal discharge is the way many children respond to pollen, dust or a cold virus. Minor cold or allergy symptoms should not be a reason to miss school. Many healthy children have as many as six colds per year, especially in the early school years. A child should stay home if nasal mucus from a runny nose is not clear (is yellowish or otherwise) and/or too uncomfortable for the child to complete class work or participate in other school activities.

- **COUGHING**

Keep your child home when a cough is persistent during the day, as this can indicate a worsening of cold or allergy symptoms. It may be a sign of a secondary infection (sinusitis, pneumonia), which may require medical treatment. It may also indicate mild asthma. If your child's cough is worse than you might expect with a common cold, you need to consult your child's doctor. You should do so immediately if the child is not acting normally, has a fever, or has any difficulty breathing.

- **DIARRHEA AND VOMITING**

This could be very uncomfortable and embarrassing for your child while in school. A child should be symptom-free for 24 hours and be able to hold down food and fluids before returning to school.

- **FEVER (100°F OR HIGHER)**

Fever is an important symptom, especially when it occurs along with a sore throat, nausea, or a rash. Your child could have a contagious illness which could be passed to classmates and teachers. While you can treat the fever symptoms and usually make the child feel better temporarily, the cause of the fever and the risk of passing it to others is still present. A grade school child with a fever should stay home until there is no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication such Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, etc., or 36 hours for a child in our preschool or kindergarten program.

- **SORE THROAT**

Consult your child's physician for advice regarding diagnosis and treatment. A child should stay home if the sore throat is bad enough to prevent the child from talking or sipping liquid comfortably. If diagnosed with strep throat, a child may NOT return to school until 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics has been given and the child is fever-free.

- **PINKEYE (CONJUNCTIVITIS)**

Pinkeye can be caused by a virus, bacteria or allergy. The first two are very contagious. The eye will be reddened and a cloudy or yellow discharge is usually present. The eye may be sensitive to light. Consult your child's doctor to see if antibiotic eye drops are needed. The child should stay home until symptoms subside and they have been on antibiotic eye drops at least 48 hours or until the doctor recommends the child return to school.

- **MIDDLE EAR INFECTIONS**

Ear infections by themselves can cause a child great discomfort and often fever, but are not contagious to others. The child should see their doctor for diagnosis and treatment and should stay at home if they have fever or pain.

- **FLU**

Flu is a contagious virus that usually occurs in the winter months. Symptoms include body aches, fever, chills, congestion, sore throat, and, in some cases, vomiting. The child should stay home until these symptoms improve, usually five to seven days. Consult your child's doctor for treatment suggestions to make your child more comfortable.

- **SKIN INFECTION**

A staph or strep infection that creates a red, oozing, blister-like area can appear anywhere on the body. It can be passed to others by direct contact. Consult your child's doctor for treatment and length of time the child should remain out of school, especially if the area cannot be covered.

APPENDIX G - Incidental Medical Services for Licensed Early Childhood Program

DWS staff are able to provide incidental medical services to children in our licensed Early Childhood program for blood glucose monitoring, and administering Inhaled Medication, EpiPen and Glucagon when the following conditions are met:

GLUCAGON ADMINISTRATION

DWS will provide glucagon administration to a diabetic child in an emergency situation. The following are required:

- Written permission from the child's parent or authorized representative
- Staff administering glucagon must be trained by a person designated by the child's physician.
- Written instructions for administering glucagon from a physician must include:
 - How to recognize the symptoms of hypoglycemia and what actions to take
 - How to properly administer the glucagon
 - How to recognize potential side effects of glucagon
- Staff will notify parents of the need to administer glucagon after notifying emergency personnel

BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING

- Written authorization from parent/authorized representative
- Written instructions from the child's physician, including:
 - Phone numbers of the child's physician and parent or authorized representative.
 - Proper use of the monitoring instrument and other items used while conducting the test (must comply with manufacturer's instructions).
 - Determine if the test results are within normal or therapeutic range for the child.
 - Any restrictions on activities or diet that may be necessary.
 - How to identify symptoms of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia, and actions to take when results are outside what is normal or therapeutic.
- Each person administering the test must have written permission from the child's parent/representative.
- Staff will record each test and test results. Results will be kept in a binder in the child's classroom, where parents can check results daily.

- *Safety Precautions* - Persons performing the test will wear gloves during any procedure that involves potential exposure to blood or body fluids, perform hand hygiene immediately after removal and disposal of gloves, and dispose of used instruments in an appropriate container.
- *Transportation of medicine for field trips and emergencies* - Medication, monitoring equipment and supplies will be carried by the classroom teacher, except for those items that the child usually carries. Glucagon test and at least two forms of glucose will be included.

EpiPen Jr and EpiPen

DWS may administer EpiPen Jr. and EpiPen, as prescribed by a physician and/or as directed by emergency personnel, to a hypersensitive (allergic) person in the event of an allergic emergency. Such emergencies may occur from insect stings or bites, foods, drugs or other allergens, as well as from idiopathic or exercise-induced anaphylaxis. Whenever these devices are used, DWS must still obtain emergency medical treatment for the child.

The following conditions must be met:

- Written directions from the prescribing physician.
- Use in accordance with written directions.
- Keep ready for use at all times, including field trips.
- Protect from exposure to light and extreme heat.
- Note the expiration date on the unit and replace the unit prior to that date.
- Replace any auto-injector if the solution is discolored or contains a precipitate.
- Call 911 and the child's parent/authorized representative immediately after administering the EpiPen Jr. or EpiPen.
- Notify the Office, the parents, the paramedics if EpiPen Jr. or EpiPen are administered.

ADMINISTERING INHALED MEDICATION

DWS staff may administer Inhaled Medication if the following requirements are met:

- Written authorization from the child's parent or legal guardian to administer inhaled medication and authorization to contact the child's healthcare provider. Authorization shall include the name and address of the parent and/or legal guardian.
- DWS staff must comply with written instructions from the child's physician, which shall include:
 - Specific indications for administering the medication
 - Potential side effects and expected response

- Dose-form and amount to be administered
- Actions to be taken in the event of side effects or incomplete treatment response
- Proper storage of the medication
- Phone number of the child's physician
- Instructions shall be updated annually.
- DWS staff shall record each instance the inhaled medication was administered and provide this record to the child's parent on a daily basis.
- At least one person trained in CPR and First Aid, including the general use of nebulizer equipment and inhalers shall be present any time the child is in care.
- Training materials shall be kept on file in the child's classroom.

APPENDIX H - Committees

The volunteer skill and labor provided to the school by the parents, teachers, and staff is an essential part of our school community. Many of our activities depend on work completed by our standing committees. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please contact the Director at director@daviswaldorf.org.

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Finance Committee is to monitor the financial health of the school. The committee is responsible for formulating and reviewing the annual budget and for reviewing monthly financial reports. The finance committee is made up of a board member, our business manager, a Faculty representative and parent volunteers with a background in financial management.

- **SITE-LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

The Site Committee provides prioritized facility and site improvement recommendations to the Board. Additionally, they work to plan and design our landscape to incorporate shade, play and sport spaces, gardening, farming, and beauty for all to share. They are charged with long-range planning and work from a Master Site Plan. They help to coordinate the “All-School Beautification Day” which takes place prior to opening day.

- **TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) COMMITTEE**

It is the mission of the Tuition Adjustment Committee to implement the school's tuition policy, balancing the needs of the school while striving to make Waldorf education more affordable for all families who wish to provide this education for their children.

- **PARENT COUNCIL**

Any parent who has a child at the school is invited to become an active member of the Parent Council. The Parent Council serves as a facilitator to enhance parents' communication within each of the classes, in the school community and with the Faculty and Administration. The Parent Council considers parent initiatives, holds the community life of the school, and supports volunteerism and fundraising efforts.

- **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

This committee works to positively impact enrollment, outreach, retention, marketing and financial support for and within our school through a focus on increasing demand for Waldorf Education (enrollment), improving community engagement (retention/outreach), improving funding sources (financial support) and increasing awareness (marketing/enrollment).

- **DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (DISJ) COMMITTEE**

Works toward building on the school's existing culture and policies of inclusion to recruit and welcome individuals and families of all identities. Areas in which equity and diversity are examined include: curriculum, festivals, outreach, enrollment, physical facilities, sports/extracurricular activities, paperwork/forms, volunteer opportunities, faculty/staff composition, visiting speakers, dances/social gatherings, field trips, classroom duties/jobs, playground interactions.

APPENDIX I - Dress Code FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DRESS CODE

1. *Why have a dress code at all?*

We believe that a dress code helps cultivate an expectation of serious academic learning. Taking the focus off the style and dress of other students allows for a direct learning environment.

2. *How is the dress code enforced?*

Any time a child arrives at school with clothing that falls outside of our Dress Code, alternative clothing may be provided, a teacher may ask that clothing be turned inside out to hide an image, or the child may be asked to go to the office to call a parent to bring necessary clothing to school.

Faculty or staff members who know the student will employ care and consideration in guiding the child to appropriate attire when needed. Our Office Coordinator will have the final say as to whether clothing meets the ideals of the Dress Code or not. Repeated incidents of Dress Code infractions will result in a meeting of the parent, Student Support Group and the student, as appropriate.

3. *Why not allow baggy clothing?*

When school begins, we hope that every child will be alert and ready for the day. Baggy clothing, while comfortable, does not cultivate an attitude of readiness for the school day. Baggy means sleeves long enough to cover hands, pants which drag on the ground and/or sag at the waist, and hoods which cover the face.

4. *Are certain articles of clothing not allowed inside?*

Yes. Hoods, sunglasses, hats, and gloves should not be worn inside at any time.

5. *Is rain gear required on rainy days?*

Yes. Classes such as Games and Gardening take place outdoors, and class curriculum may call for students to go outside and enjoy the great outdoors. All students should have rain gear available to them every day of the week. Rain gear should include a rain jacket with a hood, rain pants, and waterproof shoes. Items can be left in your child's classroom.

6. *Why must long hair be kept out of the face?*

Hair in one's face or eyes impedes class work and participation, and can be a distraction for students, as well as their classmates and teachers. It is also a dangerous safety hazard for many of our specialty classes such as Games, Woodwork, Gardening, and Handwork.

7. *Why must jewelry be smaller than a dime?*

We ask that jewelry, including rings, earrings, necklace pendants, charms on bracelets, and anklets, remain smaller than a dime so as to ensure all children are safe and unencumbered throughout their many daily movement activities. Large jewelry can be dangerous in classes such as Games, Woodworking, and Gardening, and can also be distracting.

If you have questions about the dress code, please contact the office or your class teacher. If you like advice about any item of clothing, please contact the Office Coordinator at office@daviswalsdorf.org.

Thank you for helping us to maintain our school as a place of learning.