



SPRING GARDEN  
WALDORF SCHOOL

**Welcome Packet**

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# WALDORF EDUCATION

*Inspiring. Innovative. Intelligent.*

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## **Developmentally Appropriate**

We provide the right learning experience at the right time, meaning curriculum matches child development.



## **Intrinsically Motivating**

Grades and external rewards are not given or minimized. The reward of learning is mastery, confidence, self improvement and pride.



## **Hands On**

We believe children learn by doing, so our curriculum involves application of knowledge and interactive learning in all subjects.



## **Character Centric**

Character education -- excelling in empathy, determination, cooperation, and responsibility -- is integral to success.



## **Relevant**

Relevancy inspires intrinsic motivation and deeper learning. We never want students to say: "When will I ever use this?"



## **Enjoyable**

School should be joy filled. We integrate activities children love -- physical activity, art, music, movement, and the outdoors.

## INFORMATION AT-A-GLANCE

### Students Served

Coeducational PreK - Grade 8

### Student Population

180 Students

### Contact Details



[admissions@sgws.org](mailto:admissions@sgws.org)



330.666.0574

### Early Childhood Ratio

7:1

### Average Grades Class Size

20 Students

### Hours and Website



M - F 8:15am - 3:30pm EST



[www.sgws.org](http://www.sgws.org)

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Early Childhood Preschool and Kindergarten*

Our Early Childhood program is based on the understanding that young children learn primarily through imitation and play. Teachers focus on fostering the imagination and creativity through storytelling, music, outdoor play and artistic activities. Young children are gently led through a warm and nurturing day that includes plenty of outdoor time, free play and modeling of adult behavior.

### CORE ACTIVITIES

- ❑ Creative Play Time Outdoors & Indoors
- ❑ Circle Time - Song, Verse & Movement
- ❑ Arts Time - Paint, Beeswax, Handwork
- ❑ Snack Preparation, Eating & Clean Up
- ❑ Story Time - Puppets, Nature & More



### HEAD

Circle, Story and Art help students learn how to stay on task, follow instructions, build memory skills, pay attention to detail and develop focused work habits.

### HEART

Creative Play & Snack Time with peers help students learn empathy, cooperation, respect, patience, responsibility, kindness and other essential relationship skills.

### HANDS

Art Activities, Play and Outdoor Time build both large and small motor skills, eye-hand coordination, vestibular and proprioceptive sensory integration.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Grades 1 & 2 - Lower School*

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We spend our first and second years of formal schooling helping children transition out of the play-focused, nurturing environment in Early Childhood and into the world of instructional learning, while still allowing plenty of time for play and physical experience. Young students focus on getting along with peers, behaving without direct supervision, listening to their teacher – all while they explore academics. We take great care to honor childhood by offering shorter Main Lesson instruction and encouraging regular outdoor recess, creative play, unstructured time and movement opportunities.

### DAILY RHYTHM

- ❑ Outdoor Recess, Play, Nature Walks
- ❑ Main Lesson: Language, Math, Science
- ❑ Eating & Play Time Outside
- ❑ Subject Lessons: Music, Spanish, Gardening, Handwork, Physical Education.



### GRADE 1 CORE CURRICULUM

Introduction To Letters & Writing; Four Processes Of Arithmetic; Nature's Seasons & Cycles; Spanish Counting & Colors; Fairy Tales & Folklore; Pentatonic Flute, Choral Melody & Rhythm; Form Drawing, Watercolors, Knitting & Beeswax Modeling; Recess, Non-Competitive Games & Movement Lessons.

### GRADE 2 CORE CURRICULUM

Reading & Writing Sentences; Multiplication Tables, Carrying & Borrowing; Nature In Gardening; Spanish Vocabulary Expansion; Native American Story, Local History & Geography; Pentatonic Flute, Choral Melody; Form Drawing, Watercolors, Crocheting & Beeswax Modeling; Recess, Non-Competitive Games & Movement.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Grades 3-5 - Intermediate School*

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By third grade, students are ready developmentally to ask tough questions and to make connections within the world around them. In Intermediate school, Main Lesson time expands and curriculum becomes more in-depth and rigorous. That does not mean, however, that children spend more time at their desks! Lessons remain hands on and relevant. Outdoor time and movement continue as an essential part of the day.

### CROSS CURRICULAR LEARNING

- ❑ Class 3 - Math, Science and History intersect during model and full scale shelter building alongside a school building project.
- ❑ Class 4 - Language and Arts learning culminates in essay writing and sculpture for in depth Zoology study.
- ❑ Class 5 - Greek History and Language Arts live on in Olympiad training for a Greek Pentathlon in PE class.



### GRADE 3 CORE CURRICULUM

Sentence Structure, Spelling; Multiplication Tables, Measurement & Time; Botany Via Gardening; Spanish Nouns & Verbs; Ancient History & Middle Eastern Geography; Recorder & Chorus; Form Drawing, Crocheting & Beeswax Modeling; PE Games.

### GRADE 4 CORE CURRICULUM

Composition & Grammar; Word Problems, Fractions & Long Division; Zoology; Spanish Reading & Writing; Ohio History & Geography; Violin & Chorus; Geometric Drawing, Watercolor Painting, Cross Stitch & Clay Modeling; PE Games.

### GRADE 5 CORE CURRICULUM

Syntax & Paper Writing; Decimals, Fractions & Mixed Numbers; Botany II; Spanish Grammar, Syntax & Writing; India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt And Greece Geography & Culture; Violin & Chorus; Geometric Drawing & Woodworking. PE Pentathlon.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Grades 6-8 - Middle School*

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Middle school students are ready to be engaged leaders, collaborators and critical thinkers. We help adolescents expand on knowledge and relate what they've learned to their lives and communities. High expectations are coupled with a warm and respectful community, which provides a safe place for the transformative experience of beginning adolescence. Our students develop abilities to think creatively, feel empathically and work actively, which instills them with the confidence needed to meet the world.

### CROSS CURRICULAR LEARNING

- Class 6 - Mathematics, Language Arts and Craftsmanship turn relevant as students create a business -- plan, product, marketing -- and sell items to raise money.
- Class 7 - The Renaissance comes to life through painting under desks, sistine chapel style, and hosting a Renaissance Faire for Waldorf peers.
- Class 8 - Chair building in woodworking teaches the Industrial Revolution as students start the chair by hand and end the process via assembly line.



### GRADE 6 CORE CURRICULUM

Advanced Grammar, Composition & Narration; Geometry & Algebra; Physics & Geology; Spanish Reading & Writing; Roman & Medieval History; North & South American Geography, Orchestra & Chorus; Knitting, Woodwork & Geometric Drawing. PE Sports.

### GRADE 7 CORE CURRICULUM

Complex Composition; Algebra; Chemistry, Physiology & Astronomy; Spanish Reading & Conversation; Age Of Exploration Through Renaissance; African & European Geography; Orchestra & Chorus; Perspective Drawing & Woodworking; PE Sports.

### GRADE 8 CORE CURRICULUM

Newspaper & Business Writing; Algebra II; Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology & Physics II; Spanish Skill Use; 1700 – Present. U.S. History; Asian Geography; Orchestra & Chorus; Art History, Charcoal Drawing & Woodworking; PE Sports.

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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Special Subjects*

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### Spanish



As students learn Spanish through grades 1 to 8, they develop skills in vocabulary, grammar, reading and translation all while hearing stories and becoming acquainted with a different culture. Language learning has also been shown to improve cognitive function in problem solving, memory and verbal and spatial abilities.

### Music



Music permeates every child's school experience through daily singing, learning notation, performances and instrument and choral instruction. Children begin playing recorders and move to playing violin and other instruments for orchestral performance. Music education is valuable in and of itself, but has also been proven to boost academic skills.

### Handwork



Students in all grades learn many forms of handwork including knitting, crocheting, felting, embroidery and sewing. Handwork not only teaches concentration and perseverance, but also fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, mathematical and patterned thinking, and grants a sense of accomplishment.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## *Special Subjects*

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### Physical Education



Lower grade students have two movement classes to help build cognition by developing spatial awareness, tactile sense, proprioceptive senses, and sensory integration. Older students have one class during the school day, but can participate in our Athletic Program with sports including Basketball, Track and Field and Cross Country.

### Woodwork



Students in 5th through 8th grade have class in our woodworking shop and use hand tools to transform wood blocks into forms including a mouse, spoon, bowl, duck and eventually an entire chair! This class teaches the value of perserverance, problem solving and practical math.

### Gardening



Stewardship of the earth is actively taught in our school along with botany and environmental science. This is all done in the most relevant way possible, by working with nature through gardening and learning the responsibility that comes with drawing sustenance from our earth.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **Why Does the Teacher Move With the Students?**

Looping, or keeping the same teacher over multiple years, lends social and academic cohesion and helps keep the focus on learning. Children learn by respecting and modeling authority figures. Keeping the class teacher (by no means the child's only teacher) as a steady authority in a child's life has been proven beneficial to learning.

## **What Is Your Approach to Homework?**

We like to say that 10 minutes per grade is an appropriate amount of homework for children. However, homework is not typically assigned until third grade and should not be an unmanageable burden for our students or their families.

## **What Is Your Approach to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion?**

Spring Garden is a welcoming community full of families from all cultures, races, backgrounds and lifestyles. Waldorf pedagogy invites us to study and understand all of humanity. We study subjects objectively and ensure our curriculum connects students to many cultures and people. Our school has no tolerance for intolerance, bigotry and oppression. Read our school's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement in this packet.

## **Why Are There No Computers on Campus?**

Waldorf educators believe that technology is an essential tool in 21st century life and work, but not the best way to teach subjects of study in grades 1-8. For children under the age of twelve, we believe the focus should remain on hands-on, experiential learning. This is why we do not have computers in our classrooms.

## **How Do Students Perform Compared to Non-Waldorf Peers?**

An independent five-year study of SGWS students' IOWA test scores showed that Spring Garden grade eight students well outperformed their same-age and same-grade peers nationally who took the IOWA tests. 50% of SGWS grade eight students tested at a 13th grade equivalency, the grade level at which the IOWA test is capped. 75% of the students tested at least two grades above grade level.

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# ADMISSIONS PROCESS

*We Look Forward to Meeting Your Family*

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## GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

Talk with our Admissions Director to learn more about our school. Reach out through phone, email, or inquiry form to arrange a school tour.

## APPLYING TO SPRING GARDEN

Submit an application online. Our application helps us get to know your student so that we can determine if we can meet their needs.

## RECORDS RELEASE AND FEES

To cover expenses and facilitate transfer of files, we require a non-refundable processing fee of \$70 and a signed records release form for students previously in school.

## CLASS VISITS AND FAMILY INTERVIEWS

Students in grades 1-8 will come for a 3 day school visit. Guardians of PreK and K students meet with teachers for a family interview.

## ENROLLMENT

If accepted, families are invited to enroll and students are admitted with a ten-week probationary period.

# PROGRAMS AND TUITION

## Preschool

3 Half Days - Wed. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - Noon

3 Full Days - Wed. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - 3:20

5 Half Days - Mon. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - Noon

5 Full Days - Mon. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - 3:20

## Kindergarten

5 Half Days ~ Mon. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - Noon

5 Full Days ~ Mon. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - 3:20

Full & Half Day Combinations Available

## Grades 1-8

5 Full Days ~ Mon. thru Fri. ~ 8:30 - 3:20

Age Requirement for Grade 1:

Age 6 by June 1st.



### ***Tuition Estimates 2024-25\****

<b><i>Program</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Tuition</i></b>	<b><i>Monthly</i></b>	<b><i>Sibling Tuition</i></b>	<b><i>Monthly</i></b>
GRADES 1-8	\$13,028	\$1,086	\$11,844	\$987
PK/K 5 Full Day	\$12,862	\$1,071	\$11,693	\$975
PK/K 3 Full Day	\$7,848	\$654	\$7,135	\$595
PK/K 5 Half Day	\$8,722	\$727	\$7,929	\$661
PK/K 3 Half Day	\$5,241	\$437	\$4,765	\$397

***\*Final Tuition Rate Determined Feb. 2024***

#### ***Supply and Activity Fees:***

Three Day Preschool/Kindergarten \$150/annually

Five Day Preschool/Kindergarten \$250/annually

Grade School Students \$275/annually

# TUITION ASSISTANCE

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We believe that all students should have access to the enriching, holistic curriculum offered in Waldorf Education, regardless of their family's ability to afford full tuition. This is why we offer a number of supports for families who are choosing a Waldorf education for their children.



## **Tuition Assistance Endowment**

We have an endowment dedicated to financial assistance for families and also dedicate a portion of our annual budget to our tuition assistance programs. We partner with FACTS as a third party to help determine aid eligibility for all interested families.

Once a child is accepted into Spring Garden Waldorf School in Kindergarten through Grade 8, a family may request financial assistance through FACTS.



## **EdChoice Scholarship**

We are part of the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program. This program provides voucher money to all Ohio students that can be applied towards tuition at participating private schools. The program offers scholarships to families based on income and / or location. This scholarship is available to students beginning in Kindergarten and in Grades 1-8. Please contact us for more information.

# FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

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The best predictor of student success is caregiver involvement in their education. Parents and guardians play an essential role as advocates for their children and as partners in enriching our community with their ideas, interests, talents and resources.



## SERVICE HOURS

As part of the enrollment contract, parents/guardians complete up to 30 volunteer hours per year. This commitment provides students with a positive model of community service and builds our community by offering opportunities to become better acquainted in a supportive, informal setting.

## TEACHER MEETINGS

Teacher Conferences and Class Meetings are each held twice a year to inform parents about their individual students and classroom community. One parent/guardian from each family is expected to attend each meeting.

## MEDIA POLICY

A growing body of research in cognition and child development indicate that early exposure to media can negatively impact a child's academic success. With this in mind, we ask families to work in partnership with us by limiting the children's exposure to media at home. To this end, any items with media characters are not permitted in the school.

# STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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Spring Garden Waldorf School believes people of any racial identification, ancestry, nationality, socioeconomic background, family structure, age, religion, belief system, gender, sexual orientation and appearance should feel welcome at our school. We strive to ensure students and community members feel respected and celebrated while seeing themselves reflected in the school's culture, curriculum and policy. Our school has no tolerance for intolerance, bigotry and oppression.

Waldorf pedagogy invites us to study and understand all of humanity. Spring Garden Waldorf School has a duty to the world and our children to study subjects objectively and ensure our curriculum connects students to many cultures and people. Our students deserve to learn about diverse peoples and learn within a school where they see themselves, their families, and the wider community reflected in curriculum and experiences.

We take responsibility for ourselves, our choices and our mistakes, as individuals and as an institution. We are committed to the ongoing work of cultivating a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment. We are committed to leveraging our strengths as a school to create structural, cultural and institutional change.

We promise to use our gift of community to create opportunities to express diverse, equitable and inclusive viewpoints and give constructive feedback without fear of recrimination. We promise to use community resources to offer opportunities for people to experience diversity and unity. We promise to use our fiscal responsibility to invest in this work through Seeking Education Equity and Diversity training for the community, updating resources supporting our DEI work, and expanding DEI initiatives and professional development opportunities.

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# LET'S GET STARTED!

Thank you for your interest in Spring Garden Waldorf School. The best way to get to know if our school is a good fit for your family is to talk with us and take a tour.

By touring while class is in session, you will see our comprehensive academic, artistic, cultural, and practical education at work. It is a great way to fully understand how we encourage students to develop into creative, balanced, responsible, and free-thinking individuals.

[CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A TOUR](#)



[admissions@sgws.org](mailto:admissions@sgws.org)

[www.sgws.org](http://www.sgws.org)

330.666.0574

# ONLINE APPLICATION

Our applications are online and those wishing to apply must create an account in our FACTS Admission and Enrollment portal to complete an application. We also require a fee of \$70 per application, which covers costs of administration of your application including records requests, faculty file review, and input processing.

ALL are welcome to apply!

[SGWS.ORG/APPLY/](https://sgws.org/apply/)