

SEATTLE WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL

**ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**



Healthy student life during the high school years depends upon achieving a critical balance between gradually increasing freedom and responsibility. In pursuit of this balance, these Guidelines form the backbone of our student life and school expectations. Our high school is a community based upon relationships and an ideal of young adults who learn together to achieve the self-knowledge and self-mastery that will allow them to meet the challenges of our time. In service of this ideal, these Guidelines articulate the values we strive to bring to life in our daily work, and our responsibilities for self and others and our school.

The rules for our community are living and we aim for them to be held in common by all the members of our high school community. This requires doing the hard work of listening and responding to each other and being willing to take the time to return over and over again to discuss and refine our collective understanding of how we may in practice live our ideals. Out of this hard work we realize the vision of our school.

Below are our expectations for students. The particulars may adjust from time to time as we adapt to each other and to the needs of our community. Out of this striving we create together a community of learners that allows for creativity, responsibility, and individual freedom.

We hold the expectation that all members of the community will behave in ways which demonstrate their consideration of others.

- Swearing, disrespectful or inappropriate language is not allowed.
- Any form of harassment of others is not allowed.
- Student attire should be clean, respectful, and suited to the activity. Helping students develop good judgment about appropriate attire is part of our work. Because wearing hats indoors is sometimes considered disrespectful, we encourage students to remove their hats when they are inside. Permission to wear hats during class is at the discretion of the teacher.

We place a high value on everyone's full participation in the life of the school.

- It is important for all members of the school community to be present each day, on-time and ready to participate. We ask that a parent call the school office no later than 8:45 am to report any absence. Students who arrive late to school must check in at the office before reporting to class. In the event of a planned absence, we ask students to complete a planned absence form (available in the office) – this will facilitate notifying teachers and collecting any work or assignments for the student.

- Phone calls and texting may happen only during the breaks – never during class. Out of consideration for others, phone calls need to be taken to an area away from other people.
- Items (such as electronic games) which divert attention from engaging with others or from the work we strive to accomplish, should not be used during the school day. We also recognize the value of inner activity, such as quiet time for reflection, study, or artistic work – these we see as an important dimension of “participation in the life of the school.”
- Computers can both support as well as detract from the experience we seek to create. Students may use computers as a tool for school-related work or learning. However, using computers at school for entertainment, or for purposes inconsistent with our computer user agreement, is not allowed.
- Unless specifically required for a class, students may not listen to electronic devices while at school.

We seek to create a school environment
which is clean, orderly, and beautiful.

- Students need to keep personal belongings with them or in their locker, or in appropriate storage areas (such as musical instruments in the music room, and bicycles in the bike storage area).
- Food and drink (other than water) are not allowed during class.
- Skateboards and the like may not be used indoors.
- Food is not allowed in carpeted areas, nor in science labs. Each person needs to clean up with care after eating.
- Gum, when permitted, must be chewed discretely and disposed of properly. Gum chewing is not permitted in Choir or Movement classes, for reasons of safety. Gum chewing during class is at the teacher’s discretion.
- Students who wish to invite a visitor to school must request permission in advance, by completing a form which is available in the office.
- We share collective responsibility for keeping the school clean and in good repair. Daily chores need to be done with diligence and care.

We take seriously our responsibility to assure our students' safety and well-being.

- Each student in the high school has an Advisor, who takes on the “holding” role which class teachers perform in the Grade School. Advisors meet regularly with the students they advise. The Advisor serves as the primary point of contact between home and school. Students may look to their Advisor for assistance of any kind.
- Anyone leaving campus during the school day must sign out on the appropriate list, and sign in again upon return. Campus boundaries include the building and immediately adjacent sidewalks and yard spaces.
- Dangerous or illegal items (weapons, illegal drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, etc.) are not allowed at school.
- Substance abuse and smoking: Our foremost concern is with the health and education of young people in our care – and because we are aware of the illegal aspect of tobacco, drug and alcohol use – we are committed to discouraging and preventing their use anywhere by students of the Seattle Waldorf School. We expect that each student will make an inner commitment to abstain from tobacco, drugs and alcohol, and that parents will actively support their child’s commitment.
- Students who use, exchange, possess, sell or who are under the influence of drugs, alcohol, inhalants, tobacco or other dangerous substances will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the school’s Substance Abuse Policy.

We strive to inspire our students to be curious about the world, and to work to a high standard.

- Plagiarism (which can be defined as using words or ideas from another text or writer without directly identifying and crediting that source) – is not allowed.

We encourage students to take increasing responsibility for their learning, and for the life of the school.

- Students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 have open campus privileges during the morning and lunch breaks, once an “off-campus lunch permission form”, signed by parent/guardian, is on file in the office. All school expectations for appropriate behavior apply while students are off-campus. Students leaving campus bear the responsibility to return in ample time for the start of the following class. Students in Grade 9 have open campus privileges for the second half of the school year, on one, designated day per week.