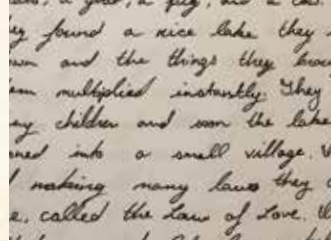




What does my child need to know?

Twenty years from now it won't much matter whether or not your child got an A in 4th grade science. **What will matter is whether they can take initiative, problem-solve, think creatively and, work well with others.** What will matter is that they can use not just their intellect in solving problems, but their imagination, not just their heads, but their hands, and their heart. What will matter is whether your child is prepared for a world in which the only thing certain is change. And the capacities to meet this change are precisely what WWS develops.







Αρχαία Ελλάδα
Ιστορία Ελλάδας

1. Write about two different characters who are courageous.
2. Write about two different characters who are brave.
3. Write about the importance of courage.





What makes a Waldorf school a Waldorf school?

All Waldorf schools are different, but we share some important features.

Learning starts with questions: What do children need to know? When should they learn it, and how? From there, our aim is to educate the whole child, with a developmentally appropriate curriculum that helps young people become their best and fullest selves. We emphasize problem-solving, creativity, and resilience. We cultivate students' imaginations. And everything happens in an atmosphere of compassion—we care deeply about the well-being of everyone in the school community.

Waldorf education is among the fastest-growing educational movements in the world, with more than a thousand Waldorf schools in nearly 90 countries.






It looks like a circus in there.

You mean because of the unicycles? The juggling pins? The clown noses? The stilts? Circus arts are just one of the ways—PE and Eurythmy and games and sports are others—that Washington Waldorf uses movement as an important part of the learning process, supporting academic learning as well as physical development. **So while they're tumbling or riding unicycles or defying gravity hanging from aerial silks, students improve their balance and coordination.** They gain confidence in their bodies. They supercharge their minds. And, lest we forget, circuses are one heck of a lot of fun.



A high-angle photograph of five young children in a playroom. They are gathered around a circle of wooden blocks on a light-colored floor. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The playroom has wooden furniture and a red cushioned bench in the background.

“There’s a deeply psychological and developmental awareness. It’s deep-seated. They really honor children’s developmental stages.”

Vicky Tay-Muller, parent of three
Washington Waldorf students

Original thinkers

A Washington Waldorf capstone experience for most students involves completing an independent Senior Project. **Projects reflect students' evolving interests and span a broad and eclectic range of topics.** Over the years students have explored 20th-century fashion, the effects of sonar on marine mammals, and the causes of homelessness. One got certified as a Wilderness First Responder. Another overhauled an old Porsche. Yet another launched a nonprofit organization in Bolivia. Senior Projects put seniors' diverse talents and passions on full display.

SOME RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

- ✦ Béla Bartók - Inspiration for Composing
- ✦ Bike Safety and Transportation
- ✦ Capital Punishment - Right or Wrong?
- ✦ Coral Reef Conservation and Restoration
- ✦ Designing a Marina
- ✦ Early Childhood Trauma: Using Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology to Rewire the Brain
- ✦ Music Healing in Nepalese Culture
- ✦ Understanding Sharks: Misconceptions and Protections



Student work from the 7th grade African Studies block





BALANCED LEARNING +

Opportunities outside the classroom engage minds and bodies, strengthen relationships, and connect students with the world around them.



Wouldn't that be easier with Google?

One thing you notice when you walk into a Waldorf classroom is the absence of gadgets—no smartphones, no tablets, no laptops in the lower grades, and only limited use in high school. **What you will see is kids learning fractions by cutting up apples, tending lime kilns in chemistry class, or learning the principles of physics by building contraptions that would make Rube Goldberg envious.** Are Waldorf schools anti-tech? Not at all—in fact, a lot of parents who work at Google, or Apple, or other tech firms send their kids to one. But there's a time and a place for tech, and sometimes apples make better teaching tools than apps.

TECH WHEN IT'S TIME FOR TECH ♦ In the middle school, students learn keyboarding and begin to use the internet for research. Digital literacy and Cyber Civics are part of the middle school curriculum. In the high school, students learn a variety of technologies. Our three-year technology curriculum involves hands-on engagement with coding, programming, and other tech skills. Students even learn to take a computer apart.



points if $k_f = 1.86 \frac{^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{mol}}$

$$(32.4 \text{ g}_{\text{NaCl}}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol}_{\text{NaCl}}}{58.44 \text{ g}_{\text{NaCl}}} \right) = 0.554 \text{ mol}_{\text{NaCl}}$$



Senior self-portraits blend self-awareness with self-expression.



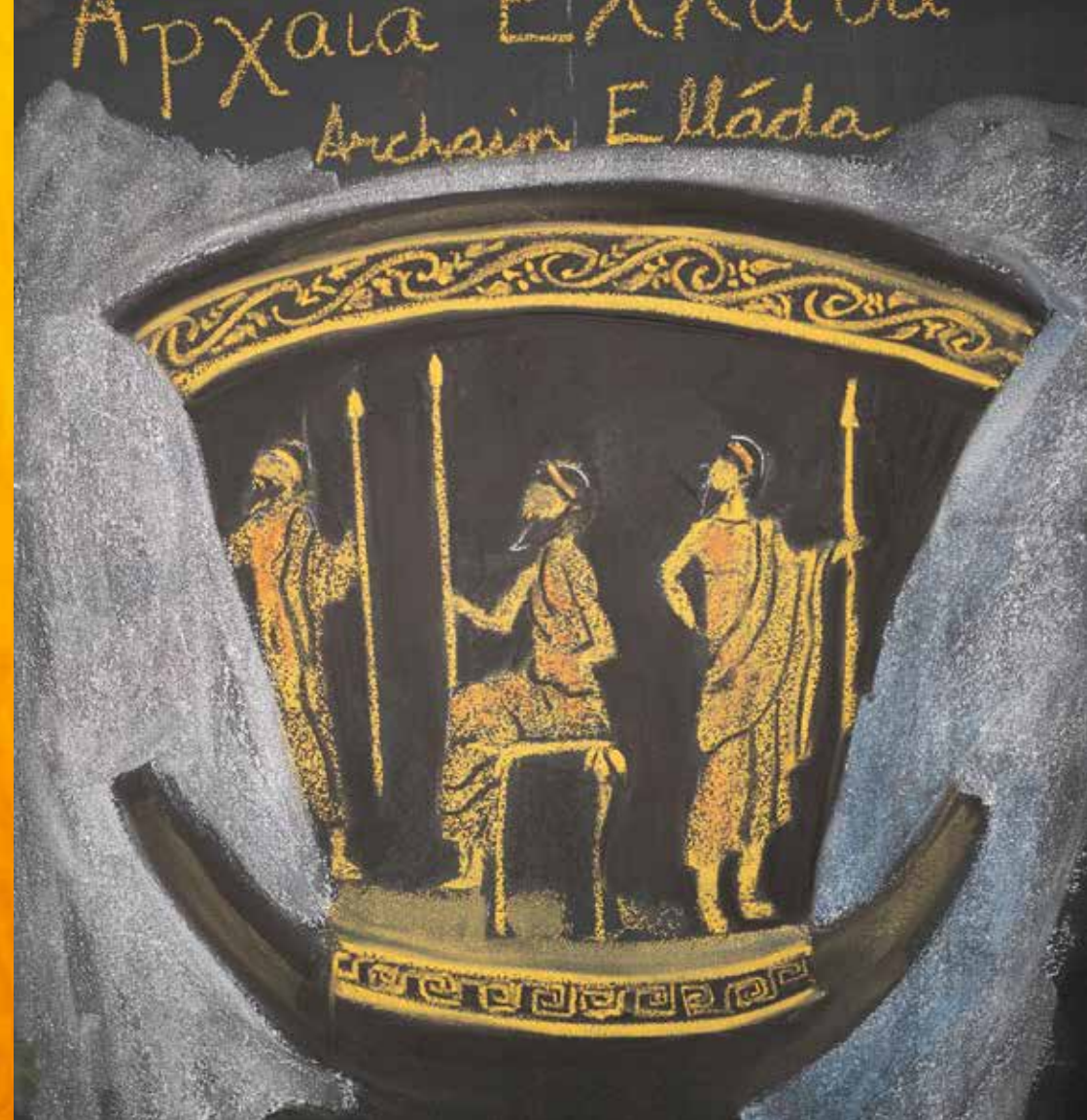
At Washington Waldorf, we believe the best way to learn science is to do science.

Where in the world...?

Field trips and other outings **connect learning to the world beyond the campus**. All grades take them, tapping the abundant resources of the Greater Washington Area and also venturing further afield. Overnight trips begin in third grade—to New York’s Hawthorne Valley Farm, where one memorable highlight might be watching the birth of a new calf—and conclude senior year with a marine biology-themed visit to the coast of Maine.

- ✦ 3rd grade - Hawthorne Valley Farm in upstate New York, for an introduction to farm life and food production
- ✦ 4th grade - Chesapeake Bay geography and environmental studies
- ✦ 5th grade - The Olympiad, a competition with other Waldorf schools that dovetails with 5th graders’ study of Ancient Greece
- ✦ 6th grade - Blue Ridge Mountains, to study mountain geology and to star-gaze for their astronomy block
- ✦ 7th grade - Wilderness skills and team-building in Vermont
- ✦ 8th grade - Trips tailored to the interests of each class include an outdoor challenge, a service challenge, and fun
- ✦ 9th grade - Wilderness skills at Experience Learning in West Virginia
- ✦ 10th grade - A return to Hawthorne Valley Farm, to learn about land use, the economics of farming, animal husbandry, and other topics
- ✦ 11th grade - Pennsylvania’s Camphill Special School, to learn how this Waldorf school educates children with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ✦ 12th grade - Hermit Island, Maine, to explore zoology, ecology, and marine biology









But my neighbor's kid was reading in kindergarten...

In our hyper-competitive world, many parents think that the sooner their child reads, the better. Research suggests otherwise. Most children's brains simply aren't developmentally ready for reading until first or second grade. Rather than rushing young children into reading, we focus on essential building blocks that prepare them to be strong and fervent readers later on, like storytelling, playacting, wordplay— activities that cultivate a love of language.

“Hurrying children is a problem,” says David Elkind, professor emeritus of child development at Tufts University. So at Washington Waldorf, we don't.





Today is Wednesday
Feb. 21, 2024

8:30^a
10:30^a M.L. - Math: Factors
Snack break & recess

10:55-11:40 - Spanish

11:45-12:30 - Strings

Lunch & recess

1:15-2:00 - Library

2:05-2:45 - Woodwork & art

3:00 Dismissal

Michaelmas?

What's Michaelmas?

Held each fall at the time of the Autumnal Equinox when the summer light begins to fade, **Michaelmas celebrates the courage, strength, and light within each person.** It continues an ancient harvest festival honoring the legend of St. Michael's valiant efforts to slay a kingdom-threatening dragon. As in medieval times, there are games of challenge and skill. There are dances with wooden swords, and a blacksmith forge. Plus a dragon, of course. It is one of several festivals and community celebrations that fill in the school calendar, along with the Fall Bazaar, Mid-winter Garden, Rose Ceremonies, Maypole Dance, and Spring Festival.





Do Washington Waldorf students play sports?

Interscholastic sports begin in the middle grades, and in high school, everyone—everyone—plays on at least one team.

These aren't "extras" at Washington Waldorf—they're as **important as everything else we do here**, a vital part of students' development and a great way to spend time with your friends.



College prep? Of course, but also life prep.

The first stop after graduation for nearly every Washington Waldorf student is college. And after that? Their lives head off into a wide variety of original, imaginative, and worthwhile directions. Here are a few examples...



Sam Girdzis '12 ♦ Sam graduated from the College of William & Mary in 2016 and is now a Ph.D. candidate in Applied Physics at Stanford University, where he conducts research on hybrid organic-inorganic materials.

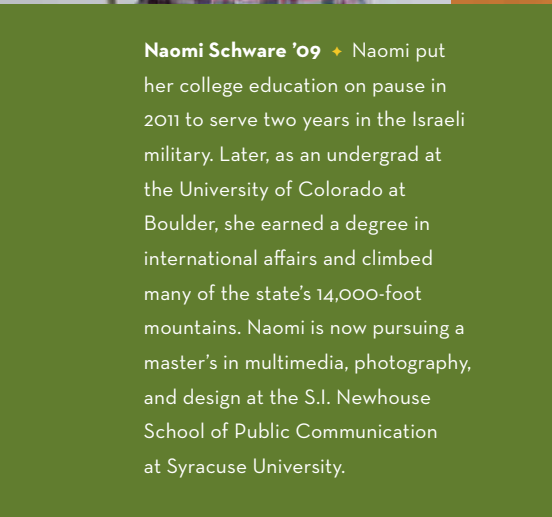


Raquel Hakes Weston-Dawkes '11 ♦ Raquel lives with her husband in San Diego, where she is working on a doctorate in mechanical engineering, researching fluid instabilities in flames. She recently attended a conference in Portugal where she presented her work on firebrand heating and ignition in wildfires.





Max Silver '07 ♦ After graduating from Carleton College, Max embarked on a career as a filmmaker. He's a production manager for Netflix, and his directorial debut, a 2016 short film called Trunk Space, earned numerous awards and was an official selection at the Austin Film Festival.

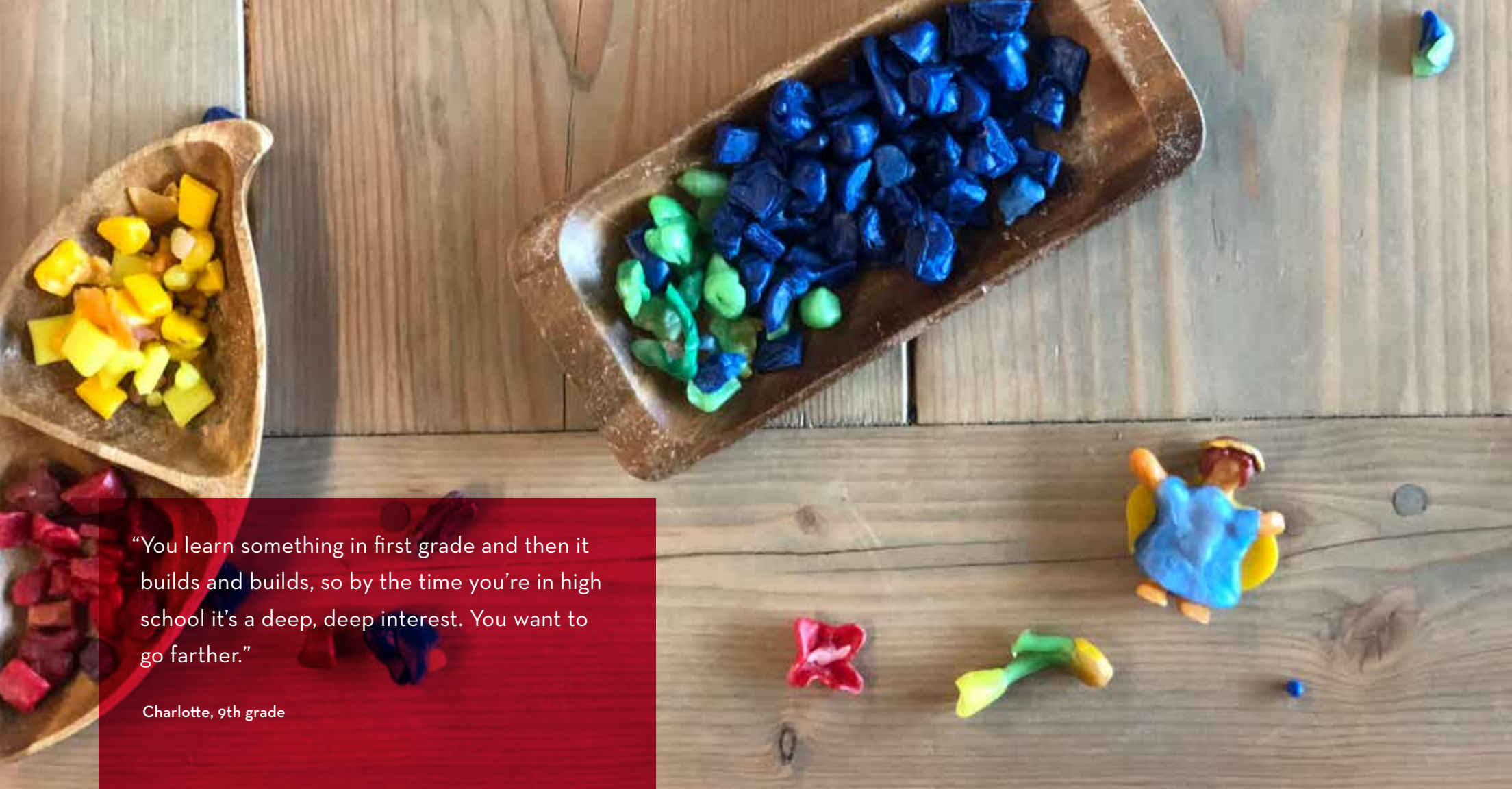


Naomi Schware '09 ♦ Naomi put her college education on pause in 2011 to serve two years in the Israeli military. Later, as an undergrad at the University of Colorado at Boulder, she earned a degree in international affairs and climbed many of the state's 14,000-foot mountains. Naomi is now pursuing a master's in multimedia, photography, and design at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication at Syracuse University.



“I think what Waldorf does best, is more than teaching memorization of facts, it teaches how to approach learning itself. Waldorf gives students a curiosity to learn not only the 'what,' but also the 'why' and the 'how' of a problem. This translates into a confidence later in life that any unknown can be solved, even if nobody is teaching it to you. In film production, every project holds different challenges with new and shifting variables, and the skills Waldorf teaches—of learning how to learn, and how to problem-solve new unknowns—have been fundamental to my career.”

Max Silver, Class of 2007



"You learn something in first grade and then it builds and builds, so by the time you're in high school it's a deep, deep interest. You want to go farther."

Charlotte, 9th grade





A cure for the common worksheet.

Take a problem in projective geometry, add in a heavy dose of creative thinking, blend with aesthetic sensibility, and what do you get?

Something like this, most likely. Something that crosses the line between math and art. Something that's practical and beautiful at the same time. Something that comes from **deep and imaginative thinking**. And something that goes well beyond the potential of any multiple-choice test.



6th graders performing
Robin Hood



“The school understands how human beings grow and develop. We know what’s good for a three-year-old, or a first grader, or someone in high school. There’s a real consciousness around the education.”

Taisto Saloma, American History teacher and Athletic Director



Taught from the earliest grades through high school, Eurythmy is an art of movement performed to music or poetry that harmoniously engages the whole person—artistically, physically, and intellectually.



“Students develop a sense of confidence and fearlessness. They’re exposed to so many different things here. They encounter something new and say, ‘I’ve done something similar, so I can probably do this too.’”

Tove Elfström, Woodwork teacher

What's with all the art?

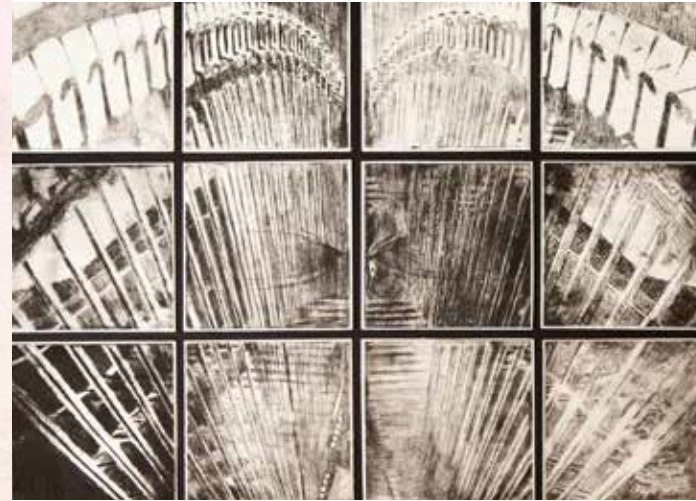
Waldorf education **engages the whole person**, and an important part of that “whole” is art. Every student can express themselves through art, and all benefit from participating in the arts. Visual and performing arts are everywhere at Washington Waldorf, celebrated for its own sake and for the way it animates learning across the curriculum, in subjects from literature and social studies to science and math.

VISUAL ARTS

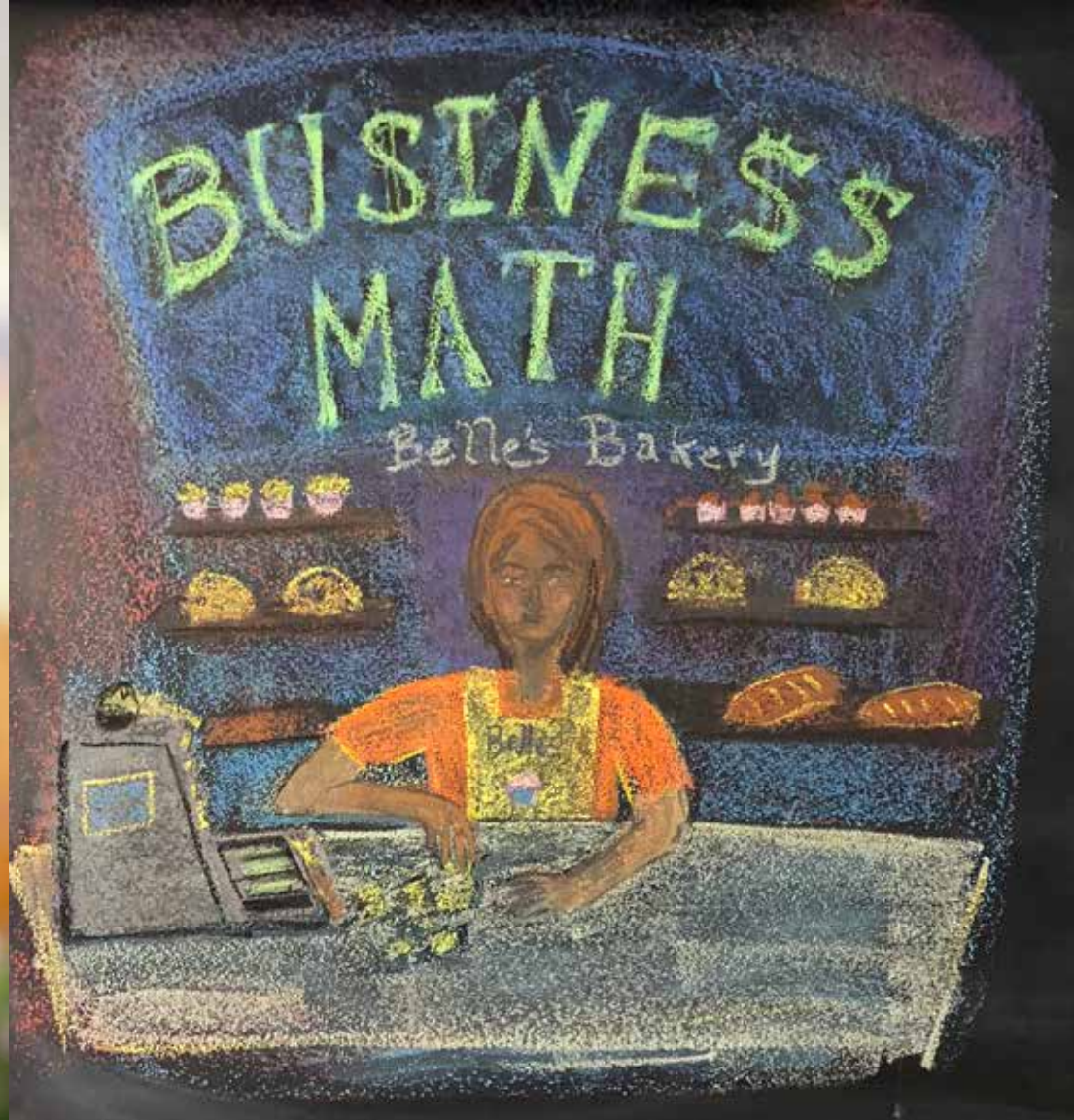
- ✦ Drawing
- ✦ Painting
- ✦ Sculpture
- ✦ Woodworking
- ✦ Metalworking
- ✦ Book arts
- ✦ Fiber arts

PERFORMING ARTS

- ✦ Drama
- ✦ Instrumental music
- ✦ Choral music
- ✦ Eurythmy
(movement art)
- ✦ Clowning











Why are those kids playing in the mud?

That's really two questions. The first is, Why are they playing?

They're playing because play is how young children learn best.

Playing games or make-believe stretches children's imaginations, teaches social skills and creativity, and sets the stage for all kinds of later learning. The second question is, Why mud? We want students at Washington Waldorf to develop an appreciation for the natural world, and one way we do that is by making sure they get outside into that world, rain or shine.



Will my child get into a good college?

100% of our graduates go on to college, taking with them SAT and ACT scores that are above national and local public-school averages. They go to colleges that are the best match for their unique and varied talents and passions, including many of the finest colleges in the world. But the life-shaping benefits of a Washington Waldorf education carry well beyond college.

Our graduates are creative thinkers and problem-solvers. They're resilient, persistent, curious about the world around them. They leave here having engaged with concepts like courage and purpose and truth, and prepared to live them.

To see the colleges and universities our graduates attend, visit [washingtonwaldorf.org/colleges](https://www.washingtonwaldorf.org/colleges)





High school students participate in service learning on the Calleya Farm as part of their environmental education initiative.





“From the beginning, it just felt like what a school should be.”

Chrissy Bryla, Parent

WWS at a Glance

CHARACTER

Coeducational from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. One of more than 1,000 Waldorf schools worldwide, Washington Waldorf School is dedicated to developing young people's full capacities for creativity, critical thinking, and active engagement with the world.

ENROLLMENT

- ✦ 300 students
- ✦ 47 full-time faculty
- ✦ 6.5:1 student-teacher ratio

DIVERSITY

- ✦ 30% students of color
- ✦ Families from 33 nationalities
- ✦ 19 languages spoken

FACULTY

All Washington Waldorf faculty members are trained in Waldorf education. More than half have an advanced degree.

CAMPUS & LOCATION

6-acre campus in Bethesda, Maryland, about 1 mile from Washington, DC.

ATHLETICS

20 teams in 5 sports (soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball); interscholastic sports in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference begin in 5th grade.

ACCREDITATION

- ✦ The Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS)
- ✦ Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)

OUTCOMES

After Washington Waldorf – Graduates go on to outstanding colleges in the U.S. and elsewhere, and from there to success and fulfillment in virtually every walk of life. For a list of the colleges graduates attend, go to [washingtonwaldorf.org/colleges](http://www.washingtonwaldorf.org/colleges)

**TO SCHEDULE A VISIT
OR LEARN MORE ABOUT
WASHINGTON WALDORF,**
contact the Enrollment Office
at **301.229.6108** or inquire on our
website at [washingtonwaldorf.org](http://www.washingtonwaldorf.org).

