

A Message from Our Administrator

Dear WSOC Community,

As we approach the end of another school year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support and partnership throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of our students for their resilience, hard work, and enthusiasm. Their growth, both academically and personally, is a testament to their determination and your constant encouragement and support. It is a joy to witness their striving and celebrate their achievements.

Similarly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the teachers and administrative staff for their unceasing dedication, creativity, and commitment to our students' success. I have the honor of witnessing the unwavering professionalism and passion for Waldorf education that our faculty displays through their long hours of preparation, teaching and contributing in so many additional ways to the school in efforts that often go unrecognized.

The shared governance structure of our school allows for deeply considered choices about the best course for the school. In working with the leadership bodies of the school, I have come to know that I can trust that each member of the College of Teachers and Board of Trustees (made up of parents and alumni parents with faculty and administrative representation) brings their best self to make hard decisions to support the continued success of the school. I am grateful and honored to be able to have the opportunity to work with each of them.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the new academic year and the opportunities it will bring for our students and ourselves. As part of our accreditation process with both the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), we will be entering a year of self-study. This study is a welcome regular opportunity to examine where we are excelling and where we can improve.

Thank you again for your support and for all you do in supporting your children. I wish you all a safe and restful summer break. The break not only allows for relaxation for your children (maybe not as much for you), but also fosters their creativity and curiosity. May they continue to grow and learn.

Kevin McDuff
School Administrator

About AWSNA Accreditation Self-Study

The AWSNA accreditation process is a qualitative assessment of a school's congruence between its stated mission, the AWSNA Principles for Waldorf Schools, and the AWSNA Policies and Practices for Waldorf Schools. Congruence is determined by observation, interviews, and document review. To become accredited, schools are expected to demonstrate congruence. Our experience is that although this self-study process does lead eventually to affirmation by the accrediting bodies, the real value in the process is the deep reflection on the status and future of the school in order to strive for positive change.

The self-study and its material outcome (the self-study report) are conducted with participation by all constituent groups of the school. The self-study process is meant to bring awareness,

understanding, and clarity to all members of the school community regarding the identity and mission of the school; to affirm that the school's policies and practices support this mission; and to determine congruence with the AWSNA Principles for Waldorf schools and the AWSNA Policies and Practices for Waldorf Schools. We are planning to concentrate our study next year on one of the eight AWSNA Principles for Waldorf Schools each month and to include all stakeholders in the study.

The 2025-26 school year will allow time in the fall to complete the self-study report in preparation for a peer review visit in the spring. Generally, about six representatives from other schools (both Waldorf and non-Waldorf) spend three days on campus evaluating all aspects of school life, including Waldorf principles, independence and mission, self-reflection, students and families, faculty and staff, community, educational programs, decision-making, resources, health and safety, and legality. We participate in a joint evaluation by both AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges).

AWSNA's stated goal is to strengthen Waldorf schools while maintaining the true and complete independence of each school. In both philosophy and practice, the focus of the AWSNA accreditation process is on the development and nurturing of excellence. The principal objectives are to provide a stimulus for excellence, help the school assess its strengths and weaknesses, and help the school confirm the validity of its priorities and planning for growth. Similarly, WASC's stated objective is to advance and validate quality ongoing school improvement by supporting schools to engage in a rigorous and relevant self-evaluation and peer review process that focuses on equity, inclusion, and access to high-level, rigorous learning opportunities for all students.