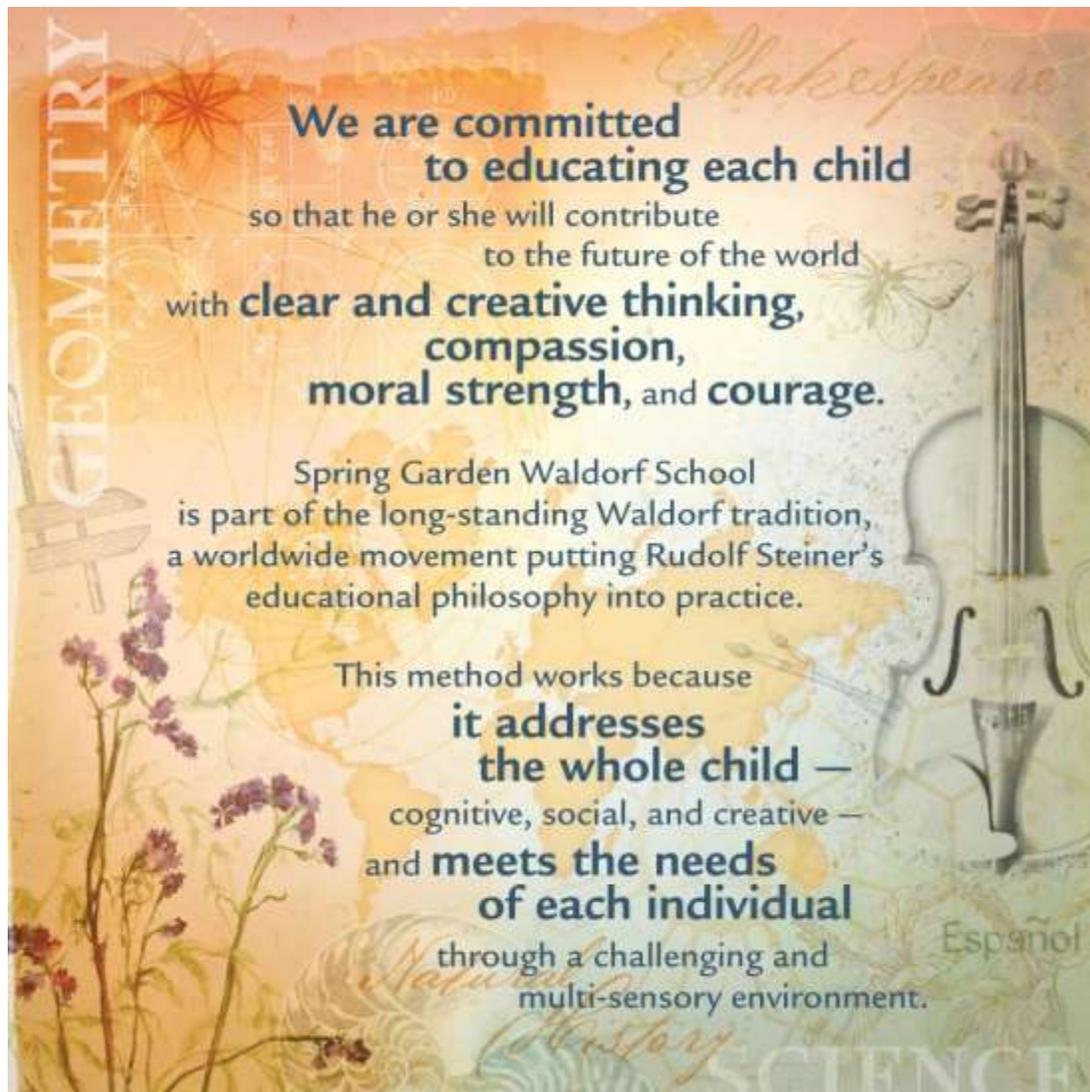


Spring Garden



WALDORF SCHOOL

Parent Handbook 2020-21



**We are committed
to educating each child**
so that he or she will contribute
to the future of the world
with **clear and creative thinking,
compassion,
moral strength, and courage.**

Spring Garden Waldorf School
is part of the long-standing Waldorf tradition,
a worldwide movement putting Rudolf Steiner's
educational philosophy into practice.

This method works because
**it addresses
the whole child —**
cognitive, social, and creative —
and **meets the needs
of each individual**
through a challenging and
multi-sensory environment.

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Welcome to Spring Garden Waldorf School!

It is always a joy to welcome students and their families to Spring Garden. We are eager to help you feel at home, make friends, and discover the talents you can share with this unique community.

By choosing Spring Garden for your child, you have become part of a community of students, teachers, and parents whose approach to education embodies meaning inherent in the Latin roots of the word educate: *ex duco*, to lead forth. This "leading forth" of each student's special gifts and capacities is accomplished through a dynamic method of integrated education that instills strength of will, moral responsibility, and clarity of thought.

A Waldorf school bases its educational methods and administrative structure on the principles and philosophies of Rudolf Steiner. The Waldorf teacher brings to the classroom a comprehensive understanding of the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of child development. Students in a Waldorf school engage in creative and artistic activities that stimulate perceptual skills and build learning capacities. Every year new educational research confirms the value of the Waldorf model of education. If you are interested in learning more about Steiner or Waldorf education, please browse the shelves of the Lending Library in the SGWS School Store or join us for one of our many parent education opportunities throughout the year.

We are eager to nurture and cultivate relationships of understanding and trust with the families of the students we teach. Through discussion, study groups, and conferences, we join with you to develop a shared understanding of your child and to encourage harmony between home and school life.

You have embarked on an exciting journey, and we are happy to be a part of it.

The Parent Handbook

The purpose of the Parent Handbook is to welcome you to our school, to present our history, to set forth your role of the parent in the school community, to describe the admissions procedure and curriculum, to outline the everyday workings of the school, and to offer guidelines for working within the Spring Garden Waldorf School community.

Please note that the policies, procedures, and statements in this Handbook are subject to change. Please keep this Handbook in a convenient place and refer to it as needed. The most up-to-date version of the handbook is available in the sidebar of the Tuesday Note and on our website.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Spring Garden Waldorf School recruits and admits students and personnel of any racial identification, ancestry, nationality, native language, socioeconomic background, family structure, age, religious beliefs and/or belief system, gender, sexual identity, appearance, occupation, and political affiliation, or any other protected class or group, to all the rights and privileges of all of our programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of any racial identification, ancestry, nationality, native language, socioeconomic background, family structure, age, belief system, gender, sexual identity, appearance, occupation, and political affiliation or any other protected class or group in the administration of our educational policies, scholarships, loans fee waivers, educational programs, and athletic or extracurricular activities. All are encouraged to apply.

The Role of the Parent

Spring Garden Waldorf School is a community where cooperation and collaboration between parents, teachers, and staff create a supportive educational environment. Our community embraces active parent involvement, openness, economic and social diversity, consensus, and teamwork. Our families, teachers, and staff share the responsibilities and rewards of participating in our school community. Parents play essential roles as advocates for their children and as partners in enriching our community with their ideas, interests, talents, resources, and concerns.

As part of the enrollment contract, parents complete mandatory Service Contract hours. This commitment to the school builds community and offsets operating costs. Parents make an especially significant contribution to the school in the area of enrollment by inviting friends to events at the school. Simply talking about the school and how Waldorf education works for their children will bring other interested families into contact with the Waldorf community.

Parents contribute to the health of the school by supporting school policies and procedures. This allows families to experience the warmth of a community, working together with shared values and a common interest in its students' education. In recognition of being part of the larger community, parents agree to abide by the Parents' Pledge:

SPRING GARDEN WALDORF SCHOOL PARENTS' PLEDGE:

There are many diverse personalities, qualities, and experiences that make the Spring Garden Waldorf School community unique. By respecting and embracing these seeming differences, we can unite our hearts with those seeking the same goal of educating our students in a compassionate environment. As a member of the Spring Garden community, I pledge the following:

I will **ADHERE** to the policies outlined in the Parent Handbook. I will stay informed about community life at Spring Garden Waldorf School by reading emails, letters, and other communications.

I will **ATTEND** class meetings and teacher conferences to ensure that my child's class has an informed, active, and supportive parent body that understands the curriculum and its foundations.

I will **PARTICIPATE** in fundraising. I recognize that tuition alone does not meet the school's budgeted expenses and will strive to participate in fundraising with heartfelt gifts to the best of my ability.

I will **DIRECT** any question, concern, or complaint to the appropriate person or group according to the Communication Section in the Parent Handbook.

I will **RESPECT** others in the Spring Garden community and strive to hold each member in the best light. I will value and tolerate others' differences and recognize that each member of the community brings unique talents and insights to all situations.

I will **ENCOURAGE** volunteerism through my actions and words. As a member of the community, I am called to serve and will do so to the best of my abilities. I am ever mindful that Spring Garden could not exist without volunteers who are similarly giving of themselves for the goal of educating our children. Therefore, I will treat every other volunteer with respect and appreciation.

I will **COMMUNICATE** openly and honestly. Because Waldorf Schools do not have a hierarchal institutional structure, I recognize that it is the quality of our interpersonal relationships that sustains and nourishes the school. By connecting with another person and perhaps overcoming a difficult situation, I strengthen the Spring Garden community as well as myself. Therefore, I will speak and behave toward others as I would have them speak or behave toward me. My written correspondence will be respectfully worded and signed. I will be vigilant against gossip and guard against its destructive nature. I will work toward understanding, clarity, resolution, and if necessary, healing.

Most importantly, I will **SET** an **EXAMPLE** for our children. As an adult, I serve as a role model at all times. So charged with that responsibility, I will engage in speech and behavior that are worthy for our children to imitate.

Part I: About Spring Garden Waldorf School

The History of Spring Garden Waldorf School

Spring Garden Waldorf School is an independent, self-administered school linked to other Waldorf schools by a shared philosophy. The faculty teaches in an age-appropriate manner, as indicated by Rudolf Steiner's philosophy of meeting each student where he or she is developmentally.

The Waldorf school movement was founded by Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), based on his study of Anthroposophy, the study of mankind. Steiner was an Austrian scientist, philosopher, artist, and educator who founded the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1919. Steiner created a curriculum that provided a comprehensive academic, artistic, cultural, and practical education that encouraged students to develop into creative, balanced, responsible, and free-thinking individuals. His ideas included educating the whole child – addressing cognitive, social, and creative development together – and meeting the needs of each child through a challenging and multi-sensory environment.

Spring Garden opened in 1981 in a private home with an initial enrollment of 17 students divided into three multi-age classes from kindergarten through third grade. The emphasis centered on a balanced, multi-sensory education that integrated spiritual ideals with academics.

In September of 1982, the school moved into the education wing of the Margaret Park Presbyterian Church on Russell Avenue in Akron. In 1985, Spring Garden became a member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA).

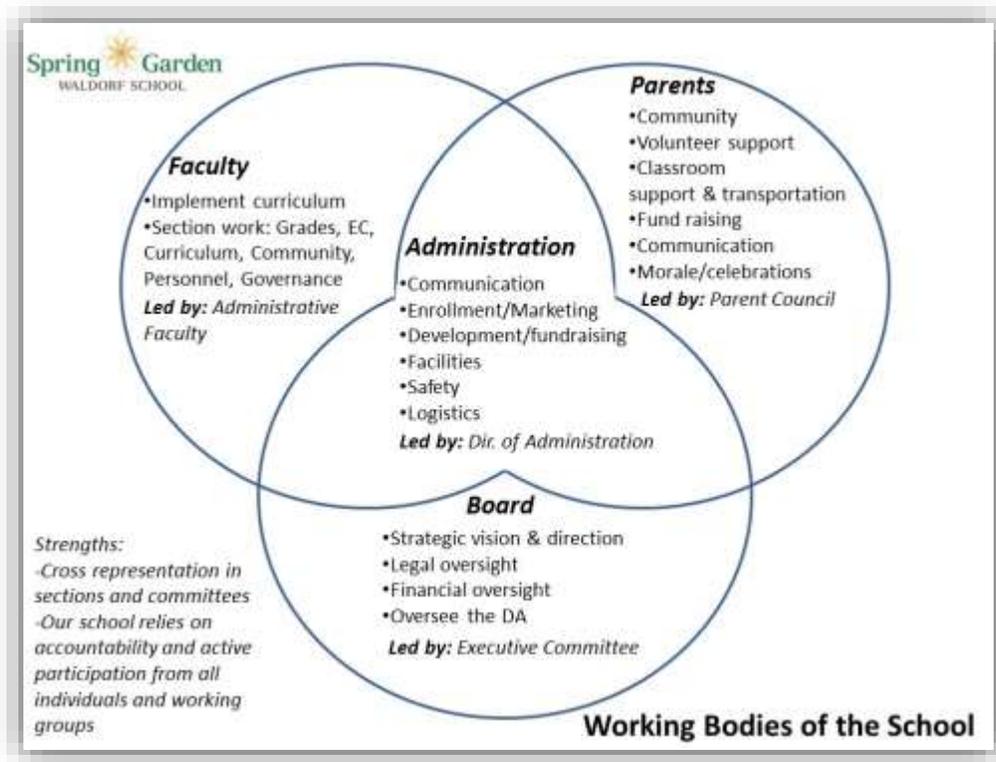
Fundraising, recruitment, and community outreach efforts were enormously successful, and enrollment increased to the point where the school eventually outgrew the church facility. In August of 1990, Spring Garden moved to a beautiful rural setting southeast of Akron, in an extensively remodeled former public elementary school. Highlights of our years there included our first Children's Festival and Annual Benefit Auction, and professional development in Waldorf education for our teachers.

In the fall of 1994, the Spring Garden community had the opportunity to purchase its own school building, where we are currently located, on twelve acres in Copley, Ohio. After countless hours spent by the Spring Garden community cleaning and preparing the building, the school opened its doors. We are proud of our school, which offers us permanent roots and room to grow and prosper in the Waldorf tradition.

Spring Garden currently serves students from preschool through Grade Eight with an integrated curriculum of world languages, choral and instrumental music, art and handwork, wood working, movement, gardening, and extra lesson. Our current student body represents a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, and family structure. We are seeing a growth in ethnic diversity as we strive to be a place where all feel welcome and can see themselves reflected in the educational experience.

How Spring Garden Waldorf School Is Organized

Governance in a Waldorf school is not concerned with exercising authority, but with addressing the real question of how the children and the spirit of the school are best served. The organizational structure of Spring Garden consistently strives to uphold Rudolf Steiner's principle of the threefold social order, in which the sphere of rights, the sphere of economics, and the sphere of spirit each operate independently of one another while still supporting the work of the others. The need for these separate yet interconnected spheres at Spring Garden has led to an organizational structure in which each constituent group within the school holds representation in each sphere of the threefold order.



The school is made up of three major working groups: the faculty, the Board, and parents. The administration coordinates the flow of information and resources between these three bodies. The functions of the school are divided among these groups with intentional overlap in certain areas so that the activities of the school can be carried out effectively with collaboration between groups, where it is appropriate. The form of leadership in Waldorf schools is republican, which means that smaller groups are empowered, through mandate, to carry out tasks determined by the larger bodies of the school. These smaller groups, including committees, work within current policies or bring recommendations to the larger bodies of the school. Working committees are structured with representation from the Faculty, the Board, and Parents to ensure representative collaboration between the bodies of the school.

School Personnel and Working Groups

Administration

The administration carries out the day-to-day business of the school. It is responsible for ensuring organizational integrity while carrying out agreed-up policies. It is the connective tissue between the bodies of the school, helping to hold the parts together and keep everything in place. Our administration is made up of the following positions:

The *Director of Administration (DA)* is the leader of the school's administrative functions. The DA has two broad areas of responsibility: communication and administration. As the communication hub for the school, the DA serves as the point person for, and ensures the flow of communication between, all of the school's constituent groups, including the faculty, administrative staff, Board members, parents, and the broader community.

The *Finance Director* handles questions or concerns about tuition assistance, tuition payments, the Miscellaneous Charges Account, buy-out of Contract Service Hours, or billing for uncompleted

Contract Service Hours. The Finance Director can also answer questions related to the school's financial and operational matters.

The *Director of Admissions and Marketing (DAM)* is the initial point of contact for all families exploring Spring Garden for their children. The DAM is also responsible for developing and implementing a school marketing plan.

The *Director of Development (DoD)* is responsible for planning, developing strategies, goal setting, coordination and evaluation of all key Development efforts and serves as the school's chief fundraiser.

The *Facilities Manager* is responsible for managing people and processes that will ensure the proper maintenance of the building and grounds.

The *Administrative Assistant* provides administrative support to the faculty and administrative staff and is responsible for maintaining school directories, student records, and all other records pertaining to the operation of the school. The Administrative Assistant also maintains the school calendar and sets appointments for the DA.

The *Assistant to the Director of Admissions and Marketing* assists the DAM with admissions and enrollment for all families and assists the DAM in implementing a school marketing plan.

Faculty

The faculty are staff members directly involved in the education of the students. They represent the thread of continuity within the school, assuring that all practices within the school are rooted in the anthroposophical basis of Waldorf education. The faculty includes all classroom teachers in the grades, all subject teachers, all Early Childhood teachers and assistant teachers, and all members of the Educational Support Team. In addition to their classroom work, faculty engage in administrative and pedagogical leadership at the school. Each member of the faculty participates in one of the following sections: governance, personnel, community, curriculum, and leadership of Early Childhood and the Grades.

Educational Support Team (EST)

The EST is made up of the Academic Tutor, Extra Lesson Teacher, Speech Pathologist, and Education Services Coordinator. This team works in collaboration with teachers, parents, and outside service providers to develop and implement accommodations to support the academic success of all students. Accommodations may include modifications within the classroom, strategies and techniques implemented by the classroom teacher, and interventions by EST members. Parent permission is needed before any child can work with the EST, and the EST and the student's teacher will monitor the student's progress and the effectiveness of the accommodations and communicate this to the student's parents. The EST reports to the Administrative Faculty.

Administrative Faculty

The Administrative Faculty comprises a group of faculty members and the DA, who together are responsible for making pedagogical and curricular decisions on behalf of the College of Teachers, based on an understanding of Waldorf education. The Administrative Faculty is comprised of the Chairs of the following sections: governance, personnel, community, curriculum, Early Childhood Chair, and Grades Chair.

College of Teachers

The College of Teachers includes the entire faculty. Through regular meetings, the College of Teachers deepens individuals' understanding of Waldorf education specifically as it pertains to

Spring Garden. This group is also responsible for providing input on the school's policies and curriculum through interaction with the Administrative Faculty.

Parent Council

The Parent Council is a supportive body of the school that promotes community enrichment and communication. It also acts as a constructive link between the Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the parent body at large. All parents of enrolled students are members of Parent Council and each class is represented by one or more parents. Parent Council is led by a leadership team of three members, one of whom serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the publicly recognized body of the school, responsible for the school's overall financial and legal health. Its membership consists of three members of the faculty; a representative of Parent Council; and up to thirteen members elected at-large. The DA is an *ex officio* member of the Board. The Board of Trustees meets monthly; twice yearly these meetings are held as Joint Board-Faculty Meetings to support the school's mission and purposes.

Curriculum

The Waldorf curriculum provides a comprehensive academic, artistic, cultural, and practical education that encourages students to develop into creative, balanced, responsible, and free-thinking individuals. The curriculum stimulates the mind with a full spectrum of traditional academic subjects. It nurtures healthy emotional development through conveying information experientially as well as academically. It teaches the hands to be valued members of the student's being through a broad range of artistic and handwork activities. Rudolf Steiner's educational philosophy enhances traditional learning with a sense of connection to cultural, moral, and spiritual values. This philosophy emphasizes respect, wonder, and reverence for human existence and the natural world.

Please note for the 20-21 school year some aspects of the curriculum may change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Early Childhood Curriculum

Students arrive in the morning and meet their teacher outside in the Meadow, where they play for about half an hour. Teachers ring a melodic bell to signal that it is time to line up, and the classes go on a short nature walk on their way into the school. This time is used for observation and discussion of the natural world as it changes through the seasons, providing a strong foundation for the powers of observation used in the sciences in the grades.

When students get inside the school, they work on personal care skills such as taking off their outside clothes, hanging them on hooks, taking off their boots, and going into the classroom, which has been thoughtfully prepared for the day's work. The students put on their indoor shoes and form a circle with the teacher's guidance. The teacher then leads the children through rhymes and verses as they welcome each other to the day.

After the morning circle, students move on to the daily activity, which has been carefully prepared and set up before the students entered the room. This preparation helps the students feel secure and comfortable, as the rhythm and routine of each day are predictable. The daily activity may include coloring, painting, or baking bread. These activities are designed to lengthen the child's attention span while working on a single task, which prepares them for the academic work introduced in Grade One. It also allows them a multi-sensory artistic experience (for example, the feel of bread dough and the smell of bread baking) while strengthening their relationship with their teacher. After the daily activity is completed, students are encouraged to engage in creative play; during this time, kindergarteners may be working on handwork projects with their teachers while their younger classmates continue to play.

Following creative play, students are led by example in a clean-up of the classroom where toys are placed in their special places, the floor is swept, and the tables are cleaned. Students are then led to another circle time where they learn seasonal songs accompanied by movement to build gross and fine motor skills, balance, crossing the midline, learning right from left, and number concepts.

Part of the daily rhythm is experienced in the form of a warm, homemade, healthy snack following the second circle time. While preparing food and eating together, children develop and practice social skills, as well as fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. In addition, when children observe or help with snack preparation, they are exposed in an innate way to basic mathematics through counting and measuring. Students use glass dishes for their snack and are responsible for washing and putting away their dishes, which helps them learn to take care of their things.

Following snack time, students are told a story by the class teacher, usually presented with puppets or marionettes. Story time nourishes students' own ability to imagine. They enter a world of rich verbal images brought to life by the rhythms and gestures of the stories they hear. Over time, students gain both a richer vocabulary and a greater capacity for experience. After the story, students again put on their outside clothes and go outdoors. Supervised, unstructured play on the Meadow encourages gross motor skills, social skills, and problem-solving abilities.

At noon, half-day students are picked up while full-day students are brought inside to the Extended Care classroom, where they have lunch family-style with their classmates and teachers. Rest time follows lunch. Every student has his or her own cot. Students may bring a blanket, a pillow, and a "lovey" (a soft stuffed doll or animal that does not light up or make noise) to have with them during this time. During rest time, the teacher will tell a story or softly play a lyre. It is common for younger children to fall asleep while the older children rest quietly and listen. Following a gentle awakening, belongings and cots are put away and students dress for outdoors and play outside until the end of the school day.

Parents of children in the Early Childhood program are welcome to observe the class at any time; however, visits pre-arranged with your child's teacher are preferred, to lessen the disruption to the classroom rhythm. Please check in at the office before entering the classrooms.

Spring Garden's Early Childhood program is licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and is in full compliance with all ODE regulations. Copies of yearly inspection reports are posted in on the Parent Bulletin Board in the School Store.

For more information about child care licensing requirements as well as how to apply for child care assistance, Medicaid health screenings and early intervention services for your child, please visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/families.stm>.

Curriculum in Grades One through Eight

Students "in the grades" at Spring Garden begin their day outside on the playground. At 8:30, a bell rings and students line up with their classes to come inside and begin their day. Once inside, students take off their outdoor clothing and greet their teacher at the classroom door with a handshake. This is a good way for the teacher to gauge how the student's day is beginning, and it teaches students how to shake the hand of an adult and make eye contact when greeting someone.

When the students enter the classroom, they take care of their personal belongings and join their teacher and classmates in a verse to begin the day. Because studies have demonstrated that children learn best when their whole bodies are engaged, students generally begin their day with speech, music, or gross motor skills combined mental academic work – for example, students in Grade Three might jump rope while working with multiplication tables, while students in Grade Seven might engage in intricate ball passing and catching games.

In Grades One through Five, Main Lesson follows these initial opening activities. In the Main Lesson, academic concepts are taught in "blocks," where a particular theme (for example, math or language arts) is studied for a number of weeks. The goal is for students to engage with the material, not to pass tests or earn grades. Main Lesson lasts for approximately two hours. After Main Lesson, students in grades one through five have a short break to eat a snack (supplied from home) and to go

outside and "breathe out" for a few minutes. When students come back inside they are energized, refreshed, and ready to start their next lesson. The remainder of the day is made up of subject classes that support the curriculum of the Main Lesson. These subjects are not optional; they are an integral part of the broader Waldorf curriculum.

In Grades Six through Eight, the students open with their class teacher or as a group of upper grades students. Following the opening, the upper grades students have two subject classes, followed by a short break for snack and recess. After snack recess, upper grades students have Main Lesson, which is taught in two hour blocks as in the lower grades. After Main Lesson, upper grades students have lunch followed by additional subject classes.

Subject periods include topics that reinforce concepts covered in Main Lesson, such as math, grammar, and reading as well as art, music, orchestra, Spanish, handwork, woodworking, gardening, and physical education. Additional information about our subject classes is detailed below.

World Languages – Spanish is taught in Grades One through Eight. In the early grades, language is taught through immersion in stories, songs, rhymes, and movement. As students progress through the grades, they develop skills in grammar, reading, translation, and conversation.

Music – Students begin choral instruction in Grade One, and chorus is a part of students' weekly schedule through Grade Eight. In Grade Three, all students learn to play the violin. As they progress through the grades, students are given the opportunity to change to a different stringed instrument or to a woodwind. Students perform both choral and symphonic pieces at assemblies, Winter and Spring Programs, and graduation, as well as a number of other special occasions.

Physical Education – In the lower grades, students engage in games and activities that provide the enjoyment of physical activity in a non-competitive environment. Competitive play begins in Grade Five, where physical education and Main Lesson studies merge and students prepare for and compete in a traditional Greek Pentathlon. Similar integrative experiences are afforded to students during the Grade Six Medieval Games and the Grade Seven Renaissance Faire.

Gardening – Gardening begins with nature studies in the early grades then progresses to the study of soils and plants. In Grade Three students plan and plant their own small garden plot as part of their Main Lesson work, and students continue to study gardening in our greenhouse and gardens through Grade Eight.

Handwork – Through knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, felting, and sewing, all students learn the enjoyment of making practical and beautiful objects with their own hands. Handwork supports literacy in the early grades, as knitting develops left-to-right eye-tracking; mathematics are supported by handwork throughout the grades, from the simple counting of stitches in the early grades to understanding geometry by creating a 12-sided ball in the upper grades.

Woodworking – Taught in Grades Five through Eight, the Woodworking program allows students to form relationships with a material, with their environment, and with their classmates. Woodworking can be used to increase students' threshold of frustration and hone their power to push against limitations, expanding the students' capabilities to change the physical world and perhaps help them to carve a place for themselves in it.

Art – Painting, drawing, and modeling deepen students' experience of the curriculum and awaken possibilities for self-awareness and self-expression. Drama is a key part of our curriculum, as students starting in Grade One prepare and present a dramatic performance each year, building up to a full production of a Shakespeare play in Grade Eight.

The Spring Garden curriculum is carefully planned to maintain a balanced schedule that is in harmony with the needs of growing students, and it is essential that all students participate in all of each day's activities. Full participation allows each child's innate capacities and strengths to shine through during the school day and affords children the opportunity to feel a high degree of self-esteem and self-confidence while teaching them how to recognize and collaborate with the strengths of their classmates.

Waldorf Curriculum for Grades 1-8

Based on the Overview for American Waldorf Teachers

	LITERATURE & HISTORY	ENGLISH & GRAMMAR	MATH	SCIENCE	GEOGRAPHY	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	MUSIC	ART AND HANDWORK	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
GRADE ONE	Folktales, fairytales and nature stories to introduce letters and writing	Pictorial introduction to the alphabet. Writing, speech exercises, phonetics	Whole numbers, four processes of arithmetic: addition, subtraction, division and multiplication	Nature studies and observation, gardening and cooking	Study of surroundings through observation	Imitation of songs, verses, counting, colors, and stories	Soprano recorder, circle games and movement exercises, rhythm and meters	Form drawing, watercolor painting, knitting, hand sewing, and beeswax modeling	Circle activities, non-competitive games, and large muscle activities
GRADE TWO	Fables, legends of heroes, heroines and saints, native American stories	Reading and Writing, Sentences, rhyming words, plays, speech work	Whole numbers, multiplication tables, number patterns, carrying and borrowing	Nature studies and observation, gardening and cooking	Study of surroundings through observation	Counting, animals, parts of the body, food, seasons, and months of the year	Recorder, learn songs to accompany fables and folk songs	Form drawing, watercolor painting, and beeswax modeling	Jump rope, non-competitive games, and large muscle activities
GRADE THREE	Biblical stories as introduction to ancient history	Sentence structure, verbs, nouns, adjectives, punctuation and spelling is introduced	Multiplication tables, measurement, learning time, patterns, carrying and borrowing	Farming: soils, farm life, grains, study of root, stem and flower, vegetables, garden work	House building: cave, tent, cliff, lake dwellings and modern homes	Counting, animals, parts of the body, food, seasons, and months of the year	Recorder, violin, music notation, and folk dances	Form drawing, watercolor painting, crocheting, embroidery, and beeswax modeling	Jump rope, non-competitive games, and large muscle activities
GRADE FOUR	Norse mythology, local history through geography, area development through settlers	Adverbs, pronouns, writing compositions and spelling rules, vocabulary and spelling	Word problems, fractions, long division, averages, factoring	Zoology, comparison of man and animal	State and local geography and mapping	Grammar, writing, reading, dictations, and individual expression	Recorder, choir, violin, harmony, rounds and canons, and reading music notation	Form drawing, watercolor painting, geometric drawing, cross stitch, and clay	Rhythmic exercises, gymnastics, kickball, and softball
GRADE FIVE	Ancient India, Persia, Mesopotamia Egypt and Greece	Parts of speech, syntax, research papers, vocabulary and spelling	Decimals, fractions, mixed numbers and metric system	Zoology - adaptations of animals to environment and botany	United States geography	Grammar, simple text, syntax, and short descriptions	Recorder, violin, choir, three-part singing, major and minor scale, and Greek music	Form drawing, watercolor painting, geometric drawing, chain stitch, clay, and woodworking	Greek pentathlon sports, softball, basketball, kickball, gymnastics, and volleyball
GRADE SIX	Founding of Rome, life of Christ, crusades, life of Mohammed, Islam medieval society	Advanced grammar, composition, exposition, narration, description, outlining vocabulary	Practical applications, geometry, beginning algebra	Botany, physics and geology	Geography of Canada, Central and South America,	Reading texts, stories, and translation	Alto and tenor recorders, choir, orchestra, minstrel songs, and Roman music	Form drawing, watercolor painting, geometric drawing, four needle knitting, clay, and woodworking	Softball, basketball, kickball, gymnastics, and volleyball
GRADE SEVEN	1400-1700 Age of Exploration, Age of Discovery, Reformation, Renaissance	Review all grammar, essays, comparisons, poetic forms, vocabulary and spelling	Algebra, practical applications, area, powers and roots	Chemistry, Physiology, Physics and Astronomy	Geography of Africa and Europe	Reading, conversation, poetry, and advanced grammar	Alto and tenor recorders, choir, orchestra, and Renaissance music	Watercolor painting, geometric drawing, felting, perspective drawing, and woodworking	Softball, basketball, kickball, gymnastics, volleyball, and football
GRADE EIGHT	1700 - Present U.S. History, industrial revolution, comparative biographies	Continue reviewing all grammar, newspaper reporting, business and practical writing	Algebra and practical applications	Chemistry, anatomy and physiology and physics	Geography of Asia and Antarctica, and world geography	Continuation of above, vocabulary building, dialogues, grammar and syntax	Alto and tenor recorders, choir, orchestra, symphonic form, and American music	Solid geometric drawing, charcoal drawing, art history, and watercolor painting	Softball, basketball, kickball, gymnastics, and volleyball

Assessment, Testing, and Promotion Criteria

Student Assessment

The Waldorf approach to student assessment is based on the student's performance in a variety of domains. It looks at the development of the human personality as well as the acquisition of academic tools; it aims not only to measure skills and accomplishments but also to create a whole picture of the student.

Waldorf teachers strive to know each student very well, and they are trained to observe children carefully and with a warm interest. This relationship begins in the initial interview, where the teacher and parents can share the family and life circumstances of the student. In the classroom, the Class Teacher greets and shakes the hand of each student to observe his or her demeanor at both the start and end of the day, and determined observations take place throughout the day.

To create a more nuanced portrait of each student, the Class Teacher seeks input from his or her colleagues regarding different perspectives, while continued input from parents reveals other facets of each child. Teachers use this input to think in a meditative, reflective way about each student and his or her particular needs.

To quantify and communicate the teachers' observations, a written student assessment is presented to parents during the mandatory parent-teacher conferences in the fall and spring. This in-depth report contains far more detail than the traditional report cards used in many schools. Main Lesson teachers create a narrative profile of each student's capacities, including strengths and

weaknesses. Subject teachers also complete written assessments with comments regarding the child's progress.

Testing and Grades

While students are assessed in a variety of ways at Spring Garden, traditional written testing and grades are used with much less frequency than in other educational settings. In the early grades, students are generally encouraged to work to the best of their own ability rather than to an external standard of performance. In the middle and upper grades, however, students begin to have a more concrete understanding of their teachers' expectations, which are assessed with graded tests and quizzes.

Standardized Testing

Each spring, students in Grades Four through Eight are given the IOWA Test of Basic Skills, a professionally scored standardized test. Students in Grade Four take only a few sections of the test, untimed; as students pass through the grades, additional sections are added until students in Grades Seven and Eight are taking the full test while timed. This gradual introduction of high-stakes testing can lessen the anxiety that standardized testing can sometimes breed.

Waldorf students tend to perform well on standardized tests, both in the Waldorf setting and after they have moved into mainstream education where standardized tests play a key role in student and school evaluation. Waldorf students perform well not because they have been drilled on test-taking but because their schooling has nurtured their capacity to assess and respond to new situations with clear, creative thinking.

Results from the IOWA tests reveal yet another facet of the whole child and help teachers with the overall assessments of the skills of each student and of the class as a whole. Test results are shared with parents during the spring parent-teacher conference. Parents are strongly discouraged from sharing these test results with their children.

Additionally, students in Grades Three through Eight receiving the EdChoice scholarship through the Ohio Department of Education must participate in all required state achievement tests.

Promotion and Retention

Promotion or retention of students at Spring Garden will be based upon a certain level of competency in all subject areas: language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science. Academic competency levels will be determined and supported by documentation, including but not limited to participation with achievement in the classroom, standardized testing, and pupil performance objectives.

Social and emotional competencies also play a role in promotion and retention. Observations by the student's teacher, subject teachers, academic tutor, speech therapist, or extra lesson teacher may be used in reviewing a student's competency.

The school reserves the right to place a student on probation at any time due to social, behavioral, or academic performance concerns. When this occurs, there will be a meeting with the parents and a document noting the conditions of the probation.

First Grade Readiness

The Waldorf curriculum uses chronological age to determine a child's grade level. Children entering kindergarten must be five years old by June 1. Children entering Grade One must be six years old by June 1, and must undergo a First Grade Readiness Assessment to determine whether or not they are ready for academic learning and to respond to the authority of teachers.

The First Grade Readiness Assessment is not a test. It is conducted as a playful game, which children find enjoyable. This assessment helps to develop a whole picture of the child in relationship to his or her own development, and it helps identify early signs of physical challenges that might stand in the way of learning. The teachers will look for right-left laterality, mid-line crossing, hand-eye coordination, verbal and visual memory, and other indicators of readiness for Grade One. A First

Grade Admissions Team, which includes the kindergarten teachers, the Extra Lesson teacher, the Director of Admissions, and an experienced grades teacher, meet in the spring to make a decision about promotion to first grade for all students currently enrolled in kindergarten. The decision about promotion to Grade One is communicated to parents in the May Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Homework

One of the purposes of homework is to develop the discipline of carving out a time outside of school in which the student works at something requiring an act of his or her will. Doing work at home is a habit that can be developed when students enter school and will create capacities to help students become lifelong learners. A general guideline for the amount of time that should be spent doing homework is ten minutes per grade each weekday.

In the early grades, this homework time can be spent in a variety of ways that would be initiated by parents or by the students themselves, since traditional homework assignments are not usually given until about Grade Three. Some suggestions are reading to your child or having your child retell the Main Lesson story or another story they heard at school that day. Another possibility might be to have them spend time doing "homework," whatever they interpret that to be.

In the middle and upper grades, some of the students' homework time will be spent on traditional assignments such as spelling, math, reading, writing, memorization, and research. Other types of homework might be making observations, conducting informal interviews, creating artwork, studying Spanish, or creating handwork projects. Students in the middle and upper grades all play musical instruments, and regular practice should be part of their homework as well.

The parents' role in homework should be limited to finding a time and place for their child to complete his or her homework and being available to answer occasional questions. If the student appears to need more direction than just occasional answers to questions, please discuss this concern with the Class Teacher.

Instrument Guidelines

Our instrument guidelines support students in developing basic skills in violin as a group with opportunities for students to move to other instruments in later grades if their skills have progressed sufficiently. For those students wishing to play a different instrument, it is important that they first demonstrate their ability with the violin during class, including reading music, before making any changes. It is important to note that students are permitted to switch instruments *only once* during their time at SGWS - once they have changed to another instrument they may change back to violin but not to a third instrument.

Instrument Rental and Outside lessons:

In the third grade students will be slowly introduced to the violin and school instruments are available for use. Beginning in the fourth grade, students will be expected to practice at home in addition to work in class, and will require their own instrument both at home and at school. Families are required to provide, and keep in good working order, their child's instrument. Some possible rental opportunities are listed below.

It is not recommended that students have outside instrument lessons before the fifth grade. Students who are interested in changing to another instrument are required to have outside lessons before playing their instrument in class, and to continue these lessons for the following years. It is the responsibility of the family who chooses another instrument to arrange for and continue these outside lessons.

Instrument Options by Grade

Third Grade - When the class is ready to use instruments, the school will provide a violin for each student. Students are not permitted to bring their own instruments into school during the third grade year.

Fourth Grade - All fourth graders play violin, no one may switch to another instrument during this year. Beginning in this school year students will need to rent or purchase their own violins, as the school violins will be used by the third graders.

Fifth Grade - The music teacher may invite some students who demonstrate aptitude in violin, exemplary behavior, and fluency in reading music to switch to cello. These changes are initiated solely at the discretion of the teacher, please do not request these changes in the fifth grade year. Viola or bass are not used in fifth grade, as they require fluency in different musical clefs.

Sixth Grade - Students may audition to demonstrate proficiency before changing to viola, cello, bass, flute or clarinet. See "auditioning for a new instrument" below for further information.

Seventh Grade - Students may audition to demonstrate proficiency before changing to viola, cello, bass, flute or clarinet. See "auditioning for a new instrument" below for further information.

Eighth Grade - Students may audition to demonstrate proficiency before changing to viola, cello, bass, flute, or clarinet. See "auditioning for a new instrument" below for further information.

Auditioning for a new instrument:

In order to change to a new instrument, a student must initiate the following process:

1. The student must continue to play violin in class while the new instrument is being learned. They should have a discussion with the strings teacher to inquire whether the instrument in which they are interested would be permitted in the current arrangement. As the balance of instruments in a class or combined orchestra is important, the teacher may decide not to permit the switch at this time.
2. If the teacher has expressed openness to adding the new instrument to the orchestra, the student's family is responsible for renting the instrument. Suggested rental facilities are listed below.
3. The student must take at least 6 private lessons with an instructor on the new instrument. The lessons should be at least 30 minutes long, once per week. This may depend on the availability of the instructor.
4. The student must provide the strings teacher with electronic or hard copy documentation of the six lessons, including a signature of the instructor and the parents.
5. Once documentation of the six lessons has been presented, the student must set up a time to audition their new instrument for the strings teacher. This audition will include both a prepared piece as well as a sight-reading exercise. The audition time may be at lunch, recess, or another time convenient for all parties involved. This is the most important part of the process, and at this point it will be determined if the student may begin to use their new instrument with the rest of the class.

It is important to note that SGWS does not provide direct instruction in instruments other than violin. Students wishing to play other instruments are required to maintain private lessons outside of school in order to allow their skills to match the level of material presented to the classes. Students

whose skill levels in a new instrument do not meet the expectations of the class may be required to change back to violin in order to allow individual instruction.

Remedial and Intervention Services

Remedial and intervention services at SGWS are provided by members of the Educational Support Team (EST). The EST is made up of the Academic Tutor, Extra Lesson Teacher, Speech and Language Pathologist, and Education Services Coordinator. This team works in collaboration with teachers, parents, and outside service providers to develop and implement accommodations to support the academic success of all students. Accommodations may include modifications within the classroom, strategies and techniques implemented by the classroom teachers, and interventions by EST members. Parent permission is needed before any child can receive individual and/or group intervention and/or assessment from the EST, and the EST and the student's teacher will monitor the student's progress and the effectiveness of the accommodations and communicate this to the student's parents. The EST reports to the Administrative Faculty.

Students at SGWS benefit from individualized attention and curative educational practices from all teachers at all age levels. Additionally, some students are identified through formal or informal processes for intervention and remedial services to address existing issues or concerns about future needs. The following information outlines the services that are provided in the three areas currently offered: speech therapy, tutoring services, and extra lesson classes. It also explains the process for identification of students for these services in individual and small group sessions.

Educational Services Coordination

- The Educational Services Coordinator (ESC) manages the activities of the Educational Support Team and serves as a resource to parents and faculty. This includes development, implementation, tracking, and communication of student accommodation plans. The ESC also serves as EST liaison to Copley-Fairlawn Pupil Services and the Administrative Faculty. Additionally, the ESC coordinates standardized testing for SGWS.

Speech and Language Services

- The Speech Language Pathologist does not work with all students at any grade level; students are identified for individual or small group services
- The Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) informally screens all students entering Grade One, as well as all students new to SGWS at any grade level. Screening is also provided for Early Childhood and the grades based on teacher recommendations.
- Students who may benefit from speech intervention in the areas of articulation, voice, and fluency are identified by the SLP based on developmental nouns and/or evidence based best practice. Additionally, teachers can coordinate with the SLP for further assessments if needed.
- The plan to address and provide services is generated by the SLP and communicated to the Main Lesson teacher and the parents for agreement. Parents agree to, or waive, these services before sessions begin.
- Students with language disorders are identified through formal assessment procedures, coordinated by the Education Support Team. If a student qualifies to receive speech and language services, a Services Plan is developed and implemented. Four times over the course of the year, a written progress report is provided to the parents and Main Lesson teacher.

Tutoring Services

- The tutor administers an academic assessment to all students in the spring of second grade. The tutor also conducts an individual reading fluency screen of each Grade Three student in September to determine if tutoring services would be recommended.

- After Grade Three, students requiring tutoring services in language or math skills are identified by the Main Lesson teacher. Observations by the tutor in main lesson or practice classes can also lead to further assessments and/or identification for services.
- The plan to address and remediate issues is generated by the tutor including information regarding the time that sessions will be held, the areas of focus, goals, and a timeline to re-assess the need for services. This plan is communicated by the tutor to the parents and main lesson teacher in writing.
- Parents agree to, or waive, these services before sessions begin.
- Two times in the course of the year, in conjunction with student evaluations, the tutor provides written updates with regards to the activities done in tutoring sessions and the progress being made towards the goals established in the plan.

Extra Lesson

- The Extra Lesson teacher works with every student in Kindergarten, Grade One, and Grade Two. Additionally, assessments are conducted on all new students entering Grade One as part of the enrollment process. Whole classes of Kindergarten students attend lessons outside the classroom for 15 minutes per week. The Extra Lesson teacher also participates in First Grade Readiness Assessments and Second Grade Assessments in conjunction with Early Childhood and Grade Two teachers to determine the developmental progress of individual students. Half of the Grade One and Grade Two classes at a time attend lessons, once per week, during subject periods. These activities provide the opportunity for long-term observation by the extra lesson teacher to allow identification of students who may require additional services in later grades.
- After Grade Two, students requiring additional remedial movement activities individually or in small groups are identified by the Extra Lesson teacher with input from the Main Lesson teacher. Observations by the Extra Lesson teacher or the Main Lesson teacher apart from the formal assessments can also lead to identification for services.
- The plan to address and remediate issues is generated by the Extra Lesson teacher, including information regarding the time that sessions will be held, the areas of focus, goals, and a timeline to re-assess the need for services. This plan is communicated by the Extra Lesson teacher to the parents and Main Lesson teacher in writing.
- Parents agree to, or waive, these services before sessions begin.
- Two times in the course of the year, in conjunction with student evaluations, the Extra Lesson teacher provides evaluations for all students in Kindergarten, Grade One, and Grade Two; as well as written updates with regards to the activities done in individual or small group sessions and the progress being made towards the goals established in the plan.

Intervention Indicators for Teachers:

- When reading, letter sounds are missing
- Missing short vowel sounds
- Missing blends
- Difficulty in reading left to right, poor tracking skills, beginning pronunciation of words using letters at the end of words
- Physical difficulties in large motor skills, fine motor skills
- Seems behind, lacking problem-solving skills when compared to peers
- Difficulty in communication effectively with others such as an articulation, language or voice impairment or stuttering
- Observable deficit in short term memory and/or long term memory skills

Festivals and Celebrations

Festivals and programs at Spring Garden celebrate the living rhythms of the year, taken up in each class in different ways, and help provide a common foundation for students and the Spring Garden community to mark time and experience traditions through the year. Our festivals provide imaginations of archetypal truths about human nature, life, and experience, and we strive to bring a global nature to our celebrations.

Dates for all festivals can be located on the yearly school calendar. However, please remember that all dates are subject to change, and you should watch the Tuesday Note and Weekly Announcements to stay apprised of any changes to our schedule.

Please note for the 20-21 school year that festivals, celebrations, and student performances may look different due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rose Ceremony – This all-school assembly welcomes students into Grade One. During the ceremony, the new Grade One students "cross over" a bridge from their parents to join their class, where they are met at the other end of the bridge by a student in Grade Eight with a rose as a symbol of welcome. This Grade Eight student will be the Grade One student's "buddy" throughout the school year and will assist the Grade One student during activities such as lunch, Michaelmas kite-flying, and ice skating.

Michaelmas – Each September, near the autumn equinox, the school celebrates Michaelmas. Archangel Michael is celebrated for inspiring strength and courage. In his battle against an evil dragon, Archangel Michael represents the unconquered hero fighting against the powers of darkness. It is a time of year when we face the quickly darkening days leading up to winter and nurture our inner light to face the cold months ahead. In the weeks preceding the festival, students in all classes hear stories and sing songs about the brave knight who overcame the dragon with his sword of light, and these stories are also represented through students' artwork. Much preparation leads to an evening program in which all students from all grades sing and perform a traditional Michaelmas play.

Children's Festival – This is a highly anticipated annual event, open to the public, where children and their families come together to enjoy puppetry, make-and-take crafts, live entertainment, an artisan's market with vendors from around Akron, and delicious food from the Spring Garden Cafe.

Spiral of Light – This reverent, candle-lit ceremony takes place during the school day. Students enter a dark room, laid with fresh pine boughs in a spiral pathway. At the center a large, lit candle is placed on a table. Accompanied by soft singing and the ringing of bells, each student walks slowly and thoughtfully to the center of the spiral, lights their candle, then walks back outward, placing their lit candle somewhere along the spiral path. With each student, the light grows brighter, illuminating the room and reminding us of the eternal light that is within each of us and within all of mankind.

May Day Festival – During the first week of May, the fullness of spring and the impending arrival of summer are celebrated with flowers, music, dancing, and singing. Early Childhood students dance around a Maypole early in the morning, while students in the grades wait until after Main Lesson, when an all-grades procession is led to the Sportsman's Club adjacent to our property. There, students participate in a scavenger hunt, with teams made up of students from each grade. Following the scavenger hunt, students in the lower grades weave ribbons around Maypoles while students in the upper grades play madrigals on their recorders.

Graduation Ceremony – Each graduating class works together to develop its own unique graduation ceremony. Held the evening preceding the last day of school, this is an important event for the graduating Grade Eight students, who are given a special send-off by the entire community. This emotional, heartfelt evening includes the Grade One students giving their Grade Eight Buddies a rose, bringing the year to full circle, and the passing of the torch to the Grade Seven students who will enter Grade Eight the next year.

Birthdays – Student birthdays are very special occasions in Waldorf classrooms. Each child's birthday celebration is carefully coordinated by the Class Teacher. Please contact your child's teacher for more information about how birthdays are celebrated in his or her classroom and to schedule a day to celebrate your child's birthday with the class.

Student Performances

Assemblies – Assemblies are held periodically throughout the school year on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (see the current school calendar for assembly dates). Assemblies are an opportunity for students in Grades Two through Eight to share some of the songs and activities they have been working on as a class. Parents are welcome and are encouraged to attend, as these assemblies offer insight into the depth of experience children receive through Waldorf education.

Class Plays – Drama is part of Waldorf education from Grade One, and children in all grades prepare for and perform a play each year. Students in the early grades perform in their classrooms, generally for parents only. In later grades, student productions are staged in the gym and are open to ever-wider audiences. Finally, in Grade Eight, students perform a full production of a Shakespeare play as the culmination of their drama experience at Spring Garden.

Musical Programs – Each year, two seasonal evening programs are presented in which students in Grades Three through Eight perform both choral and orchestral pieces they have been learning. Programs are wonderful opportunities for parents, families, and friends to see how music is woven into the Spring Garden curriculum.

Part II: Communication

At Spring Garden Waldorf School we cherish human connection. There are many diverse personalities, qualities, and experiences that make our community unique. We value and model direct, personal interactions which respect and embrace this diversity. We set time aside for real-time conversations. We grow from the wealth of other people's ideas and perspectives. When we are in agreement, there is space for great creative potential. It is especially important to use direct conversation when we experience conflict or disagreement with another person. Sharing perspectives may seem difficult in these instances. It is in these difficult conversations where we can see a larger picture, develop deeper connections, and restore trust.

By communicating honestly and listening with empathy, we can address our particular concerns while contributing to the overall health of our community. This is a powerful practice which allows us to unite ourselves with those seeking the same goal of educating our students in a compassionate environment.

Communicating With Spring Garden Waldorf School

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to speak with the appropriate person as soon as possible so they can be answered or resolved quickly.

Curricular, pedagogical, or classroom concerns should be addressed directly to your child's teacher. Should you feel that you have not received appropriate resolution to your question or concern from the teacher, you should make an appointment to meet with the DA.

Concerns about financial matters, including tuition payments, tuition assistance, or MCA account charges, should be addressed to the Finance Director. Please note that the Board-directed Tuition Assistance Committee, not the Finance Director, is responsible for decisions concerning Tuition Assistance. Also, it is essential that you read and follow the school's Tuition Assistance Policy, including application deadlines, to be considered for tuition assistance.

Questions about Contract Service Hours can be addressed to the Finance Director. Work Days and other specific volunteer opportunities are announced as they are scheduled, and there are many opportunities for Service Hours during the school year (driving for and chaperoning field trips, working in the School Store, and tending the garden, to name a few). If you are unsure how to fulfill your Service Hours, please ask your child's teacher or your classroom Parent Council Representative to help find the best way to put your talents to use in service of the school.

Questions about admissions or enrollment, including questions about paperwork and the application and admissions process in general, should be directed to the DAM.

Ethical or legal concerns – Should parents have an ethical or legal concern with respect to school activities, they should set an appointment to meet with the DA. Following the meeting, the DA will determine whether the matter can be resolved using current policy or if the Board of Trustees should be involved. The DA will follow up with parents when the matter is resolved.

General comments or suggestions – We are always interested in receiving constructive feedback about the school and its operations. Our administration and faculty have an open-door policy, and you are welcome to approach them at any time with general comments or suggestions. Additionally, we solicit anonymous feedback each year via our Parent Survey.

Guidelines to address performance concerns – Situations arise at times when parents or colleagues may have concerns regarding the performance of a faculty or staff member. In those cases we strive to work with direct warmth to address the situation and come to a resolution that meets the concerns. However, at times concerns directly addressed may not be resolved, and there may be need for further action by the school as an organization. Toward that end, we have developed the following guidelines for addressing concerns as they arise. Faculty and staff, including the Director of Administration and Personnel Committee members, will direct concerns along this process when brought to their attention. During this process, all parties are welcome to bring an advocate.

- 1) *Direct Communication* – The best way to work through a concern is directly between the people involved. The person with the concern will bring it to the faculty or staff member in question at an appropriate time and place, making clear their concern and their desire to find resolution.
- 2) *Report to the DA* – When the concern has been discussed directly and continues to exist, or when the person bringing the concern does not feel it has been addressed, the concern will be brought to the Director of Administration (DA) for discussion and next steps of action. Based on the discussion and the concerns, the DA will work with the people involved to resolve the concern. The DA will review the concern with the faculty member. Other possible steps include involving the mentor and setting up a meeting to include a neutral party.

3) *Formal Complaint* – If the concern has been directly addressed following the previous two steps and resolution is still not found, the concern will be brought to the Director of Administration or a member of the Personnel Committee. This person will ask directly if this is being brought as a formal complaint and if steps one and two have occurred. When this is the case, they will find out in as much detail as possible what has occurred. The person bringing the complaint will be asked to describe, in writing, what events have led to their complaint. At this point in time the person bringing the formal complaint will be informed that they will no longer be involved in the situation, nor will they be informed of what action the school will take as this will now become a confidential internal personnel matter. The faculty or administration member will be made aware that a complaint about them has been submitted. The faculty/administration member will have the opportunity to know the nature of the complaint and be given the opportunity to respond in writing. The information regarding the concern will be brought to the Personnel Committee as a whole. This group will evaluate the concern as well as any other connected incidents to identify patterns and implications for future action. Concerns regarding Administrative staff will be directed to the President of the Board of Trustees. When a faculty member is involved the Personnel Committee will determine future actions to be taken, including but not limited to watching the situation for further developments, direct conversation with the faculty member involved, bringing the matter to the Administrative Faculty for further discussion, or recommending actions to be taken to the Administrative Faculty. Documents, including the written formal complaint, will be kept by the Director of Administration in a Personnel Committee file for future reference.

Conflict with a non-staff member of the Spring Garden Community – The first step in resolving conflict with a non-staff member of the Spring Garden community is to attempt direct resolution by talking to the person involved. Third-party dispute resolution is reserved for grievances directly related to school operations, students, or curriculum and is not used for personal disagreements between community members. A Grievance Form may be submitted to the Administrative Faculty through the DA. The grievance will be evaluated by the Administrative Faculty, without prejudice, and a response will be given within two Administrative Faculty meetings (typically three weeks) after receipt of the grievance.

When an impasse is so severe that the parent involved cannot remain as a constructive member of the community, consideration should be given as to whether another school would be a better match for the family. Continued conflict caused by a member of the Spring Garden community may be cause for the family to be asked to leave the school.

Communication from Spring Garden Waldorf School

We communicate with parents in a number of different ways. It is essential that you read all correspondence from the school promptly so you stay informed about school events.

Emergency Communications: The school uses OneCallNow, an automated dialing system, to alert parents of school closures due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, including early closures (which are rare but which do occur). Please make sure the office has up-to-date contact information so our system can reach you. We make every attempt to inform you of school closures by 6:30 a.m. Please note that, in the event of a closing, all school events and activities for the day are canceled as well.

In addition to OneCallNow, school closings will also be listed on the following local television and radio stations:

WKYC Channel 3
Fox 8

WEWS Channel 5
WNIR-100 FM

Community Directory: Each year we publish a directory with contact information for all our families. This is provided for your personal use only. This information is not intended to be used for business purposes and should not be given in whole or part to any other person, school, or organization without express written permission from Spring Garden Waldorf School.

Email: The *Tuesday Note* is a brief newsletter published weekly throughout the school year and as needed during the summer. It contains essential information about classroom activities, Waldorf education, and upcoming events.

www.sgws.org: Our website contains not only a wealth of information about our school but also a blog with information on Waldorf education, alumni accomplishments, parenting, and child development. The Parent Directory and many of our standard forms can be downloaded from our website. We also have a strong social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

Mailbox Folders: Each family has a folder in the mailbox files that sit outside the school office. It is your responsibility to check your mail folder frequently. **Please note that mailbox folders should be used for school business only and may not be used for solicitation purposes – parents must get approval from the office prior to distributing any information in the mailbox files.** There is a Parent Bulletin Board in the School Store that can be used to post general notices for the school community. *Please do not place clothing, books, or dishes in the mailbox folders.*

Please note per our Health and Safety Plan that parents will have limited access to the building and therefore all communication will be sent electronically for the 20-21 school year.

Parent Meetings: Attendance at Class Meetings and parent-teacher conferences is mandatory because these meetings are the most efficient way for teachers to communicate directly with parents. Please see “Meetings” in Daily Procedures and Policies (page 28) for more information.

Parent Handbook: All parents receive a copy of the Parent Handbook, which describes the school's philosophy, policies, and procedures. The Parent Handbook can also be downloaded from our website or the Tuesday Note in PDF format.

Part III: Admissions

Admissions Policy- Spring Garden Waldorf School strongly believes that a Waldorf education should be available to all children. The school seeks students who can contribute to and benefit from its Waldorf curriculum. Spring Garden Waldorf School accepts enrollment applications for all students throughout the year. Students are selected for admission to the school on the basis of academic potential, developmental maturity, school achievement, and readiness for the school's program. In all cases, the school retains the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether or not to select a student for admission or to re-enroll a student. For early childhood students, the early childhood faculty and the EST (Educational Support Team, consisting of the Academic Tutor, Extra Lesson Teacher, and the Speech Pathologist) are responsible for making the decision regarding probationary acceptance. For grades students, the main lesson teacher, along with subject teachers and the EST, are responsible for making the decision regarding probationary acceptance. Typically those decisions are based upon multiple criteria:

- academic readiness or qualification
- maturity
- size and composition of the current class
- affiliation with the school
- appropriateness of the match between the family and the school

When the school cannot offer a place to a child, we may offer counsel on other schools that may be able to accommodate the student.

When there are more qualified candidates than openings available, the school will continue to accept enrollment applications and place those names on a waiting list. If an opening becomes available, students from the waiting list will be interviewed following the criteria below:

- A current student who should be moved to a higher or lower class (rare occurrence)
- A student of a teacher or staff member at the school
- A student with a sibling already at the school
- A legacy student (child) of a former Waldorf student or relative of a current parent
- A student transferring from another Waldorf school
- Overall profile of the class and the match between the needs and qualifications of the student with the needs of the school.

Spring Garden Waldorf School recruits and admits students and personnel of any racial identification, ancestry, nationality, native language, socioeconomic background, family structure, age, religious beliefs and/or belief system, gender, sexual identity, appearance, occupation, and political affiliation, or any other protected class or group, to all the rights and privileges of all of our programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of any racial identification, ancestry, nationality, native language, socioeconomic background, family structure, age, belief system, gender, sexual identity, appearance, occupation, and political affiliation or any other protected class or group in the administration of our educational policies, scholarships, loans fee waivers, educational programs, and athletic or extracurricular activities. All are encouraged to apply.

Admissions Procedure (each step will follow completion of the previous):

Application - An application and authorization to release records is submitted to the Director of Admissions and Marketing (DAM) along with the application fee. The DAM requests records from the current school.

Records Review - When records are received, a file will be placed in the office for review. A review sheet will be placed in the mailbox of each faculty member (lead teacher and subject teachers) involved in the admissions decision as well as each EST member. These review sheets will provide an opportunity for feedback based on the records. All feedback must be returned to Admissions within 48 business hours.

School Visit/Interview

Grades 1-8 Applicants: The DAM will schedule a two day visit for grades students and a private meeting for the parents and teacher. The DAM will inform the faculty of the student's visit dates. The DAM will also notify the applicable faculty to update the review sheets in the student's file, providing an opportunity for written feedback during the visit. The EST may set up an observation and/or evaluation of the student during this visit time. Following the visit, an admissions decision will be made based on the feedback from faculty and EST. The DAM will communicate the admissions decision to the family within two business days of the student's visit. The DAM will schedule a First Grade Readiness Assessment for incoming first grade students not currently enrolled in our kindergarten.

Early Childhood Applicants: Early Childhood applicants will come to school with their parents for a scheduled interview as part of the admission process. The EST may set up an observation and/or evaluation of the student during this time. Within 1 business day of this interview, the review sheet will be returned to the applicant's file. Within two business days of the Early Childhood interview, the class teachers will communicate an admission decision to the DAM who will in turn communicate it to the family.

Toilet Training Policy for Early Childhood Children: Children attending both the three- and five-day preschool/kindergarten program at SGWS must be toilet trained before attendance to the program commences. A fully toilet trained child can:

- Recognize his/her need to use the toilet without being prompted by an adult
- Tell the teacher of his/her need to use the toilet in time to prevent an accident
- Also attempt to use the toilet when asked by the teacher
- Maintain independence while disrobing, aiming, wiping, flushing, washing hands, and redressing
- Wake up dry from a nap
- Rarely, if ever, have accidents*

*An 'accident' can be defined as the soiling of clothing by urination or defecation. If an accident does happen, a toilet-trained child can report to his/her teacher the need to change clothes and can complete this task without adult assistance. If the accident involves a bowel movement, parents will be called to clean/change their child at school, or pick their child up. If accidents begin to happen regularly, enrollment may be affected.

Probationary Acceptance - All new students are accepted for a ten week probationary period. The DAM will notify applicable faculty and EST to update review sheets to allow for observations and plans to address anticipated needs. During this probationary period, the student's class teacher, in conjunction with all faculty who work with the student and the EST, will assess Spring Garden Waldorf School's ability to address the needs of this new student.

By the end of the fourth week of the probation, all faculty will have updated the student review sheets and return them to Admissions. The class teacher and DAM will review the file. If there are no concerns regarding the student's probationary enrollment, the class teacher will talk with the student's parents to let them know things are proceeding well and will document the conversation in the student's file.

If there are any concerns about Spring Garden's ability to serve the student during the probationary period, the DAM will coordinate a meeting with the main lesson teacher, the EST and other appropriate faculty to determine SGWS's ability to meet the student's needs. As a result of the meeting, a support plan will be drafted stating the school's ability to support the student and the school's expectations of the family to support the student. The DAM will ensure the family receives communication while SGWS is evaluating the ability to meet the child's needs. Once the support plan is completed, the EST and the class teacher will review the document with the family and the Administrative Faculty will be informed of the enrollment concerns. Final decision regarding full enrollment is held by the Administrative Faculty.

Enrollment Decision - At the conclusion of the probationary period, if there were no concerns noted during the probation about the school's ability to serve the student, the DAM will communicate in writing to the family that the student is fully enrolled.

If concerns have been noted during the probationary period, the DAM will coordinate a meeting prior to the end of the probationary period with the class teacher, the EST and other appropriate faculty to recommend to the Administrative Faculty one of the following possibilities:

- The student is fully enrolled with a support plan.
- The student's probationary enrollment will be extended.

- The student's enrollment will not be continued.

The DAM will communicate the admissions decision to the family.

Admissions Policy Approved by Administrative Faculty 5/2019

Part IV: Financial Obligations

Tuition

Before a student can attend class, a financial contract for tuition must be completed, signed, and returned to the school. There are three tuition payment options available:

Annual Tuition - Payment in full is due on August 15 of the current school year.

Semester Payments - One half of the tuition is due by August 15; the other half is due by the first day school resumes after Holiday Break in January of the current school year.

Twelve Monthly Payments - File a completed Form 8 for Automatic Bank Draft Withdrawal and pay monthly installments starting on July 16 and ending on June 16 of the current school year. Payments must be made by automatic bank draft only.

Once a contract has been signed, tuition payments for the full year are required whether or not the student starts or completes the academic year. Please note that students will be withdrawn from school if any payments due are not paid in full within two months of the due date.

All financial terms for current tuition and fees are set forth in the School-Parent/Guardian Contract. Statements will be put in parent mailboxes by the 20th of each month. If you have questions about contracts or billing, please contact the Finance Director.

Continued enrollment is subject to yearly review by the Board of Trustees and the faculty, with consideration given to the following:

- 1) All previous financial obligations were met on time.
- 2) All recommendations and requirements for the student were met.
- 3) The family has acted in a supportive and cooperative manner with Spring Garden Waldorf School policies and procedures.

Any request to change your family's contractual obligation during the school year should be directed to the Finance Director.

EdChoice Ohio

Spring Garden Waldorf School participates in the EdChoice Ohio program. For more details, visit www.education.ohio.gov.

Tuition Assistance Policy

Spring Garden Waldorf School (SGWS) is committed to providing tuition assistance to qualified families, based on its ability to do so.

Assistance in the form of **tuition reduction** is provided on the basis of need, which is determined by comparing the income and resources of applicants against their assets and liabilities. It is our expectation that parents applying for tuition assistance will first thoroughly assess their financial status and will turn to other sources before requesting tuition assistance from SGWS. Please know that, while it is our aim to make the possibility of a Waldorf education a reality for as many students as possible, our ability to do so is limited and, as a result, parents must be prepared and able to shoulder the majority of their tuition obligation.

Those interested in applying for tuition assistance should set an appointment to meet with the Finance Director, who will review the school's philosophy and policy for tuition assistance. During this meeting, parents will also be informed of alternative ways to fund their child's education. If the parents and the Finance Director determine that an application for tuition assistance is appropriate, the Finance Director will review the requirements of the application with the parents.

Families seeking tuition assistance must submit an application online through FACTS which must include: signed copies of all pages and schedules of the previous year's federal tax returns for both parents; all W-2 and/or 1099 and/or business tax returns; and the FACTS application fee.

All applications must be submitted by the deadline. Any application that is late will be reviewed by the Tuition Assistance Committee after all applications that were turned in on time have been reviewed. If there are remaining funds at the end of this process, the committee will review remaining applications in the order that they were received.

The Tuition Assistance Committee will not become involved in any financial arrangements with parents. It is typical to consider both natural parents' financial resources in evaluating the need for tuition assistance. In the case of separated, divorced, or never married parents, the parent or guardian responsible for paying tuition, whether family or court designated, must fill out the Financial Aid Application with FACTS.

Each parent is expected to contribute income if there are no pre-school children at home.

Families with outstanding tuition arrears are not eligible to apply for tuition assistance. Additionally, SGWS has the right to cancel contracts for families whose arrears remain unpaid at the beginning of the school year for which the award was granted.

Committee Review: The Tuition Assistance Committee (which is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee and comprises the Finance Director, the Director of Administration and a Finance Committee member) will review the recommendation of the FACTS along with the cover letter submitted by the parents as the basis for making a recommendation for assistance. After review, discussion, clarification, and comparison to similar family situations, the Committee will vote on the amount of the award. The committee will send a written letter of award to the applications informing them of the amount of tuition assistance, as well as the remaining balance that will be required to be paid.

Clarifications/Exceptions: It should be noted that no tuition assistance is provided to pre-school families unless they have siblings in the upper grades. Parents must reapply on an annual basis for tuition assistance. Further, an offer for tuition assistance in any given year is no guarantee of any future commitment to tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Committee, in tandem with the Finance Committee, will review procedures and policies annually, and reserves the right to make changes as required.

Appeals: If no assistance is granted, or if the award received is less than is required to enroll, applicants may write a letter of appeal to the Tuition Assistance Committee. This letter must include detailed information concerning any expenses or financial obligations which were excluded from the original application. Additionally, the letter should include the amount of assistance needed in order to enroll in or remain at the school.

Contract Service Hours

As part of their contract with the school, each family is obligated to provide a number of mandatory Contract Service Hours. Service hours help reduce the overall operating costs for the school while providing students with a positive model of community service. They also build our community by providing parents and teachers opportunities to become better acquainted in a supportive, informal setting.

Service Hour opportunities are posted on our website, announced in weekly emails, and publicized throughout the building. If you have an idea for a special project you wish to pursue to fulfill your Service Hours, check in the school office for information on how to submit a proposal.

Parents are responsible for keeping track of their Service Hours by documenting them using the Google Form listed in the Tuesday Note. Record your activity as soon as possible to keep your record up-to-date.

The number of Service Hours required is based on the student's enrollment status and is indicated in the contract. A buy-out option is available; contact the Finance Director for more information. Families who receive tuition assistance of any kind may not buy out of Service Hours.

Work Days

Scheduled Work Days are opportunities for faculty, staff, alumni, and current families to mitigate the costs of building maintenance by working together to perform a variety of routine tasks, both inside and out (depending on the weather). The Parent/Guardian Contract requires each family to complete 10% of their Contract Service Hours on scheduled work days. Work Days are scheduled according to the season and to the building's needs, and they are announced to the community by email.

Fundraising

Fundraising plays an essential role in keeping tuition costs down and in strengthening our community. Various fundraisers held throughout the school year reduce tuition fees by approximately 10% per student. Your contract obliges you to support our two major fundraisers, the Annual Giving Campaign and the Annual Benefit Auction. We ask that you also consider supporting additional fundraising programs and events to the best of your ability, whether financially or through volunteerism.

Part V: Daily Procedures and Policies

Arrival and Dismissal

The school day begins promptly at 8:30. Students are encouraged to arrive at 8:10 to allow them time to prepare for the start of the day. It is extremely important that students arrive on time. Students who arrive late disrupt the class, and the late student faces a disadvantage in entering a Main Lesson period that has already begun.

Arrival

For the 20-21 school year, parents/guardians may begin arriving with their student(s) at 8:10. Each car will be greeted by a faculty or staff member to confirm a health check was completed per our Health and Safety Plan and that each student has a mask. Once the health check is completed, parents with students in grades 1-8 will proceed to drive through the circle to drop their student off. Masked students will enter the building and go directly to their designated area outside. A faculty or staff member will assist younger students with getting into the building and finding their class.

Early childhood families will be directed to enter the early childhood parking lot. Parents and students, following mask protocol, will accompany their student to their designated meeting area. Each parent/student will wait in a socially distant line to be greeted by their student's teacher. Once the student has been received by their teacher, the parent/guardian will hang their student's belongings on their outdoor hook.

Families with students in the early childhood and grades will be directed to park in the early childhood parking lot. A faculty/staff member will assist in directing grades students from the parking lot to the main door. Parents/guardians will accompany their early childhood student to their designated area as detailed in the paragraph above.

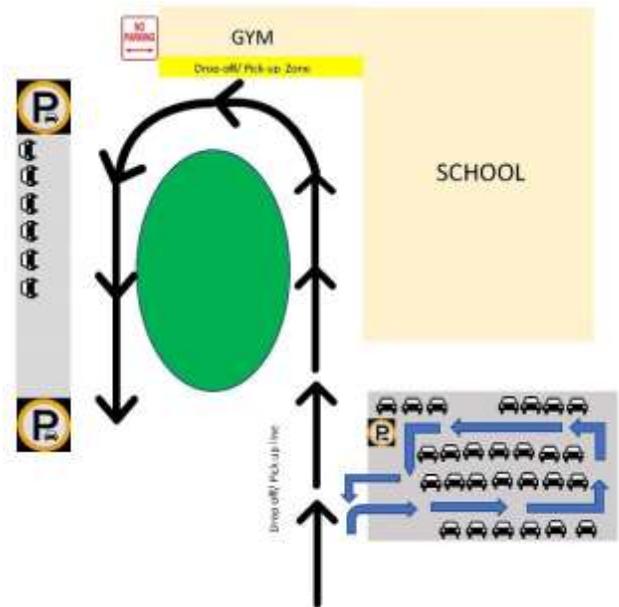
Dismissal

Half-day Early Childhood students are dismissed to their parents at 12:00 noon. Children must be picked up by 12:10 or parents will be charged a late fee of \$10 for each 15-minute interval they are late. Parents who are late due to unforeseen circumstances should contact the office as soon as possible to advise us who will be picking up their child(ren) and at what time. Half-day students are not allowed to remain in the Meadow to play after their dismissal.

Students in the Early Childhood Extended Care Program and in the Grades are dismissed at 3:15. Students must be picked up by 3:35 p.m. Families will be charged a late fee of \$10 for each 15-minute interval they are late.

Students in grades 1-8 will be dismissed from the drop-off/pick-up zone at the front of the school. Students, wearing masks, will wait in socially-distant spaces designated for each class. Students will be dismissed directly to their vehicle. Parents/guardians are not permitted to walk to the dismissal area to pick-up their students for the 20-21 school year.

Early Childhood families will be directed to park in the early childhood parking lot. Parents/guardians, following mask protocol, will pick of their student's belongings and then proceed to their dismissal area where they will wait in a socially distant line for their student to be dismissed to them.



Families with students in the early childhood and grades will pick up their early childhood student first and then proceed to the carpool lane to pick up their grades student(s).

If a family is late picking up their student, a faculty member will wait outside with the student while parents/guardians on file will be contacted by the office.

The diagram to the right shows our traffic flow pattern. *Please note the following:*

- The speed limit on school grounds is 5 mph at all times
- **Talking on the phone or texting while driving is prohibited**
- Music should be turned off or down on the grounds
- There is no parking at any time by the yellow curb in front of the building. This is an emergency vehicle zone that will be blocked to all non-emergency traffic during school hours. The lane will be opened at 3:15 p.m. for traffic to be directed around the Oval to pick up students.
- When a driver is picking up or dropping off a student in front of the school, the driver **MUST** remain in the car. Should you need to leave your car, please park in the lot near the early childhood meadow or in the Sportsman's Club parking area.
- Double parking is not permitted. Students should not walk between cars to get to their ride. *Students must always exit and enter their vehicle on the curb side.*
- Students in grades 1 through 8 must be picked up directly from the car pool lane.

Transportation

Busing or public transportation is not available to Spring Garden students. Carpooling is a convenient and sometimes necessary arrangement for parents. The easiest way to create a carpool is to review the Community Directory and find the families closest to you. You may be able to join an existing carpool or you can start a new one. Parents are asked to work together in transporting students to and from school. Carpooling parents should remember to notify drivers of absent students so they do not wait or look for that student.

It is also important for your child's teacher to be aware of your transportation arrangements. Should a change in the arrangements occur, please notify both the office and the teacher.

Some local school districts do offer yearly financial compensation for transportation to and from private schools. To see if your family qualifies, contact your local school district.

Student Attendance

The Spring Garden Waldorf School calendar is based on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) requirements for attendance for chartered nonpublic schools. The school calendar is established and communicated to parents in May of the preceding school year. Each parent, guardian, or custodian having charge of a child of compulsory school age must send the child to school for the entire time school is in session. The Administrative Faculty will reserve the right to review attendance issues on a case-by-case basis.

Records of attendance are included in the student's evaluations and are a part of each student's cumulative file. Parents/guardians are expected to call the school when their child is absent. Parents/guardians are expected to provide a written explanation to their child's teacher for planned absences or tardies.

Pupils will be expected to make up work missed during absences if required by their teacher. This may be completed at school or at home, as arranged by the teacher and pupil.

Absence and Tardy Policy

All absences, regardless of reason, will be recorded on the student's attendance record. Absences are designated as excused and unexcused. An excused absence or tardy is accompanied by a doctor's note or note describing a family illness or circumstance.

Excused absence:

- *Illness of student
- *Serious illness of immediate family member
- *Death of family member
- *Observance of religious holidays
- *By request of the school (suspension, lice, strep throat, etc.)

Unexcused absence or tardy:

- *The result of family travel plans that extend beyond the published starting and ending dates of the school holidays and vacations.
- * The result of willful truancy on the part of the student
- * Those that are not excused by the standards.
- * Any excused absence without a note of explanation will be considered unexcused.

Tardy Students

All children should arrive between 8:10 and 8:30 a.m. Punctuality plays an important role in the rhythm of the opening and closing of the school day. When students arrive for class after the prescribed time, they create a disruption to the natural flow of the lesson that all of our teachers endeavor to develop in each and every one of their classes.

Classes begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. If a student is going to be tardy, a parent or guardian will call to notify the office prior to arrival. Students who arrive for school after 8:30 am must go to the office to secure a late pass. A faculty or staff member will assist younger grades students in joining their class. Early Childhood parents will walk with their student to the front door where they will be given a late pass by a staff member. Parents of Early Childhood students will accompany them to their classroom.

Results of Absence or Tardiness: A student may not exceed 20 combined absences or times tardy, either excused or unexcused, in any school year.

- Students who accumulate more than 20 combined absences or tardies may be put on probation at the discretion of the Administrative Faculty. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to bring this to the attention of the Administrative Faculty.

- A six-year-old kindergarten student who is age ready for first grade the following year, but has exceeded the limit of 20 combined absences or tardies in the kindergarten year may be promoted to grade one on a probationary basis. The duration of this probation, based on attendance, will be for the first 6 weeks. This will be determined by the first grade readiness group and the kindergarten lead teacher will bring the concern to their attention.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities for Absent Students: A student may not participate in extracurricular activities if they were absent from school that day.

EdChoice and EdChoice Expansion Attendance Records

SGWS is required by the ODE to report the attendance of students receiving the EdChoice or EdChoice Expansion scholarship at the end of each month. We must report whether the student’s absence is excused or unexcused. **SGWS requires all absences to include a written excuse in order to be considered an “excused” absence.** Excused absences include, but are not limited to: illness of student, serious illness of immediate family member, death of family member, observance of religious holiday. SGWS will not excuse absences due to vacations/trips or extracurricular activities. If we do not receive your written excuse by the end of the week of the student’s absence, it will be considered “unexcused.” **If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) unexcused absences, they may not be eligible to renew their scholarship the following school year.**

Beforecare and Aftercare Program

SGWS is not currently offering beforecare or aftercare due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lunches and Snacks

Early Childhood: Students receive a nutritious, filling snack in the morning program. Parents of students in the full-day program must pack a lunch and an afternoon snack for their child. Please refer questions about lunches and snacks to your child's afternoon teacher.

Grades One through Eight: Parents are encouraged to provide wholesome, nutritious lunches for their children and not pack candy or sweetened drinks. Chewing gum is not allowed at any time during the school day. Time is allotted each morning for a break, and we suggest parents provide something extra, such as a piece of fruit, for a snack at this time.

Spring Garden Waldorf School is a nut-free facility. Please see the school’s Allergy Policy for guidelines, as well as suggestions for nut-free lunches and snacks.

Meetings

Several important meetings are scheduled regularly every school year. Some are mandatory, others are optional but highly recommended. All the meetings in this section can be counted toward your Contract Service Hours (see page 24), so please be sure to keep track of your hours and record them.

For the 20-21 school year, all meetings will be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice yearly, in the fall and late spring. Parent attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences is mandatory. Additional conferences may be arranged at any time throughout the school year at the request of parents or teachers. Dates for Parent-Teacher Conferences are listed on the School Calendar.

Class Meetings are held throughout the year to inform parents about and discuss issues relevant to the class. These meetings are an essential aspect of parent participation in the life of the school, and at least one parent from each family is expected to attend each meeting. Dates for

scheduled Class Meetings are listed on the School Calendar, but your child's teacher may schedule additional Class Meetings if necessary (for example, to plan a class project or trip).

Parent Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month to discuss relevant issues and to plan community events. Though each class has a designated Parent Council Representative, all parents are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings. Dates for all Parent Council meetings can be found on the School Calendar.

Parent educational opportunities such as lectures, workshops, and discussion groups are offered throughout the school year. All parents are encouraged to attend these events, which both deepen parents' understanding of Waldorf education and strengthen bonds in the school community. Parents are encouraged to bring family and friends for these special events. As events are scheduled, they will be announced to the community via email.

School committees meet as necessary throughout the year to organize events. The contribution of skills by parents and teachers is vital to the functioning of the school, and all parents are welcome to serve on the Festivals Committee, Auction Committee, Site Committee, or Marketing Committee. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please pick up a Committee Application from the Parent Information Board in the SGWS School Store.

Student recruitment efforts provide an excellent opportunity for parents to share their experience with prospective families or to bring friends and relatives to learn more about Spring Garden. Walk Through the Grades is a monthly scheduled tour of the school while class is in session. Open House events are held three times during the school year, typically on a Sunday afternoon.

Outside Play

Outside play is important to our curriculum. Recess time is an opportunity to work off excess energy in a healthy way. The children also get to experience the healing aspect of the ambient light and benefit from experiencing the natural world through the four seasons. During outside play, the students also engage in social interactions and have the opportunity to work through conflicts.

Outside play is an important part of the rhythm of the school day for all of our students. The children are prepared to do meaningful work in preschool and through the grades when given the opportunity to play outside at regular intervals.

Even a quarter of an hour of play is greatly beneficial to the children, and also a safe amount of time for them to be outside in all but the most extreme situations. We closely monitor the temperature and wind chill forecasts. If the temperatures are not safe to allow for outside play, we will close or delay school. *While school is in session, the students will go outside for recess. Please ensure that your child is prepared for the weather with gloves, hats, and scarves.*

Clothing – Students in preschool through Grade Four are expected to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather or they will not be allowed to participate in all aspects of outdoor play. Students in Grades Five through Eight will experience the natural consequences of poor clothing choices, within reason. Please see Student Dress Standards below.

Supervision – During snack recess (following Main Lesson), each class is supervised by a teacher. During lunch recess, four teachers are assigned supervisory locations throughout the playground. One teacher is also available in a study hall to proctor students making up missed work.

Playground Rules – Playground rules are consistent with school rules and are posted in the upper grades hallway. Behavior on the playground that does not conform to school rules is initially redirected. Failure to follow the request of playground supervisors will result in removal from play and any other steps as necessary under the Behavior and Discipline Policy (page 31).

Athletic/Sports Program

Students in grades 5 through 8 have the opportunity to participate in organized sports which are managed by our Athletic Director. Students in grade 5 participate in practices and non-competitive events only, while students in grades 6 through 8 may choose to participate on the practice team or participate in all scheduled events, including regular games and meets. This approach aligns with our pedagogy, meeting the needs of children as they grow and develop new

capacities. Good sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a positive attitude are stressed throughout students' participation in the sports program, with the goal of inclusion in mind.

Currently, Spring Garden offers cross country in the fall, basketball during the winter and track/field during the spring. Practices are held at least twice weekly and are coached by volunteer community members. We participate in the CYO program and adhere to the appropriate rules and regulations attached to this program.

There is a fee associated with participation in these programs. Additionally, the athletic program conducts several fundraisers to help offset costs.

For the 20-21 school year, athletic/sports programs are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Student Dress Standards

A Waldorf curriculum is designed to help students develop socially as well as academically. Student attire is particularly important because many school activities include movement. The standards below allow all the students to be able to fully participate in the curriculum. We have listed these requirements having to do with safety, warmth, range of motion, and our media policy. Please know that our students engage in play and work that involves mud, dirt, paint, and other activities. Our students do get dirty, so plan accordingly. SGWS respects clothing choices that reflect religious beliefs, cultural beliefs, and gender identity. Students are expected to adhere to the following standards during Beforecare and Aftercare as well as during the school day:

- Students are to come to school neatly dressed in clean, un-torn, sturdy play clothing.
- Students must wear opaque clothing that covers undergarments. Students will not be in violation of the dress code if waistbands and bra straps are exposed. Shirts and shoes are always required.
- Students are to wear clothing that fits properly. Clothing must allow students a full range of motion—sitting, bending, reaching and running—without requiring perpetual readjustment.
- Clothing must be free from media images, offensive wording or graphics, and distracting elements. Clothes/shoes must not blink, make noises, or have wheels. Wording and images on shirts must be positive and kind.
- Students are expected to wear closed-toe shoes while at school. Shoes may not have open backs or high heels.
 - Early childhood students must have inside shoes and outside footwear appropriate for the season for each day at school.
 - Grades students need several types of footwear at school:
 - One pair of tie indoor athletic shoes to be left in the classroom for wear there during the school year and for inside gym
 - One pair of tie athletic shoes for outside gym are needed for the fall and spring
 - Rain boots, snow boots as needed for the weather
- Students must be prepared to go out in the rain, cold, and snow.
 - Students in Early Childhood through Grade Four are expected to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather or their outdoor play may be restricted. We require students in early childhood through grade 4 be prepared with the following items for outside play:
 - Rain pants or snow pants (depending on the season)
 - Rain coat or snow coat (depending on the season)
 - Hat (winter hat or sun hat, depending on the season)

- Gloves or mittens, scarf are needed in cold weather
- Students in grades 5-8 are strongly encouraged to have the same gear that is required for EC and lower grades students. Students in Grades Five through Eight will experience the natural consequences of poor clothing choices, within reason.
- Students in Early Childhood and Grades One through Three must have a complete change of clothing, appropriate for the season, labeled with the student's name for emergency use. Older students should keep an extra pair of socks and a sweater in their classrooms.
- Some classes have specific clothing requirements:
 - Gardening classes 1-2 must have boots, long pants, and a hat.
 - Gardening classes 3-4 must have boots, long pants, a hat, and gardening gloves.
 - Gardening classes 5-8 must have long pants and gardening gloves.
 - Gym classes 1-4 must have athletic shoes. No jewelry or watches are permitted for gym.
 - Gym classes 5-8 must have shorts, sweat pants, or yoga pants, a t-shirt, and athletic shoes. No jewelry or watches are permitted for gym.
 - For the winter and spring evening programs, students must wear black pants or skirt, white shirt.
- Students are not to wear coats, hats, head coverings, sunglasses, or other outdoor apparel while in the school building except for health or religious reasons.

We appreciate parents' support of the dress code and all policies. It is up to the discretion of faculty and staff whether students are in compliance with the dress code. If a student violates the dress code, a teacher or staff member may take the following actions:

- Speak to the student individually.
- Require the student to exchange the item of clothing in violation of the dress code for an appropriate item.
- If the dress code concern prohibits safe participation in the school activity, the student may not be allowed to participate in the activity and may be required to complete make-up work.
- If dress code violations are a repeated concern, the teacher or staff member may call the parents, ask for a meeting with student and parents, bring to the attention of the Administrative Faculty, or send a student home.

-Approved by Administrative Faculty on 6/18/18

Media

We recognize that technology and media are in a state of constant evolution in today's world. With this in mind, we are focused on educating our children to think beyond the limitations of current technology and media influence. Both our experience with children and a growing body of research in brain development indicate that early exposure to technology and media has a negative effect on a child's development and learning ability.

With this in mind, we ask families to work in partnership with us by limiting the children's exposure to technology and media. This allows for a mood of reverence, wonder, and beauty in the classroom that can live in the students and be expressed in their work and play. To this end, any items with media characters are not permitted in the school. We also ask that parents seek alternative forms of entertainment for their children at home which enliven each child's individual thinking, feeling, and physical capacities, rather than entertainment provided on the television, gaming device, or computer. If you need some ideas for creative play, your child's teacher can help you identify age-appropriate creative games and activities to share with your child.

Toys and Electronic Items

Students should not bring any toys, radios, or electronic items to school. This includes but is not limited to puzzles, mechanical toys, dolls, computerized games, alarms, calculators, video games, MP3 players, iPods, and cell phones.

Students in the full-day Early Childhood program are allowed to bring a blanket and one small soft toy that does not light up or make sounds for naptime.

General Information and Guidelines

When visiting Spring Garden Waldorf School, families of students should be aware of and observe the following guidelines:

- *We are a nut-free facility.* No products with peanuts or tree nuts should be brought to any school events.
- *Firearms or weapons of any kind are prohibited* on school grounds at all times.
- *Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on school grounds*, except for school-sponsored, adults-only events. Illegal substances are prohibited on school grounds at all times.
- Service animals for persons with disabilities will be permitted on school grounds. However, because even the most well-behaved pets can cause anxiety in children who are generally fearful of animals, *pets are not permitted on school grounds* at any time, even if they are leashed. However, individual classes may have "class pets" upon mutual agreement of students, parents, and the class teacher.

Student Code of Conduct

Spring Garden's policy regarding student behavior and subsequent disciplinary actions is an interdependent plan of mutual support maintained by all faculty, staff, and parents. The goal of this policy is to maintain an environment that is safe and conducive to learning while nurturing an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect. The policy speaks to both the student's behavior and to the parents' responsibility for that behavior.

Self-discipline, respect, and behavior in accordance with an orderly, energetic pursuit of studies are necessary from all students. Actions in accordance with this code of conduct are expected of all students in all activities of the school day as well as at all school-related events and activities.

Students are expected at all times to honor the schools statement of non-discrimination, and to work in a cooperative and positive manner with all those around them.

- **Be courteous and respectful in words and deeds at all times toward teachers, staff, and students.**
 - Exhibit self-control in all situations, avoiding physical or verbal forms of aggression.
 - Use appropriate language, avoiding vulgar expressions, words, or gestures.
 - Seek opportunities to be of service to others and to the community of the school.
- **Maintain orderly conduct in classrooms, building, and grounds.**
 - Respect the materials in the building, grounds, and classrooms.
 - Conduct yourself in ways that actively promote a positive learning experience for those around you.
 - Follow all class, playground, and safety rules established by teachers and staff.
 - Do not bring to school any personal items not required for classes, including toys, sports equipment, or games
 - Keep all your pets at home; they may not be outside of a car on the school premises.
 - Do not bring to school any product containing tree nuts or peanuts, or chewing gum of any kind.
 - Dress according to the school dress code, including footwear appropriate to school activities.
 - Do not use any electronic devices on the school premises, or while participating in school events. These devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, music

players, and tablets.

- Do not bring any weapon of any kind to school or any school function.
- **Follow directions given by teachers and staff during school and all school related events.**
- Participate in all parts of the full program as directed by the teachers, unless a written excuse from a doctor has been provided to the office.
- Complete all work and assignments for classes within assignment due dates.
- Give a positive and genuine effort in all activities.
- Report all instances of inappropriate behavior to a supervising teacher.
- **Remain in the direct supervision of faculty or staff unless permission to leave has been given.**
- Report to before-care or after-care if present on the school grounds without a parent or guardian outside of school hours.
- Attend school on time according to the attendance policy.

The staff and faculty of the school are responsible for identifying, addressing, and taking action to correct student behavior. This is to be conducted within the parameters of the school's Behavior Policy which guides the response to breaches of the expected conduct outlined above.

Faculty and staff will work with students on these aspects in pedagogically and age appropriate ways. Parents should support teachers in this regard, and discuss these guidelines with their children.

Repeated actions that are not in accordance with this Code of Conduct, or single actions that are gross violations, as determined by the Administrative Faculty, may result in disciplinary actions, probationary enrollment, and/or termination of enrollment.

(Student Code of Conduct Approved 8/22/16)

Behavior Policy

Learning to participate productively as part of a social group is an important part of childhood development. Many of the activities pursued in a Waldorf school are intended to consciously cultivate the capacities needed for positive relationships and respect. Waldorf teachers are expected to understand the subtle developmental differences in the needs of each child as well as different ways to encourage him/her to develop in a healthy way.

Establishing predictable routines and consistent daily rhythms help children feel safe, promote cooperation, encourage expression of feelings in an appropriate manner, and lessen the need for discipline. Modeling appropriate behaviors and communicating through clear verbal messages with limited choices help children learn healthy habits, make sound decisions, develop a sense of self-control and respect for others, and build problem-solving skills.

It is expected that each child, through the support of his/her family and teachers, live up to the Student Code of Conduct in a way that is developmentally appropriate. However, there will be times when behaviors need to be addressed in a more structured way. In these instances, teachers will work as deemed appropriate within these guidelines while coordinating with parents, other teachers, and the Administrative Faculty.

In specific circumstances, responses to violations of the Student Code of Conduct may be considered by faculty members per their understanding of the anthroposophical picture of the developing human being- including the individual child, age and development of the student, and pedagogical indications.

Spring Garden Waldorf School does not condone corporal punishment. Specific consequences expressly deemed intolerable are outlined in the Prohibited Behavior Management Techniques section of the Faculty Manual and Parent Handbook.

In cases involving gross violations of the student code of conduct, the response by the teacher may not follow the indicated responses but can result in immediate removal from the classroom setting and/or suspension from school. These gross violations include, but are not limited to, aggressive or violent actions, either physical or verbal, actions that pose a safety risk to self or others, possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or weapons. Student removal from the classroom setting for any reason will follow the guidelines outlined later in this policy.

Parent Responsibilities in Supporting the Disciplinary Process

The cooperation between parents and guardians and the school is crucial to the successful implementation of any discipline plan. A discipline problem is seen as a disturbance of the cooperative and respectful environment of the classroom. It must be kept in mind that a Waldorf school considers the whole student during the educational journey, and this is true in the area of behavior and discipline as well. Teachers handle situations based on the individual child's development.

Step One: Read and review the Student Code of Conduct and discuss these ideas in an age-appropriate way with your child.

Step Two: Communicate with your child's teachers. If you become aware of a circumstance that may be affecting your child's behavior in school or at home, respectfully let your child's teachers know in a timely fashion. Healthy, respectful communication between parents and teachers, as outlined in the Parents' Pledge, is essential to helping the student.

Step Three: Participate in the process for any behavioral incidents or concerns as follows:

- Read all Behavioral Incident Reports regarding your child and acknowledge your receipt of each report by signing and returning it to the school office within 24 hours.
- Attend all meetings arranged with teachers or staff to address any behavior issues your child may have.
- Monitor your child's compliance with any at-home portion of a discipline or probation plan. Sign and return to the school office in a timely fashion all follow-up reports that are required by the plan.

Behavior that is severely disruptive will result in the immediate removal of your child from the classroom. If this were to happen, you would be expected to transport your child from the school for at-home suspension. Failure to provide transportation for your student in a timely fashion may result in your being charged for the cost of hiring a monitor to watch your child during in-school suspension.

Parents are expected to assist their children in complying with the consequences of disciplinary actions, for example, providing transportation for the child to participate in an assigned detention or overseeing the repair or replacement of any property stolen or damaged by the child.

The cooperation of parents and guardians is crucial to the school's successful implementation of any response to inappropriate behaviors or behavior plans. Failure to show parental support for the Student Code of Conduct and Behavior Policy through noncompliance with its procedures and follow-up steps may result in termination of enrollment.

Responses to Inappropriate Behaviors

In many cases, teachers at SGWS work with students in an individualized way through an understanding of the students in their care. Behaviors outside the expectations outlined in the

student code of conduct and in individual classroom rules are handled initially at the discretion of the supervising teacher(s). Following are typical steps that may be taken to address inappropriate behavior. Unique cases, however, may follow a different process.

Teachers who encounter unexpected or inappropriate behaviors will work to understand the child, and to engage them through loving support and care. In doing so, the teacher seeks to work with all aspects of the child, not to change or eliminate a single behavior.

STEP ONE: Teacher works from a pedagogical basis with the class as a whole to build the habit life of the student through the habit life of the class

In a Waldorf classroom, teachers work with the behavior of an individual student in the context of the group or the whole class. Each individual's behavior is seen in part as a manifestation of the life of the group as a whole. Meeting the behavior of the individual through work with the group as a whole acknowledges the social fabric in which every action takes place, and emphasizes the role of the class in supporting each individual member.

Some methods of working with the group that can occur before individual consequences might include:

- Conversations with those involved or with the class as a whole, allow the students to work together to gain an understanding from the perspective of another and to learn to work together to overcome difficulties without assigning blame.
- Reinforcing to the class in advance what behavior is expected and what consequences will follow if they choose not to comply.
- Games and group activities to promote positive behaviors help to build a strong class dynamic in which there is a feeling of inclusivity and success on the part of all students.
- Curative stories can be used to address concerns without bringing specific attention to a behavior or student.
- Changing or altering the class schedule, including loss of recess time as a class, to allow discussion of and/or reflection on the behaviors of the individual or the group.
- Noting and commenting on appropriate behaviors, especially when done by the student who has struggled in the past.

STEP TWO: Teacher works directly with the individual student

If inappropriate behaviors continue, the teacher begins to work directly with the student to address the behaviors through consequences. Waldorf teachers are working out of a living understanding of the archetypal development of each individual student. Through this understanding, behaviors that are not in accordance with the student code of conduct or healthy social interactions are worked within a manner fitting the age and stage of the child. These consequences are intended to allow the student to develop appropriate behaviors and the underlying capacities needed to engage in those behaviors. The goal of consequences is to provide structure, support, guidance, and role modeling so that the child is able to develop the constructive behaviors for classroom participation. Encouraging conscious social development between individuals and as a class is a supportive gesture, not a punitive measure.

In the Early Childhood classes

Some developmentally appropriate consequences include: redirecting the child to an alternative activity, a quiet reminder, hand on the shoulder, resting in a specific location in the classroom to help the child calm down and collect himself/herself, being held by the teacher for a short period of time until the child calms down (when the child throws a tantrum), limiting play space, being near the teacher during transitions and class activities, being a helper to another child involved in an incident, purposeful work such as cleaning or helping with a task.

Behavioral incident report forms may be used in an Early Childhood class for behaviors that may include biting, kicking, hitting, or other physically aggressive or unsafe behavior, as well as refusing to come to the teacher in a potentially dangerous situation. It is important to note that these behaviors can also be developmentally appropriate among young children.

In the early grades classes (generally classes 1-3)

Some developmentally appropriate consequences include a quiet reminder, hand on the shoulder, moving position of the student or their desk, spending time near the door inside the classroom, being a helper to another child involved in an incident, limiting play space, being near the teacher during transitions, having a separate classroom space, making a card, engaging in purposeful work such as cleaning or helping with a task.

Behavioral incident report forms may be used in these classes for behaviors that may include biting, hitting, kicking, or other repeated physically aggressive or unsafe behavior. Physical reactions between young children may occur as part of a developmentally appropriate response and the teacher may work with these responses repeatedly before deciding to file incident report forms.

In the middle grades classes (generally classes 4-5)

Some developmentally appropriate consequences include a quiet reminder, hand on the shoulder, moving position of the student or their desk, spending time near the door inside the classroom, being a helper to another child involved in an incident, limiting play space, having a separate classroom space, writing a letter, engaging in will-work or extra purposeful work, spending time with another class, time off of activities, time off from recess, time off of specific classes (including gym or other subject classes), requiring that he or she accept responsibility for actions, working at home with parents, placing the student's initials on the blackboard, having collaborative discussions with the goal of a positive outcome for all involved (class meetings)

Behavioral incident report forms may be used in these classes for behaviors that may include physically aggressive or unsafe behaviors, disrespectful or inappropriate language towards peers or adults, or damage to property. By this age, students are expected to have a firm grasp of the expectations of their behavior, and less leniency will be given by the teachers before incident reports are filed.

In the upper grades classes (generally classes 6-8)

Some developmentally appropriate consequences include purposeful work, time off of recess, time off from another class, research or writing assignments, mediated conversations between involved students to resolve issues, conversations between students/teachers/parents, missing activities or field trips, jobs that provide help or promote well-being for the community, having collaborative discussions with the goal of a positive outcome for all involved (e.g. "class meetings"), requiring that he or she accept responsibility for actions, working at home, and/or being asked to sit or work at a desk in the hallway until the behavior can be addressed by the teacher. In some circumstances students may be sent home or suspended from school.

Behavioral incident report forms may be used in these classes for behaviors that may include physically aggressive or unsafe behaviors, disrespectful or inappropriate language towards peers or adults, inappropriate conduct around younger children, damage to property, and uncooperative or distracting behavior in classes.

In mixed age groups, particularly during recess, before-care and aftercare, the older children are in a position to protect, reassure, and serve the experience of younger students. As such they are expected to follow the expectations placed on the younger students. Consequences will be in

accordance with the above guidelines, with care toward supervision of the student to monitor future actions.

Incident Reporting:

Behavioral Incident Reports are used as a method of communication with parents, a way to track student behavior, and an indicator that the behavior exhibited has been unacceptable. These behaviors require further direct work with the individual. A *Behavioral Incident Report Form* will be filled out and shared with parents when:

- A behavior is repeated after an initial consequence beyond redirection (quiet reminders, hand on the shoulder, etc.) has been imposed. The developmental age of the child will be taken into account in considering the time between repeated behaviors. (Note, the initial incident, with or without a consequence, may not be communicated to parents.)
- Violation of the Student Code of Conduct requiring removal from the classroom.
- It has been indicated in a behavioral plan that a report will be shared for a specific behavior.

STEP THREE: Behavior plan for communication and consistency is created

When individual consequences do not seem to be effective, or when behaviors are consistently demonstrated after re-direction from the teacher(s), the teachers and parent(s) will work collaboratively to develop a behavior plan to address specific targeted behaviors of the student. This plan may include parameters for both home and school to assist clarity and consistency in behavior expectations and consequences. The plan may also include a request for additional services to be provided by parents.

- A meeting will be organized by a teacher to allow input from all teachers working with the student. At this meeting the targeted behaviors will be identified, tracking methods will be determined, and some consequences will be suggested.
- Next, a representative of the faculty will communicate the faculty consensus to the parents. Plan parameters for school and home will be established and a timeline for communication and implementation will be agreed upon.
- A document detailing targeted behaviors, plans to address those behaviors, goals for future behaviors, and timelines for communication will be prepared and agreed to by parents and faculty. The Administrative Faculty receives a copy of the Behavior Plan prior to implementation.

STEP FOUR: Further support from colleagues is sought

When a teacher requires further help in addressing the needs of the student, he/she will seek assistance from other resources at our school. Colleagues, administration, Education Support Team members, and/or staff can provide new suggestions and opportunities to work with the student.

One aspect of collegial support may be a child study. A child study is a collaborative effort on the part of the faculty to observe and hold in consciousness the individual student. Generally held during a faculty meeting, a detailed description of the student is given by the teachers working with the child. After reflection by all faculty members on the nature of the child and their developmental stage, suggestions are made for possible ways to better support the child.

A child study can be initiated and led by any teacher who works with a given student, and may be initiated for a variety of reasons. In the context of this policy, the child study is an opportunity for the entire faculty to be apprised of the concerns of the teacher and to be involved in holding the child as he/she faces difficulties in meeting school expectations.

STEP FIVE: Referral to Administrative Faculty

When a behavioral plan has been implemented and the concerns remain, the situation may be referred to the Administrative Faculty for their direction, including the option to impose a probationary period of enrollment. During the probation the behaviors will be monitored by all faculty working with the student, and an opportunity for input by the faculty will be given before the conclusion of the probation.

- At the outset of any probation, the parents will be notified of the terms of probation in writing. Parents are expected to acknowledge the terms by signing the document outlining such terms.
- Probation will be structured to include a timeline, identification of behaviors needing attention, and specific goals related to those behaviors. Probationary terms may include academic, social, and behavioral aspects.
- The probationary document will include input from the teacher or teachers bringing concern about the child.
- The document will include a timeline for the probation including a date to conclude the probation and make a decision about future steps. Timeline may include meetings with the teacher(s) and parents to give feedback throughout the probationary period.

Upon conclusion of a probationary period the Administrative Faculty will review the probationary document to determine whether the conditions of probation have been met. Administrative Faculty may request input from parents, teachers, and in some cases the student. The determination will be made to discontinue probation, to extend the given probation, to impose a new probationary period with revised terms, or to terminate enrollment of the student.

A student whose enrollment has been terminated can reapply for admission to SGWS with written documentation from the parents of the steps taken to address the behaviors that led to the termination of enrollment. This document must be submitted with the student's application for admission and non-refundable application fee. The document will be reviewed by the Administrative Faculty during the admissions process.

In some cases involving gross violations of the Student Code of Conduct or Parents' Pledge, the Administrative Faculty reserves the right to effect a review of the enrollment of the student or family. This review is not required to follow the steps outlined above, and can lead to immediate termination of enrollment of the student or family.

If it is found that a student's conduct poses a threat to his or her own safety, or to the safety of others, or that student's continuing demeanor prevents the effective learning of other students, that student may be suspended, or enrollment can be terminated, at the discretion of the Administrative Faculty. Following such an incident, a behavioral incident report form will be completed for documentation. In these cases, the parent(s) will be given an opportunity for a conversation with the supervising teacher, the Director of Administration, and/or a member of the Administrative Faculty to discuss this process and the next steps. The decision of the Administrative Faculty regarding suspension or termination of enrollment will be communicated to the parent(s) in writing.

Communication Guidelines

Communication with Parents: It is the goal of SGWS faculty and administration to communicate effectively with all parents, though not all events that occur at school will be communicated. If a parent would like more information about a situation that has happened, he/she is encouraged to communicate directly with the faculty member involved. If this communication is not sufficient, the parent is encouraged to bring the concern to the Director of Administration.

Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents regarding concerns they may have about students' behavior. In most cases, a direct conversation with the parent of the student involved is the best way to build a cooperative relationship needed to have a positive effect on the behavior of the

child. Behavioral incident report forms are a valuable tool for reporting specific incidents, but the relationship between the parent and teacher is invaluable in helping to meet the child where they are.

It is the policy of SGWS faculty and staff to not engage in discussion regarding behavioral or disciplinary issues with parents about students other than their own children. This includes any behavioral incidents involving more than one student. While teachers will discuss with parents issues regarding the behavior of their child, teachers will not discuss the actions of another child or the actions taken on the part of the school to work with any other child.

A Behavioral Incident Report Form will be filled out and shared with parents when:

- A behavior is repeated after an initial consequence beyond redirection (quiet reminder, hand on shoulder, etc.) has been imposed. The developmental age of the child will be taken into account in considering the time between repeated behaviors. For instance, repeating a behavior within a week may be developmentally acceptable in the first grade but not in the eighth grade. The first incident, even with a consequence, may not be communicated to parents.
- Any gross violation of the Student Code of Conduct requiring removal from the classroom.
- If it has been indicated in a behavioral plan that a report will be shared for a specific behavior.

Behavioral Incident Reports are used for individual students throughout all the steps of the disciplinary process.

Communication with other Teachers:

An informal conversation or written document will be shared by a teacher with other SGWS teachers when:

- There is a concern about a student's behavior in other classes.
- A consistent response to student behaviors is needed.
- A child has had a difficult day or has had incidents earlier in the day. This communication often occurs during transition between classes.
- An aggressive interaction has occurred between students, requiring ongoing attention to their interactions.

Communication with the Administrative Faculty:

Notification of behavioral concerns is brought to the Administrative Faculty by faculty or staff when:

- Behavioral Incident Reports are filed, they are reviewed by a member of the Administrative Faculty.
- A meeting regarding behavior is being held with the parents.
- A Behavior Plan is implemented.
- Probation or termination of enrollment is initiated.

Student Removal from the Classroom

When a behavior is deemed by the supervising teacher to be severe and aggressive or a gross violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a student may need to be removed from the classroom immediately. In these cases, the following procedures are indicated.

- Immediately address the situation to assure the safety of all students. This may include physically intervening to hold a student if it is necessary to avoid physical harm to themselves or others.
- Contact another adult for assistance. The intercom in the classroom can be used to contact the office so they can arrange for another faculty or staff member to assist.
- Remove the student from the situation and bring him/her under direct supervision and to a safe location. The assisting faculty or staff member who will be observing the student will be

apprised of the situation, approximate time the supervising teacher will be able to address the situation directly, and what other support might be needed. The supervising faculty or staff member will remain the person directing the response to this behavior.

- Address the student directly and give the student an opportunity to express his/her viewpoint on the situation.
- Consult with the Director of Administration and at least one other colleague to determine whether the student needs to be sent home immediately or can return to the classroom.
- File a Behavioral Incident Report Form that documents what has occurred.

Prohibited Behavior Management Techniques

At all times a faculty or staff member is in charge of a child or group of children and is responsible for their discipline. The first response of the adults who become aware of a behavior or discipline concern is to ensure the safety and physical and emotional well-being of all individuals on the premises.

Spring Garden Waldorf School's methods of discipline shall apply to all persons on the premises and shall be restricted as follows:

- There will be no cruel, harsh, corporal punishment or any unusual punishments such as, but not limited to, punching, pinching, shaking, spanking, or biting.
- No discipline will be delegated to any other child.
- No physical restraints will be used to confine a child by any means other than holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so the child may regain control.
- No child will be placed in a locked room or confined to an enclosed area such as a closet, a box, or similar cubicle.
- No child will be subjected to profane language, threats, derogatory remarks about the child or the child's family, or other verbal abuse.
- Discipline will not be imposed on a child for failure to eat, failure to sleep, or toileting accidents.
- Techniques of discipline will not be intended to humiliate, shame, or frighten a child.
- Discipline will not include withholding food, rest, or toilet use.
- Separation, when used as discipline, will be brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and developmental ability. Preschool aged children will always be within sight and hearing of a staff member in a safe, lighted, and well-ventilated space.
- SGWS staff members will not abuse or neglect children and will protect children from abuse and neglect while in attendance at school.

The parent of a child enrolled at SGWS receive the Behavior Policy as part of the Parent Handbook. All SGWS staff members receive a copy of the school's Behavior Policy as part of the Faculty Manual.

Approved by Administrative Faculty on January 26, 2017.

Anti-Discrimination and Harassment (Bullying) Policy

Spring Garden Waldorf School believes that all students and employees have the right to a safe, healthy, and caring learning environment. We know this is vital for students to learn, grow, and become responsible citizens of the world.

SGWS prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment which includes behaviors commonly recognized as bullying, hazing, sexual harassment and sexual abuse/assault.

Harassment is distinguished from an isolated threat by its recurrent nature: it implies a habit of belittling, harmful behavior. Harassment, including bullying, is any gesture or act that is

reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic, involves a power imbalance, and is repetitive. Characteristic examples are: race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status academic status, mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability or impairment, creed, political belief, age, linguistic or language differences, height, weight, marital status, parental status, or by any other distinguishing characteristic or because of an association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics. Harassment can be experienced through gesture, verbal, online, graphic, written or physical expression. Offensive conduct may include, but is not limited to, offensive jokes, slurs, epithets or name calling, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, exclusion, ridicule or mockery, insults or degrading statements, offensive objects or pictures, and interference with the education of the students or work performance of the employees. It can occur on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, in a vehicle being used for school purposes, or by students, family members, or staff.

This policy applies to all activities at the school; to all school-sponsored and affiliated activities and events, including, but not limited to, special events, field trips, overnight trips, sporting events and practices.

Furthermore, because students' and employees' behavior, whether inside or outside of school, reflects on SGWS and can have a significant impact on life at school, there are times when it is appropriate and important for SGWS to respond to concerns that occur outside of school and beyond school hours. Therefore, SGWS reserves the right to discipline those who engage in discrimination or harassment of SGWS students at any location and at any time if such discrimination or harassment causes a substantial disruption to the SGWS community.

Behavior identified as harassment will not be tolerated from SGWS students, their parents/guardians, SGWS employees (faculty, administration, athletic personnel, and other staff), SGWS volunteers, employees of contracted service providers, and independent contractors working at SGWS. Retaliation in any form against any complainant or participant in the complaint process will not be tolerated.

Response to Harassment Involving Students

Any student who feels he or she is being subjected to harassment should immediately report this to a teacher or other trusted adult. It is this adult's responsibility to report the concern to the class teacher and Director of Administration. The following steps are to be followed when concerns regarding harassment or bullying are reported.

- The concern should be acknowledged and those involved assured that it will be investigated.
- All staff members will be made aware of the concerns to add needed supervision for students involved. Play boundaries may be limited to better monitor interactions.
- The class teacher and Director of Administration will carry out a prompt and complete investigation of the alleged harassment. Within one week, depending upon the extent and complexity of the investigation, the investigation will be summarized in writing. Behavioral Incident Reports will be completed for the students involved
- The written summary will be reported to the Administrative Faculty who will determine the extent of harassment.
- The class teacher will develop a plan for remediation by consulting with other teachers who work with the students. The goal of remediation is to transform a situation in order to make it impossible for the harassment to continue. Remediation may include meeting with the parents of the student who engages in harassment, making amends with the student who was harassed, or establishing a behavior plan. If the issue is not resolved, further disciplinary action up to and including dismissal may be implemented by the Administrative Faculty.

During the process of remediation, the Administrative Faculty and College of Teachers will be kept informed as needed to provide support for the students.

- Following these types of concerns, parents may be eager to know if the steps the school has taken are working. Parents of the students involved will be kept informed about how the teachers and staff are working with their child.

Any student who engages in bullying or harassment is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. The Administrative Faculty will take into consideration the whole child when determining disciplinary action and to ensure support is being provided to the student who reports being harassed. If the issue is not resolved, further disciplinary action up to and including dismissal may be implemented by the Administrative Faculty.

Response to Harassment Involving Employees

Any faculty or staff member accused of harassment will be suspended with pay, pending the outcome of the investigation. Based on the results of the investigation, the employee may be reinstated or terminated.

Approved by Administrative Faculty on January 26, 2017.

Volunteer Background Check Policy

Purpose: It is the intent of this policy to establish certain guidelines to protect the safety of the students and school community by screening the background of volunteers who have the potential of extended unsupervised contact with students. A criminal history check serves as a means to review an individual's background in respect to their volunteer participation with school activities. Knowing an individual's background can provide more certainty that people with a history of inappropriate behavior will not have access to the students and school community. The objective of our background checks is to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

Policy: All adults volunteering as overnight chaperones for SGWS activities will be subject to a background screening consisting of a fingerprint scan submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI). Volunteer background checks are NOT required for attending class meetings, assisting the teacher in the classroom, driving on field trips, attending school activities as a spectator, providing help with the auction, or Children's Festival or other similar volunteer tasks. These volunteers are under the supervision of a faculty or staff member.

Screening Process:

1. The volunteer completes a BCI check and ensures that the results are submitted to Spring Garden Waldorf School. The volunteer must provide his or her name, address, and Social Security number and present a valid Ohio Driver's License at the time of the background check. It is also important to have the school's address available when completing the check so that the results can be sent to the school.

SGWS 1791 S. Jacoby Rd. Copley, OH 44321

Phone: 330-666-1561 Fax: 330-666-9210

2. The results of the check are reviewed by the Director of Administration.

3. If any disqualifying offenses are reported in the background check, the DA will notify the volunteer that he or she is disqualified and review the BCI report with the volunteer. Any volunteer whose history demonstrates a risk to the safety or well-being of students and staff will be denied participation in activities that put the volunteer in direct contact with students.

Guidelines for disqualification:

- Failure to complete the background screening process
- All felony offenses
- Past history of sexual victimization of children (regardless of whether the individual subsequently completed therapy)
- Conviction for any crime in which children were involved (regardless of

- successful completion of probation or incarceration)
- History of violence or any sexually exploitative behavior, including acts against adults
- Termination from a paid or volunteer position as the direct result of misconduct with a child
- Lying about criminal history
- More than one DUI within 5 years

Confidentiality: To help ensure confidentiality, the results of the check will be limited to the DA or an individual identified by the Board of Trustees. The criminal background checks will be maintained and secured as confidential records.

Appeals Process: If a volunteer's background check includes a disqualifying charge, the DA will contact the volunteer and review the BCI report. If the volunteer wishes to dispute the content of the background check, the volunteer must provide documentation to the SGWS Board President regarding the dispute. The Board President will make a final decision regarding the status of the volunteer.

Interschool Events

SGWS participates in three interschool events with regional Waldorf schools. Our Grade 5 students travel to Ann Arbor to participate in an interschool pentathlon. Our Grade 6 students travel to Cincinnati Waldorf School to participate in interschool Medieval Games. SGWS hosts the Renaissance Faire for Grade 7 students from regional Waldorf schools. The following guidelines for chaperones and students were created by participating schools for these events.

Interschool Chaperone Behavior Guidelines

Our schools are very grateful for all the time and energy family members contribute as chaperones for our students at special school events. These chaperone behavior guidelines represent the collaborative effort of the Cincinnati Waldorf School, the Spring Garden Waldorf School and the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor to create agreed upon expectations of how our parents behave when participating as visitors, volunteers and chaperones in inter-school events including the Pentathlon, Medieval Games and Renaissance Faire. Our three schools are united in our commitment to provide inter-school events that support healthy and safe participation in an atmosphere of respect for the people, the spaces and the activities. Thank you for your support of these guidelines.

- Our schools encourage a "Two-deep Leadership Model" for school events which means that we suggest at least two adult chaperones be assigned to each group of students.
- Two adult chaperones per school group will be required on all overnight school events. Coed overnight school events—even those including parent and child—require male and female adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older. Chaperones will only share sleeping quarters (i.e., tents or hotel rooms) with students of the same gender.
- Adults chaperoning events are required to have current background checks on file with their child's school.
- All students must be properly buckled into seat belts or appropriate car seats as required by law.
- Any recordings played in the vehicle must be age-appropriate and approved by the chaperone.
- Chaperones are encouraged to foster conversation, games and other positive social exchanges among the students in the vehicle.
- Chaperones participating in school events that incur costs (i.e., admission, equipment rental, and lodging) will pay their own fees. Chaperones who cannot afford the fees are encouraged to speak with the class teacher or other person coordinating the school event.
- Chaperones will not consume alcohol or illegal drugs or smoke in the presence of students while chaperoning.
- Chaperones will limit the use of photography or other recording devices—cameras and smart phones generally make students self-conscious and take them away from their present

experience. Reviewing photos on the camera's screen exacerbates these effects. Therefore, chaperones are requested to minimize their use of cameras, to take mostly candid photos of students (no posing except for whole-class), and to avoid reviewing photos with students.

- Chaperones will limit the use of smart or cell phones or other electronic devices in the presence of students. Chaperones are expected to be fully present to tend to students and engaged in the activities.
- Chaperones and teachers will do their best to ensure that the chaperone's own child will experience the trip as the other students in the class do, without special privileges or treats due to their family's presence.
- It is generally inappropriate to have younger siblings attend field trips, because most trips are pedagogically grade-specific, and because of the disruption that absences cause to the younger siblings' own class, and because parents' attention is needed for supervising the students on the trip. Chaperones requesting to bring siblings must obtain class teacher's permission.
- Chaperones should not allow students to watch or use any media, video or computer games or other electronics in their home while hosting students.
- Chaperones hosting students in their home will ensure an early bedtime so students can get a proper night's rest and will be able to fully engage in the following days activities. Chaperones should check to be sure the students have actually gone to sleep.
- Chaperones hosting students in their home will provide students full, healthy meals and accommodate agreed upon dietary restrictions.

Interschool Student Behavior Guidelines

These student behaviors represent the collaborative effort of the Cincinnati Waldorf School, the Spring Garden Waldorf School and the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor to create agreed upon expectations of how our students behave when participating in inter-school events including the Pentathlon, Medieval Games and Renaissance Faire. Our three schools are united in our commitment to provide inter-school events that support healthy and safe participation in an atmosphere of respect for the people, the spaces and the activities. Thank you for your support of these guidelines.

As Waldorf students participating in special school events and representing your school, we request your dedication to the following behavior guidelines:

- Students will display respect for themselves, each other and for their surroundings.
- Students will actively & positively engage in the special events offered and always strive to participate to the best of their ability.
- Students will not use any technological devices while participating in special school events including when spending time in a host home for over-night events. Students who have a phone for emergency purposes should keep their phones out of sight and in the "off" or "silent" mode at all times except in the event of an emergency.
- Students will treat all teachers, parents, and fellow students with the same courtesy and respect they would wish to receive.
- Students will help keep spaces clean and tidy.
- Students will treat all property with care. Students may be required to repair or replace anything that has been damaged due to destructiveness or carelessness.
- Students will remain within the designated boundaries while participating in special events and never leave the boundaries without adult permission.

Health and Medical Procedures

School Nurse

Spring Garden Waldorf School does not have an on-site school nurse. All administrative staff, all Early Childhood staff, and most faculty are trained in first aid and CPR, and there is a sick room with cots in the school office. Spring Garden has a visiting nurse who reviews student medical

records; conducts hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings; and is available to the school for consultation regarding illnesses and communicable diseases.

Medical Emergency Form

An Emergency Medical Information Form (Form 2 in the yearly enrollment paperwork) must be completed and signed for each student's file. This form must contain the names and telephone numbers for at least three adults to contact in case of an emergency. This form must also contain the name, address, and phone number for your doctor or dentist.

This form is where you should indicate any and all medical information regarding your child, including medications, chronic illnesses, diabetes, allergies, or any other pertinent information.

Early Childhood Child Medical Statement

Under state law, students in Early Childhood must be seen by a physician once every 12 months. Early Childhood enrollment paperwork includes Form 2a, which contains a statement that the child is healthy and free of communicable diseases, which must be signed by a physician. Early Childhood students will not be permitted to attend school unless a current completed Form 2a, signed by a physician, is on file.

Special Health Concerns

Special dietary concerns, food allergies, or other health concerns such as asthma should be clearly spelled out in writing for both the teacher and the administrative staff.

Students with life-threatening allergies must have a current Allergy Action Plan, signed by their physician, and all necessary medications for treatment on file in the office. Students with other life-threatening medical conditions must have the appropriate care instructions and medications for treatment on file in the office. Faculty and staff are trained by the visiting nurse in the proper administration of student medications. (Please see Medications at School and the SGWS Allergy Policy below for more information.)

Medications Policy

Whenever possible, students are encouraged to receive medications at home. If medications are required during the school day, SGWS must comply with the State of Ohio law and school policy.

Prescription Medications: Medications will not be administered until paperwork and medication are brought in to the school. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the appropriate paperwork and medication.

All medication will be secured in the school office. Exceptions are:

- Inhalers, which a student may carry if the physician approves and signs the Authorization for Student Possession and Use of an Asthma Inhaler.
- Epi-Pens, or epinephrine auto-injectors, which a student may carry if the physician approves and signs the Authorization for Student Possession and Use of an Epinephrine Auto-Injector. Per our Allergy Policy, a student may only self-carry an Epi-Pen, or epinephrine auto-injector, if it is in addition to the Epi-Pen, or epinephrine auto-injector, kept in the office.

No other medications are to be self-administered or carried by a student. Prescription medications may be administered by personnel designated by the Director of Administration.

Prior to administration of any prescription medication, Form 4: *Request for Administration of Medication by School Personnel* must be completed by the physician who prescribed the medication. All prescription medication must be brought to the school by the parent in the original bottle in which it was dispensed either by the physician or the pharmacist, with the label correctly corresponding to the physician's order.

Non-prescription Medications: No non-prescription medications will be given by school personnel without an order from the physician. Prior to administration of any non-prescription

medication *Form 4: Request for Administration of Medication by School Personnel* must be completed by the physician who prescribed the medication.

Any medications left in the office after June 15 will be discarded.

Emergency Care

There are first aid kits in the office and in every classroom, and faculty are trained to handle minor emergency care.

In the event of serious accident, illness, or injury, at least one member of the faculty or administrative staff will remain with the student at all times, while another adult contacts the local paramedics. The parents of the ill or injured child will be contacted after the paramedics are on their way to the school.

Illness and Injury Policy

Illness:

COVID-19

Any student or employee who has symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 (see section 1 of the SGWS Health and Safety Plan) or has been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 must remain at home and not attend school. Despite the strategies SGWS enacts to mitigate risk of transmission, they will not completely prevent an employee or student from contracting an illness. Many illnesses overlap with similar symptoms to COVID-19. Due to the wide range of possible symptoms, it is expected that there will be an increase in absences from school and work. SGWS is instituting a requirement for parents/guardians to report the reason for all student absences from school.

Based on recommendations from Summit County Public Health (SCPH), the following steps will be required to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.

1. Student absence must be reported to the school office by phone or email on the morning of the absence. Please include the reason for the absence. When appropriate, SCPH recommends that ill students seek the advice of a healthcare provider to rule out COVID-19. Students must provide a release from a healthcare provider to return to school.
2. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 must be reported to the school. In turn, SGWS Administration will work with SCPH to support contact tracing. We will follow the guidance of SCPH regarding exclusion from school for quarantine or isolation.
3. Employees are expected to follow the same guidance by SCPH detailed above with the additional requirement of a written release from a medical provider to return to work.

Reporting positive cases of COVID-19 in our school community:

Tracy Edwards, Director of Administration, is the primary point of contact for any COVID-19 concerns and will take questions and manage reporting to SCPH. If she is unavailable, please contact Susan Hudson. SGWS acknowledges that an individual's personal health information is private and will be kept confidential except when mandatory reporting requires consultation with SCPH.

Students and SGWS employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, through a lab test or clinical examination, should notify Tracy Edwards (tedwards@sgws.org) no later than 24 hours after receiving a confirmed diagnosis.

Positive cases of COVID-19 in students, SGWS teachers, and staff members will be reported to Summit County Public Health Department within 24 hours of notification.

All parents, guardians, and employees will receive an SGWS email notification of a positive COVID-19 result in any students, faculty, or staff members without disclosing protected health

information. Additionally, parents and guardians of students and SGWS employees who are part of the same class will receive an additional notification regarding possible exposure within the class.

SGWS will provide SCPH the information needed for contact tracing. Specifically, student or employee name, parent/guardian name, date of exposure, and phone number is required by SCPH. Parents, guardians, faculty, and staff who have been exposed and are placed in quarantine can expect follow up from SCPH.

Per the SGWS Health and Safety Plan a child must stay home from school if they have any of the following symptoms related to COVID-19

- fever above 100
- cough
- shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- loss of taste/smell
- sore throat
- congestion
- runny nose
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea (changes from the child's usual stool pattern – increased frequency of stools, loose/watery stools, stool runs out of the underwear, or child can't get to the bathroom in time)

If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms then the teacher will contact the office and they will be assessed in a designated sick room appropriate for COVID-19 isolation. (See the Health and Safety Plan for more details). A parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. While waiting to go home, ill students will wear a face mask and be cared for in the sick room monitored by school personnel utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The parent/guardian will be referred to seek advice from their child's healthcare provider (MD/DO, CNP, PA) and a written release will be required before returning to school. In the absence of a healthcare provider, the [ODH website](#) maintains a list of testing sites that can be searched by county or ZIP code. The sick room will be cleaned with a germicidal disinfectant after each use.

Other Illnesses and Communicable Disease

Additionally, a child is not well enough to attend school if they have any of the following symptoms unless a health provider determines that the child is well enough to attend and that the illness is not contagious:

- signs or symptoms of possible severe illness (e.g. persistent crying, extreme irritability, uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing, lethargy)
- rash with a fever or behavior change
- yellowish skin or eyes
- untreated infected skin patches
- unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
- stiff neck
- symptoms of conjunctivitis ("pink eye") are present

If the child cannot attend school if they have any of the following diagnoses from a health provider (until treated and/or no longer contagious):

- Infectious conjunctivitis/pink eye (with eye discharge) until 24 hours after treatment started
- Scabies, head lice, or other infestation – until 24 hours after treatment and free of lice

- Impetigo – until 24 hours after treatment started
- Strep throat scarlet fever or other strep infection – until 24 hours after treatment started and the child is free of fever
- Tuberculosis until a health care provider determines that the disease is not contagious

Spring Garden follows the Ohio Department of Health's "Communicable Disease Chart," which is posted in the sick room, for the appropriate identification and management of suspected illnesses. The following precautions are taken for students suspected of having a communicable disease.

– When a student has been observed with signs or symptoms of illness as detailed above, the teacher or staff will isolate the student and immediately notify the parent or guardian of the student's condition and to arrange for the student to be picked up from school.

If a student is injured or displays a symptom of an illness not associated with COVID-19, the student will be cared for in sight of an adult at all times in the main office.

-All parents will be notified by the school when their children have been exposed to a communicable disease.

-While not a communicable disease, lice are a nuisance and our goal is to prevent lice from spreading. If a child is suspected of having lice, we will inspect the student's head for confirmation and call parents regarding treatment. When multiple cases of lice are present, we will check the heads of the entire class.

Guidelines for return to school after illness:

As noted in the Health and Safety Plan, a release from a health care professional must be provided in order for a child to return to school once the illness has been reported. Additionally:

- The student has been fever-free or has not had a loose bowel movement for at least 24 hours.
- The student has been treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours (if the disease or illness warrants such treatment).
- Parents have taken appropriate treatment measures for the disease or illness. For example, a child with lice may return once parents have treated the condition with an effective over-the-counter lice removal product and there are no remaining live lice.
- The incubation or contagion period for the disease is complete.

Injuries: Students are expected to participate in all activities during the school day. Students that are unable to participate in activities are required to provide a doctor's note to the Administrative Assistant outlining any limitations to participation. The doctor's note should include the anticipated duration of the limitations or provide a follow up note releasing the student from the limitations. In all cases, the parents should consult with their child's teacher, and if necessary, the DA, to review the limitations and ensure that SGWS can provide adequate accommodations.

Immunizations

Spring Garden Waldorf School recognizes that immunizations prevent the occurrence and spread of certain communicable diseases. We also recognize that immunizations are a safeguard to the school community in preventing the spread of disease.

The school follows immunization requirements put in place for all schools (public and private) chartered in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Department of Education. These requirements consist of keeping detailed records of each student's vaccine history.

We recognize that health education, hygiene, adequate nutrition, and immunizations are essential to preventing infectious disease and that a parent's decision how to support their child's health is a decision made in consultation with their family doctor.

In the case of an outbreak, our school community would be required to follow the guidelines established by the State of Ohio, which includes exclusion from school for students exempting from certain vaccinations.

Every student must have a current, dated, and signed immunization record or immunization exemption form on file.

Spring Garden Waldorf School Allergy Policy

Intent

Spring Garden Waldorf School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. The school's administration, board of trustees, and faculty understand the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to allergens can be reduced in the school setting, SGWS is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians, to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. SGWS's position is not to guarantee an allergen-free environment, rather it is to encourage self-responsibility and plan for an effective response to possible emergencies. The focus of allergy management shall be on education, awareness, communication, risk reduction, and emergency response.

As mandated by Section 3313.719 of the Ohio Revised Code, this policy is intended to create a framework for protecting students with allergies and to reduce the likelihood of allergic reactions of students with known allergies while at school.

Allergy awareness is particularly relevant to students whose allergies cause an anaphylactic reaction. This is a life threatening reaction, which can cause death by suffocation within minutes of a reaction commencing. Anaphylactic reactions occur when the body's sensitized immune system overreacts in response to the presence of a particular allergen. Anaphylaxis affects multiple body systems, including the skin, upper and lower respiratory, gastrointestinal and cardiovascular system.

The recommended emergency treatment for a student suffering an anaphylactic reaction is the administration of epinephrine (adrenaline) by an auto-injector (e.g. EpiPen). The person affected must then be rushed to the hospital to receive further medical attention, even if the symptoms decrease with the administration of epinephrine.

In the school environment, SGWS believes that the greatest risk of exposure is in new situations or when normal daily routines are interrupted, such as birthday parties or school trips. The board, administration, faculty, parents, medical providers and students all have a role in preventing and managing allergies in our community. While this document focuses on life threatening food allergies, treatment of any allergic reaction is the same when caused by food, insect sting, latex or exercise. This policy focuses management of life threatening allergies. Students that have mild or non-life threatening allergies should refer to the SGWS medication policy.

It is the objective of our allergy plan to enable students with allergies, including anaphylactic causing allergies, to attend Spring Garden Waldorf School. The Allergy Policy outlines the responsibilities of the affected bodies of our community and the reasonable steps that can be taken to promote the safety of students with allergies. Spring Garden Waldorf School also recognizes that the school is an environment that is allergy aware and not allergen free, and as such, cannot guarantee the safety of a student with an anaphylactic causing allergy and some level of risk is still inherent and must be understood by and acceptable to the student's parents/guardians. It is not the intent of this policy to change the SGWS curriculum or program of activities.

In developing the SGWS risk reduction plan, we considered the special circumstances of the environment at our school, and determined that a key element of risk reduction was eliminating all nuts from our school. This decision was based on the age of our students, the opportunity for interaction across EC and the grades, the classroom setting, the role food plays in our community, and the prevalence and severity of nut allergies. This decision to be nut-free is not a guarantee to those individuals with nut allergies, but rather a preventative step taken by the school to minimize the

exposure to this allergen. This measure, along with the other steps noted in the risk reduction plan, will help to provide a safer environment for students with allergies.

Risk Reduction Plan

Anaphylactic students must learn to avoid specific triggers. While the key responsibility lies with anaphylactic individuals and their family, in the case of an anaphylactic student, the school community must also be aware. The approach is to regularly educate the parent community, solicit the cooperation of families and to set in place procedures that are designed to safeguard the anaphylactic student as much as possible. ***The school cannot assume responsibility for providing a completely allergen-free environment.***

Peanuts and Tree Nuts

Spring Garden Waldorf School is a nut-free school. This commitment allows SGWS to increase the safety and health of all our students.

There will be no outside food with nuts, including but not limited to:

- Peanut butter, granola bars, snacks, or other foods containing nuts, packaged food with labels that read “may contain traces of peanuts and tree nuts”.

Milk, Egg, Soy, Shellfish, and Other Allergens

The school’s policy is to reasonably adapt the classroom to protect anaphylactic students to the extent possible.

In the Classroom:

- Establish a safe eating area in the classroom, as established by the faculty and administration.
- Safe eating area procedures within the classroom, including cleaning and hand-washing before and after eating.
- Education about the allergens hidden in non-food materials will be provided when possible (i.e. play materials, soap, counting aids, science projects, special seasonal activities).
- School festivals will follow the nut free policy. Parents will be asked to label products, although it should not be assumed that an unlabeled product is allergen free.
- Anaphylactic students will be required to eat only food prepared at home or approved for consumption as indicated on the Allergy Risk Acknowledgement Form.
- An anaphylactic student will take precautions, such as placing food on a placemat, or napkin rather than direct contact with a table or desk.
- An anaphylactic student will not be allowed to share food, utensils, containers, or towels.
- An anaphylactic student will not leave food unattended
- An anaphylactic student will not share musical instruments that go in the mouth.

Communication, Education, and Awareness

Ensuring the safety of anaphylactic students in a school setting depends on the cooperation of the entire school community. To minimize risk of exposure, and to ensure rapid response to an emergency, parents, students, and school personnel should all understand and fulfill their responsibilities.

BOARD

- The Board will be familiar with federal and state laws, including regulations, and policies relevant to the obligations of schools to students with food allergies and make sure school policies and practices follow these laws and policies.
- Support and allocate resources and time for professional development and training on food allergies.

ADMINISTRATION

- The administration will be familiar with federal and state laws, including regulations, and policies relevant to the obligations of schools to students with food allergies and make sure SGWS policies and practices follow these laws and policies.
- On a regular schedule, review and evaluate the school's food allergy policies and practices and revise as needed.
- Identify students with allergies through the yearly enrollment process
- Once identified, the administration will contact parents of an anaphylactic student to gather medical information related to the condition. The administration will review required documentation for anaphylactic students with parents and provide examples of documentation. Required documentation includes the Allergy Action Plan, the Authorization for Student Possession and Use of an Epinephrine Auto injector, and Allergy Risk Acknowledgement Form.
- Prepare and maintain a student file including consent forms, waiver, physician's instructions and Allergy Action Plan (AAP) for each anaphylactic student
- Ensures the AAP is distributed to the child's classroom, front office, applicable subject teacher rooms, and before and after school program areas
- Ensure parents comply with required documentation and medication requirements prior to student attending school.
- Ensure a doctor or registered nurse reviews all Allergy Action Plans to ensure that needed information is included.
- Responsible for an annual staff training session for all school personnel on how to recognize and treat anaphylactic reaction, on school procedures to protect anaphylactic students from exposure, and on school protocol for responding to emergencies. This session will also include training in the emergency administration of the auto-injector.
- Educate parent community to increase awareness of anaphylaxis, its avoidance and treatment.
- Communicate food allergy-related policies to all school staff, families, and the community.
- Review data and information (e.g., when and where medication was administered) from incident reports of food allergy reactions and assess the effect of the incident on all students involved.
- If a lunch program is made available to students, the administration will provide a communication link between the lunch provider and parents of students with allergies to ensure ingredient information is made available. The administration will ensure the lunch provider has appropriate food safety and allergy training.

FACULTY

- Be aware of the essential actions needed to help manage food allergies for students with food allergies, including classroom activities, when meals or snacks are served in the classroom, on field trips, or during extracurricular activities. Seek guidance and help from the school administrator as needed.
- Participate in annual medical and safety training, including being aware of the Emergency Allergy Response Plan. Seek additional guidance from school administrator as needed.
- Read and regularly review each student's Allergy Action Plan. Never hesitate to activate the plan in an emergency. Be trained and ready to use an epinephrine auto-injector.
- Keep copies of student Allergy Action Plans in the class medical binder and ensure you can access the binder easily in an emergency. Share information from the Allergy Action Plan with substitute teachers and other adults who regularly help in the classroom to help them know how to respond to a food allergy emergency.
- Prior to the beginning of each school year, notify or reinforce to class parents about student allergies including encouraging students not to share food, to wash hands before and after eating, and the dangers of bringing allergen products to school.

- Communicate ahead of time with family of allergic student when any food related or possible allergen related event is happening in the classroom to allow the family time to prepare something similar that is safe to be sent in with the student.
- Know which students are not able to consume food prepared outside of the classroom.
- Have rapid access to epinephrine auto injectors in case of food allergy emergency.
- Establish class rules on:
 - Not sharing food
 - Washing hands before and after eating with soap and water
 - Clean-up of food spillages
- Plan for ability to access epinephrine auto-injector and Allergy Action Plan on any field trip or excursion.
- Use non-food incentives in the classroom.
- Include information about children with special needs, including those with known food allergies, in instructions to substitute teachers.
- Make available to the parents of an anaphylactic student the vendor/product information for foods being prepared in classroom. This is especially important in the Early Childhood where food is made daily in the classroom. If product is unsafe, family can suggest another vendor for the School to consider. Family will be responsible for sending in similar, safe food for student to consume during class or agreeing to participate in classroom related food activities and cleaning procedures as delineated on the Allergy Risk Acknowledgement Form.
- Consider students' needs on trips (i.e. ride in car or is in group with teacher who knows how to use auto injector).

PARENTS OF AN ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENT

- Notify the school of your child's allergies

Prior to the student starting school parents must provide:

- Allergy Action Plan. The Allergy Action Plan should be completed yearly by the parent and physician and include:
 - Contact information for emergencies
 - Current photo of the child
 - Details of the student's allergies and known trigger factors
 - Generic and proprietary names of drugs and possible cross-sensitivities to drugs, if relevant
 - Signs and symptoms of mild, moderate and severe reactions and how to act in each case
 - Medication prescribed and when it should be used
 - When to call emergency services
- Complete any necessary Emergency Medical Authorization Forms.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician
- Ensure that the office receives a minimum of one epinephrine auto-injector and/or other medication. The medication must be identified in the AAP and be clearly labeled with the child's name, year, classroom and dosage required and show a current use by date. One auto-injector will be stored in the office. Additional auto-injectors can be provided by family for the student to self-carry or to be kept in the classroom with the teacher.

The following are all ideal and we recognize the need to implement each in the context of what is age-appropriate for the child.

- Provide student with a second auto-injector to be stored in the classroom or for student to carry in body pouch or fanny pack at all times on his or her person. *Note: Students that will carry their own auto-injector must have a form signed by parents and physician on file.*
- Provide a Medic Alert bracelet for their child

- Teach their child:
 - About their allergies and the substances that trigger it
 - To recognize the first symptoms of an anaphylactic reactions
 - To know where medication is kept and who can inject it
 - To communicate clearly when he or she feels that a reaction is starting
 - To carry his/her own auto-injector, in a body pouch or fanny pack
 - Not to share food politely and explain why
 - To understand the importance of hand washing
 - To take as much responsibility as possible for his/her own safety
- Recognize the inherent risk associated with a child in a school environment that is “allergy aware” and not “allergen free.” Parents will be asked to sign an Allergy Risk Acknowledgement Form.
- Provide safe food from home for their student for any food related school activities or participate in classroom related food activities as delineated on the Allergy Risk Acknowledgement Form.

ALL PARENTS

- Do not send any foods with peanuts or tree nuts into the school.
- Label all foods brought in to the school for sharing with class and community.
- Inform themselves and participate in parent information sessions as appropriate.
- Encourage their own child to respect a student with allergies and follow school risk reduction plan.
- Do not purchase or serve food to students on field trips.

ALL STUDENTS

{Recognizing the age-related limitations for our youngest students:}

- Learn to recognize symptoms of anaphylactic reactions
- Avoid sharing food, especially with anaphylactic students
- Follow school and class rules about keeping allergens out of a classroom and washing hands
- Refrain from teasing a student with a food allergy.

Emergency Allergy Response Plan

Signs of an Anaphylactic Reaction

An anaphylactic reaction can begin within seconds of exposure or after several hours. There is NO DANGER of reacting too quickly and potential danger in reacting too slowly. Any combination of the following symptoms may signal the onset of a reaction

- Hives
- Itching (on any part of the body)
- Swelling (of any body part, especially eyes, lips, face, tongue)
- Red watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Diarrhea
- Stomach cramps
- Coughing

Symptoms do not always occur in the same order, even in the same individuals. The time from onset of first symptoms to death can be as little as a few minutes if reaction is not treated

Anaphylactic children usually know when a reaction is taking place. School personnel will listen to the child. If she or he complains of any symptoms that could signal the onset of a reaction, staff will implement the emergency response steps. Child complaints may include:

- Throat tightness or closing

- o Difficulty breathing
- o Difficulty swallowing
- o Sense of doom
- o Dizziness
- o Itching
- o Swelling
- o Vomiting
- o Change of Color
- o Change of Voice
- o Wheezing

Emergency Response

1. Recognize sign of an anaphylactic or other reaction.
2. Stay with child, keep them calm.
3. If help is needed, contact office using intercom. If outside, send two students to office to get help and retrieve auto-injector.
4. Assess the child, referring to the student's Allergy Action Plan. If the child has not been identified with allergies and is exhibiting signs of a severe allergic reaction, call 911.
5. Following the guidance of the Allergy Action Plan, administer medication. Observe the child and continue to follow the direction of the Allergy Action Plan.
6. If epinephrine is administered, call ambulance. Save used auto-injector for emergency responders.
7. Contact parents.
8. Administration conducts post-anaphylaxis reaction review of policies and procedures.

Allergy Policy Approved by the SGWS Board of Trustees August 10, 2015