



Davis Waldorf School

Resilience, Relationship, Reverence

2025-2026 Back to School Packet



What is the Back to School Packet?

Dear DWS Families,

We've been enjoying the long days of summer sunshine, and hope your family has been, too! There is still one more month of languid sunsets, hands sticky with stone fruit juice, and afternoons to do with as you please. A month can feel like a lifetime

and like no time at all. That is why we're here to prepare you for the 25-26 school year at Davis Waldorf School!

This email has many links to important forms and documents, some of which are required to be completed before the beginning of the school year. We call this entire email the Back to School "packet" as a holdover from when all of these materials were sent to each family in a big envelope through the mail.

The Back to School Packet includes: key information, handbooks, hot lunch signups, aftercare and vacation care contracts, volunteer forms, and a preview of upcoming events.

Digital copies of forms can be emailed to office@daviswaldorf.org. Physical copies of forms can be dropped off at the office at the front desk QR in the secure drop box to the left of the office door outside of office hours. Summer office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Click **VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE** at the bottom left of this email to make sure you do not miss any important details!

Key Information

Please click on the links below to view/download each document

2025-2026 Academic Calendar
2025-2026 Community Festivals and Events
School Hours and Daily Schedule
Davis Waldorf School Student Dress Code
Pick Up, Drop Off, and Parking
Child Pick Up Authorization Form (Preschool through 2nd Grade)
Administrative Staff Contact Information & Communication Flow
Update Your Contact Information
Annual Giving Made Easy
Davis Waldorf School Smoke Policy

Handbooks

Please click on the links below to view/download each document

Hot Lunch Fundraising Program

Support our middle schoolers! Hot Lunch is provided for 1st through 8th grade. Students in 6th through 8th grade organize, cook, and serve these meals as a way to raise money for their culminating 8th grade class trip. This ongoing work over three years helps the students build resilience and perseverance as they work toward a distant goal.

All hot lunches are vegetarian (with a meat option available on pizza day) and priced at \$7.50 per meal. On Thursdays your child can opt for two slices of pizza for \$10.00 Below is the menu for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Monday: Teriyaki Bowl (rice, veggies, optional tofu)
- Tuesday: "Kindergarten" Soup & Bread (seasonal vegetables, lentils)
- Wednesday: Fiesta Bowl (rice, beans, optional sour cream, cheese, and salsa)
- Thursday: Mountain Mike's Pizza (plain cheese or pepperoni)
- Friday: No hot lunch offered

[Instructions to Sign Up](#)

Aftercare & Vacation Care

We support working families by providing robust extended care programs. We offer two kinds of aftercare contracts: Full Year and Adjustable.

- **Full Year Contract:** discounted rate, guaranteed care, consistency in billing
- **Adjustable Contract:** more freedom and flexibility with changing schedule, care is contingent on whether there is space available, rate is not discounted

We also offer drop-in care as space allows.

We have two separate aftercare programs: one for Early Childhood students (Preschool and Kindergarten) called Junebug, and one for Grades students called Sunflower. These programs happen in separate spaces, are organized by separate Coordinators, and have separate dedicated staff.

Both programs offer the same pickup time options: 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30 p.m.

Please click on the links below to view/download each document

[Aftercare Billing & Program Information](#)

[Aftercare Calculations](#)

[Aftercare Comparisons](#)

[Aftercare Cancellation Form](#)

In order to utilize our aftercare program for the first two weeks of school, you must have a completed contract signed and returned by **Wednesday, 8/20**.

DROP-IN CARE IS NOT AVAILABLE THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL.

Junebug Contracts	Sunflower Contracts
Junebug Full Year Aftercare	Sunflower Full Year Aftercare
Junebug Adjustable Aftercare	Sunflower Adjustable Aftercare

Vacation Care is offered on extended school breaks and is contingent on a minimum threshold of families signing up per break. Due dates for vacation care programs vary, so please be sure to check the contract and look for due date reminders in our weekly Dates & Details emails.

Junebug Contracts	Sunflower Contracts
Junebug Full Year Vacation Care	Sunflower Full Year Vacation Care
11/10: Junebug In-Service Day Vacation Care	11/10: Sunflower In-Service Day Vacation Care
11/24-26: Junebug Parent/Teacher Conferences & Thanksgiving Vacation Care	11/24-26: Sunflower Parent/Teacher Conferences & Thanksgiving Vacation Care
12/29-31, 1/2: Junebug Winter Break Vacation Care	12/29-31, 1/2: Sunflower Winter Break Vacation Care
2/17-20: Junebug February Break Vacation Care	2/17-20: Sunflower February Break Vacation Care
3/30-4/3, 4/6-10: Junebug Spring Break Vacation Care	3/30-4/3, 4/6-10: Sunflower Spring Break Vacation Care

There is deep fulfillment in volunteering and being an active part of your child's education, and contributing to the school community together. Waldorf schools are known for their vibrant festival lives, and we also host many other types of events for our community, as well as immersive field trips for our students. If you'd like to support the school through volunteering, whether that is coming into the classroom to share a holiday/tradition that is culturally important to you, chaperoning a field trip, or being a driver, you will need to provide volunteer paperwork. We highly encourage folks to do this now so you are prepared at a moment's notice to pitch in, and so you don't have to think about it later!

Let us know what kind of volunteering you are interested in by taking our survey:

[Volunteer Interest Survey](#)

Please click on the links below to view/download each document

[Live Scan Locations in Davis, CA](#)

[Volunteer Live Scan Form](#)

[Volunteer Agreement Form](#)

[Automobile Usage & Policies Agreement](#)

Early Childhood volunteers require an additional immunization form to volunteer in the classroom:

[Early Childhood Classroom Volunteer Immunization Form](#)

Team Sports and Electives

We have great sports and electives coming up this year! Keep up-to-date on sports and electives offerings as they are announced throughout the school year by reading our monthly Newsletters.

[Davis Waldorf School Team Sports Handbook](#)

[Team Sports Waiver, Release, and Hold Harmless Agreement](#)

Fall 2025 Sport: Volleyball

Volleyball will run for nine weeks and start on the first day of school, with practices on Mondays and Wednesdays. We have also joined the fledgling Waldorf Volleyball

League and will have games on five consecutive Saturdays beginning October 4. Volleyball runs Wednesday, September 3, to Saturday, November 1.

Register for
Volleyball

Fall 2025 Electives

Robotics

Our award-winning robotics team continues this year. Because of the nature of the work, this is a year-long class, starting Tuesday, September 23 and running through Tuesday, May 26. Through playful creativity, teamwork, trial and error, and perseverance, students will learn the basics of building and programming a simple robot to perform simple tasks.

Teacher: Carolina Roberts, DWS parent

Grades: 4th through 8th

Days: Tuesdays, September 23 to May 26

Times: 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: 7th grade

Class minimum // maximum: 4 students // 12 students

Fee: \$600*

**We understand that this is costly; however, it is for the entire year. If this is a burden for you, please talk to Kimberli in the business office to set up a payment plan.*

Woodworking

Come join us in the woodshop as we make plenty of wood shavings and sawdust! There will be an organized project for you to work on. You can also bring your own woody ideas and aspirations and we will try to bring them to life. So, come on out, along with your enthusiasm and creativity, and we'll have a grand time crafting with wood in the

Teacher: Mr. Bill Critchfield, DWS Woodworking Teacher

Grades: 5th through 8th

Days: Wednesdays, September 24 to October 29

Times: 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: woodworking tent

Class minimum // maximum: 4 students // 10 students

Fee: \$60 + \$5 materials fee

Acting

Join us for an exploration into the world of acting! Through a variety of improvisation games, storytelling activities, and interactive play, children will develop their acting skills. The class will encourage creative self expression and working collaboratively as a group. It will culminate with a mini showcase of theatrical skills on the last day for family members to enjoy.

Teacher: Elizabeth Christen, DWS parent

Grades: 3rd through 6th

Days: Thursdays, September 25 to October 30

Times: 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Location: MPR

Class minimum // maximum: 4 students // 12 students

Fee: \$120

Transform Beads and Wire into Art!

Stringing beads on beading wire is one of the most popular methods for making beaded crafts. It's also one of the simplest, making it a great technique for beginners. Come join the fun and make some wonderful art!

Teacher: Wes Hight, DWS parent

Grades: 3rd through 8th

Days: Fridays. September 26 to October 31

Times: 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Location: 8th grade

Class minimum // maximum: 4 students // 12 students

Fee: \$75 per student + \$10 materials fee

Sign Up for Fall
Electives

Upcoming Events

August

- Friday, 8/8: last day of Summergarden Camp
- Thursday, 8/14: last day of Junebug Camp
- Saturday, 8/23: All School Beautification Day | 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Campus
- Wednesday, 8/27: New Parent Orientation Evening | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Campus (in the MPR)

September

- Monday, 9/1: NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
- Tuesday, 9/2: Preschool Warming Day | 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Preschool Classrooms
- Wednesday, 9/3: First Day of School for Preschool and Grades!
- Wednesday, 9/3: Kindergarten Warming Day | 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Kindergarten Classrooms
- Wednesday, 9/3: first volleyball practice | 3:15 p.m. | Campus
- Thursday, 9/4: First Day of School for Kindergarten!
- Friday, 9/5: Back to School Picnic | 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Campus (in the grove)
- Friday, 9/26: Michaelmas Festival | 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Campus (in the grove)

Parent & Child Classes

At Davis Waldorf School, we have a supportive and nurturing program for young families. We offer Parent & Child class cohorts for infants 6 to 18 months old, and toddlers 19 months to 3.5 years old.

The first three years in a child’s life are an amazing time of growth that fill parents and caregivers with awe and wonder. In our warm and inviting Buttercup preschool room, classes are held for little ones and their caregivers to grow together. The classes are led by an experienced Waldorf Early Childhood teacher who provides a program that echoes the rhythms of the Waldorf preschool. These classes offer caregivers a place to observe their children, connect in a supportive and inclusive community, discuss child development and parenting techniques, create seasonal crafts, and learn about Waldorf education.

At the heart of the Parent & Child program is the recognition that early childhood is a sacred and formative time, and that the care and consciousness with which adults surround children deeply influences their growth. These classes nourish not only the child but also the inner life of the parent.

Signups for our Parent & Child Classes will be released later in August.

- **Rosebud Cohort (6mo to 18mo):** Fridays, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Daffodil Cohort (19mo to 3.5y):** Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fall 2025 Session Dates	Winter 2025 Session Dates	Spring 2026 Session Dates
9/10, 19, 26 10/3, 10, 17, 24 11/7, 14, 21	12/5, 12 1/9, 16, 23, 30 2/6, 13, 20, 27	3/6, 13, 20, 27 4/17, 24 5/8, 15, 22, 29

New Faces on Campus



Margarita Hawk, Climbing Rose Kindergarten Teacher

Margarita was born in Mexico City, where her early life was filled with color, family, and a strong sense of tradition. After graduating with a degree in Tourism Business Administration from the Escuela Internacional de Turismo, she moved to the United States.

Margarita's professional journey in Waldorf education began in 1996 at Camellia Waldorf School, where she served as a Kindergarten Teacher for seven years. From there, she joined the Sacramento Waldorf School community as a Gardening teacher, Spanish teacher, and Sponsor of the class of 2009. During the 2012–2013 school year, she worked at Davis Waldorf School as a Kindergarten Teacher. Since 2013, Margarita has been a Kindergarten Teacher at Sacramento Waldorf School and an Early Childhood and Spanish Education Consultant.

Margarita loves cooking, gardening, singing, flower arranging, doll making, and crafting seasonal nature tables. She is fluent in both Spanish and English and is continually pursuing new learning through training in neurodiverse development, behavioral support, DEI, and anthroposophy.

Anne Carollo House, Gardening Teacher

Anne Carollo House will return to DWS as the Gardening teacher. We are happy to welcome her back! Ms. Carollo House previously taught at DWS as the lead teacher for the class of 2021 and then carried the class of 2023. Ms. Carollo House has a B.A. in English Literature from San Francisco State University, a California State Multiple Subject Teaching credential from Sacramento State University and has begun her graduate studies in American and English Literature at San Francisco State University. She has also completed the foundation year in the Waldorf Teacher Training program at Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento.



Ms. Carollo House's professional experience includes working in the classroom as an assistant and substitute teacher in private and public schools in Sacramento and the Bay Area, and serving as an as an Aftercare Teacher at Camellia Waldorf School in Sacramento and as After School Program Director at Sutton Montessori School in Dublin, Ireland. Ms. Carollo House is passionate about education, beekeeping and organic farming.



Rayna Velasquez, Junebug Aftercare Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Rayna Velasquez to Davis Waldorf School! Rayna is an Assistant Teacher at Pleasant Valley Preschool, and she nannies for a current DWS family.

Summer Maintenance and Renovation Work

It's been a busy summer for Mr. Ben and Jac! Thanks to our 2024-2025 Fund-A-Need earmarked for campus improvements, we've been busy this summer rolling out site projects and overall maintenance. With new paint outside and many renovations inside, our school will shine brightly for the new year!

Fresh Paint

Every summer there is usually some touch-up paint work, but this year we've done more. In addition to the basketball court and parking lines getting touched up, we also have a fresh coat of paint in the main office and the exteriors of the lower grades classrooms. The colors of our doors have been upgraded to a deep forest green.

6th & 7th Grade Classroom Renovations

Renovation work on our 6th and 7th grade began this spring, when the 7th grade classroom received new windows and both 6th and 7th grade classrooms had new exterior siding installed. The work this summer is continuing on the interior of the buildings, with new flooring, cabinetry, cubbies and paint. We thank everyone who contributed to this year's Fund-a-Need project and made this much-needed renovation possible.

Handwork and Aftercare Classroom Renovations

Over the last couple of years, we have devoted a significant amount of time, energy and resources into acquiring a building to replace our old aftercare and handwork room with a new building that is larger and also incorporates meeting space, book storage and gender-neutral restrooms. The time has finally come for that building to become a reality! In June, we submitted all building plans to the city, the teachers and staff cleared the spaces and we are ready for the work to begin as soon as we receive the go-ahead from the city. The new space is very much needed: we have over 225 students enrolled for the upcoming year and have outgrown our current buildings.

[View Maintenance Photos](#)

Davis Waldorf School
3100 Sycamore Lane
Davis, CA 95616 US

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