

Parent Procedures for Return to School



2023-24



WALDORF SCHOOL
ORANGE COUNTY



Welcome Back

We are excited to welcome both fresh and familiar faces for the 2023 2024 school year when students return to campus on September 5.

To support a smooth start to the school year, please review the important information included in this document regarding our illness policies and drop-off and pick-up procedures, some of which are changed from last year.

We are looking forward to a year brimming with accomplishments, opportunities, challenges, and wonderful surprises, and we are so glad that you and your family are part of our community. We eagerly await the journey that the new school year will bring.

Health & Safety

We continue to work with the California Department of Public Health and the Orange County Health Care Agency to ensure that we remain in alignment with health guidelines so that WSOC can provide safe learning environments for our students. With an end declared to California's COVID-19 state of emergency, changes have been enacted to pandemic-era public health orders, including a reduction in the isolation time for individuals recovering from COVID-19.

According to the most recent guidelines, students who have tested positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate and stay home for five days and may leave isolation (and return to school) on the sixth day if they are feeling well, symptoms are improving, and they are fever-free for 24 hours. A negative COVID-19 test is no longer necessary to return to school.

It is the continuing responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children daily before sending them to school. Please do not send children to school if they exhibit symptoms of contagious diseases, and please continue to notify the school when a positive COVID-19 test result is received so that exposed students and staff can be notified appropriately.

If your child is not feeling well and you are uncertain about sending them to school on any given day, it is best to keep your child home and observe them for worsening symptoms. If a child is too ill to attend school in the morning, it is recommended that they stay home all day.

When you make the decision to keep your child at home, please notify the school office that your child will be absent and the nature of your child's illness. You should notify the school each day your child will be absent.

A child who is displaying symptoms of illness at school, such as fever, may be sent home.

We are grateful for the support of our community in ensuring a healthy environment for our school community.

Traffic Issues

Situated at the end of a dead-end street, with limited parking spaces and a street that narrows just before the school, traffic difficulties at the school are a major concern with limited options for improving the situation. We can all make a difference by being patient and considerate with one another and by following these suggestions:

- Please drive slowly and carefully when approaching or leaving the school (even if you are running a little late).
- Please do not leave your car if you are in one of the drop-off line-ups.
- Please obey all posted speed signs on Wilson Street and Canyon Drive.
- Please do not block neighbors' driveways.
- Please pass other cars on Canyon Drive only when it is safe and necessary to do so.
- **Please be aware that children may unexpectedly cross in front of you.** Be aware and drive extra cautiously.
- Parents of Grade 1-5 students can help by arriving before the final rush for the 8:30 start. Gates open and children are welcome at 8:00 am.
- On the other hand, parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten students can help by not arriving too early. Arrival time for both should be as close to the 8:30 - 8:40 am window as possible.
- Consider the possibility of parking or dropping off at Fairview Park, 2501 Placentia Avenue, and taking a short walk to the school with your child(ren).
- If you want to park and shop in the Company of Angels store, please park along the bluffs or in the designated parking spots to avoid a hold up in the main lot. We'd love to see you there!

Together, we can make a significant difference in creating a safer environment for our students and fostering positive relationships within our neighborhood.

Nursery Drop Off & Pick Up

Nursery students will be received at the Nursery gate at 8:30 am. Late students will be admitted at the gate until 9:00 am. Please park in an available spot in the school parking lot and accompany your child to the Nursery gate. Those who arrive after 9:00 am should proceed to the school office to check in.

Pick-up of Nursery students is also at the Nursery Gate.

Pre-Kindergarten Drop Off & Pick Up

Pre-Kindergarten drop off & pick up will take place in the south end of the Main School parking lot with entry at the Early Childhood gate. Please pull into the lot where the gate to the EC breezeway will open - the Pre-Kindergarten teachers or assistants will be there ready to help your child from the car onto campus and into the classroom. To alleviate traffic backup, we ask you to please park in an available parking spot and walk your child to the gate if cars back up onto Canyon Drive.

The arrival time for Pre-Kindergarten is 8:30 - 8:40 am. Pre-K students arriving after 8:40 am but before 9:00 am should go to the sliding gate and the Kindergarten teachers will receive them and walk them to their teacher/classroom. Children arriving after 9:00 am should report to the school office. Please do your best to arrive on time to minimize disruptions to the beginning of the school day.

At pick up, the Pre-Kindergarten teachers will walk the children out to the designated Early Childhood gate and will wait for you to pull up and collect your child. As in the morning, to alleviate traffic backup, we ask you to please park in an available parking spot and walk your child to the gate if cars back up onto Canyon Drive.

Kindergarten Drop Off & Pick Up

Kindergarten drop off & pick up will take place in the High School parking lot. Please pull into the lot at the southern end of our property where the large gates to the yard will open. Please use both lanes. Either the Kindergarten teachers or the assistants will be there, ready to help your child from the car onto campus and into the classroom. To alleviate traffic backup, we ask you to please park in an available parking spot and walk your child to the gate if cars back up onto Canyon Drive.

The arrival time for Kindergarten is 8:30 - 8:40 am. Although the sliding gate will be closed at 8:40 am, Kindergarten teachers will continue to receive students arriving late at the sliding gate until 9:00 am. Parents will need to ring the bell at the sliding gate. Children arriving after 9:00 am should report to the school office. Please do your best to arrive on time to minimize disruptions to the beginning of the school day.

At pick up, the Kindergarten teachers will walk the children out to the designated High School gate and will wait for you to pull up and collect your child. As in the morning, to alleviate traffic backup, we ask you to please park in an available parking spot and walk your child to the gate if cars back up onto Canyon Drive.

Grades 1-8 Drop Off

Parents will drop off children in front of the school office by pulling all the way to the furthest end of the curb in the main parking lot. Children should be ready to exit their car on arrival to expedite drop off. Please arrive early, if possible, to alleviate traffic issues.

The Grades gates open and students are welcome on campus at 8:00 am.

Classes for grades 6-8 begin at 8:15 am and classes for grades 1-5 begin at 8:30 am.

The gates will close promptly at 8:30 am. Students arriving after 8:30 am should report to the office and will be given a tardy slip. Grade 6-8 students will need to wait on the school playground if they arrive after their class has left for morning walk; once the class has returned, their teacher will mark them tardy when they join their class. If your student has an excused tardy, they should have a valid doctor's note stating such and/or a parent/guardian should accompany them to the office to sign them in as excused.

Grades 1-8 Pick Up

Daily pick up for Grades 1-8 occurs at 2:50 pm* Pull up all the way along the sidewalk between the exit and the flagpole to receive children. While in the main lot pick-up line, please follow staff directions. If you need to leave your car for any reason, please park in an available parking spot. Do not get out of your car unless assistance is needed to load bulky or heavy objects.

All grades 1-8 students will be dismissed from designated areas:

- 1 -3 on the Eurythmy Hall lawn
- 4-8 on the Office lawn

WSOC staff members will be out front to help escort and call students to be released. Walk-up parents, once parked, are advised to meet their student(s) at their grade site(s) and check with the dismissing staff member before taking their student(s) home. Grades 6-8 students will be permitted to visit the Company of Angels at dismissal at the discretion of the Grade teacher. All other students must have a parent chaperone who has parked to escort them into the store.

Changes of pickup status should be communicated to the front office prior to pick-up. We are very concerned about the safety of our students and this is an important communication step to helping maintain a safe pick-up protocol.

***Grades 1, 2 and 3 with Early Release Days** may be picked up at **1:10 pm** if your child is not staying for Aftercare.

***Grades 7 and 8** will be released at **3:00 pm** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** after Music classes. It would be appreciated if you don't arrive earlier to assist with traffic control.

High School Drop Off & Pick up

High School students should arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 am.

Classes begin promptly at 8:15 am.

Parking is available for high school students in the main parking lot of the school and in the spaces along Canyon Drive.

Please let the High School office know if your student will not be attending due to illness at (949) 574-7754.

Daily pick up for High School occurs at 3:15 pm.