



GRADE SCHOOL & OFFICE
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August 15, 2011

Dear Early Childhood and Grade School Families,

On behalf of the Board, faculty, and staff, we are delighted to welcome you to the Seattle Waldorf School 2011–12 school year. We are looking forward to this coming year with you and your children, and to beginning a brand new journey of discovery through our wonderful Waldorf curriculum. We hope you find the following information helpful as your family prepares to come back to school. As always, do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Hours of Operation

	Preschool	Kindergarten	Grades 1 – 8
Drop-Off Begins	8:15 am	8:15 am	7:45 am
Program Begins	8:30 am	8:45 am	8:15 am
Dismissal	12:30 pm	12:45 pm	3:00 pm

Grade School Drop-Off

Supervision is provided by office staff beginning at 7:45 am. In exceptional circumstances, an earlier drop-off time may be arranged privately with your class teacher. On such occasions, please notify the office as well.

Extended Care

Kindergarten After-School Care: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
After-School Care for Grades 1–5: 3:15 pm – 6:00 pm, in room 104 (grade 4)

For detailed information about our Extended Care program and rates, please visit our [website](#).

Middle School Study Hall

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, 3:15 – 4:00 pm

Study Hall sessions are available to middle school students only, and are offered free of charge on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:00 pm. This is a period of quiet work time when students are supervised by faculty, ready to assist them with their homework. Students who attend must sign-in first with their class teacher and remain in Study Hall for the duration of the whole period.

SWS Website & Connection Newsletter

Visit our website seattlewaldorf.org for extensive information about our school, including the calendar and special events. Read the Connection to learn about festivals, class news and more. This e-newsletter will appear in your inbox every two weeks, on Friday, while school is in session. To submit an article or a classified ad, send a message to newsletter@seattlewaldorf.org.

Class-Specific Information

You should soon receive an email letter from your child’s class teachers. They will give you the block rotation and weekly class schedule during the first Parent Evening of the year. There you will discover the class curriculum and its unfolding along with your fellow class parents in the context of a conversation.

Information about parent evenings, field trips, class plays and special events will be communicated via email throughout the year. You can also check our school’s [website calendar](#) at any time for the latest information.

Need to send information out to your child’s class? Send the message to emailrequest@seattlewaldorf.org, and we will send it for you.

Immunization Information Updates

If there are any changes in your child’s immunization status, we would like to remind you to contact the grade school office to update your child’s Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form.

School Directory & Contact Information Changes

Look for an email with a draft directory at the end of this month. Please find your family's [address, phone and email information](#), check it and let us know of any changes, so the printed version and our records will be current. This year's print version will be sent home with your oldest child by the middle of September. The directory will include a zip code list to facilitate carpooling.

Grade School Drop-off & Parking

Parking is not permitted for the school on NE 100th Street and our parking lot, as well as 100th Street, can become quite congested during both drop-off and pick-up. Most of our faculty and staff will park off-campus to free parking for those times. We will not open the playground for parking – we will all agree it is much better suited for jump-roping and morning warm-ups! Therefore, we ask that parents of children in grades 2–8 park at [Maple Leaf Lutheran Church](#), to allow drop-off traffic to move smoothly. This is especially important on the morning of September 7, when two events will grace our first school day – the Rose Ceremony for our first graders, and a Welcome Tea hosted by our Co-Heads. Check our [web calendar](#) for more information.

We kindly ask that you take extra care to drive slowly on NE 100th Street, and especially as you enter and exit (right turn only) our campus.

Farewells

At the end of last school year we said goodbye to **Geraldine Kline**, former Head of Administration. A warm thank you for all she has done for our school! We wish her all the best in her new job at the Three Cedars Waldorf School.

Patricia Costa Kim left the grade school to be more fully engaged at EMP. However she will continue to teach choir in the High School. Thank you, Patricia for raising the bar in our music program!

We Welcome

- **Betsy Weill**, who will be the new first grade teacher, returning after 19 years. She will start with 31 eager first graders. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons, Carolyn Harris will support Mrs. Weill as the grade one afternoon assistant. Gretchen Matis will assist during the first hour of the Morning lesson.
- our two new Spanish teachers, **Lara Gabriel**, who will teach grades 1 to 4, and **Blake Cisneros**, who will teach grades 5 to 8. Both will be mentored by Britt Urquiza, who is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical.
- our new strings teacher, **Robert Murphy**. He will teach grades 4 to 8 strings/orchestra as well as orchestra in the High School.
- **Brenda Baker**, as Office Manager at the high school and Elaine Schmidt, as Afternoon Receptionist at the grade school.
- **Julie Dean**, providing support to the Business Office.

We look forward to introducing our new faculty members in more detail in upcoming issues of the Connection.

Important Event – Save The Date!

On **September 27 at 7:00 pm**, the Board and school leadership will host a “Community Conversation,” the first in a series of parent evenings throughout the year where we will come together for dialogue and sharing on issues of interest and importance to the SWS community. At this first event, hosted at the grade school campus (2728 NE 100th Street, Seattle), we will introduce our new Head of Administration and new faculty, board members, and share information about our vision for the school including the strategic plan, campus master plan, and financial sustainability. All parents are encouraged to attend. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and engage in conversation about our collective vision for Seattle Waldorf School. We very much hope to see you there!

With sincere gratitude for your commitment to Waldorf education,

Tracy Bennett
Head of Administration

Nettie Fabrie
Head of Pedagogy