

# Waldorf School of New Orleans



Offering the families of Greater New Orleans a schooling alternative since 2000, we are part of a worldwide independent education movement with nearly 1100 schools on six continents. Waldorf Education, uniquely expressed in communities and cultures across the globe, is grounded in a profound understanding of human development and our connection to the natural world, based on the insights of philosopher and scientist Rudolf Steiner.

Waldorf School of New Orleans provides children in Nursery through Grade Eight a holistic, developmentally appropriate program that engages and educates head, heart, and hands.

#### **Let Them Play**

In Early Childhood classes, this means respecting the integrity of childhood itself. Within the reassuring structure of daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythms, our Nursery and pre-K/Kindergarten children experience a nurturing sensory and social environment with rich spoken language, and most importantly, the opportunity to imagine and play.

#### **Let Them Learn**

The Waldorf Class Teacher leads his or her class, year by year, through our well-rounded, arts-integrated, academically rigorous Grades curriculum, working with each child and with the class as a whole to realize their personal gifts, meet their individual challenges, and to grow as valued members of the group.

#### **Let Them Flourish**

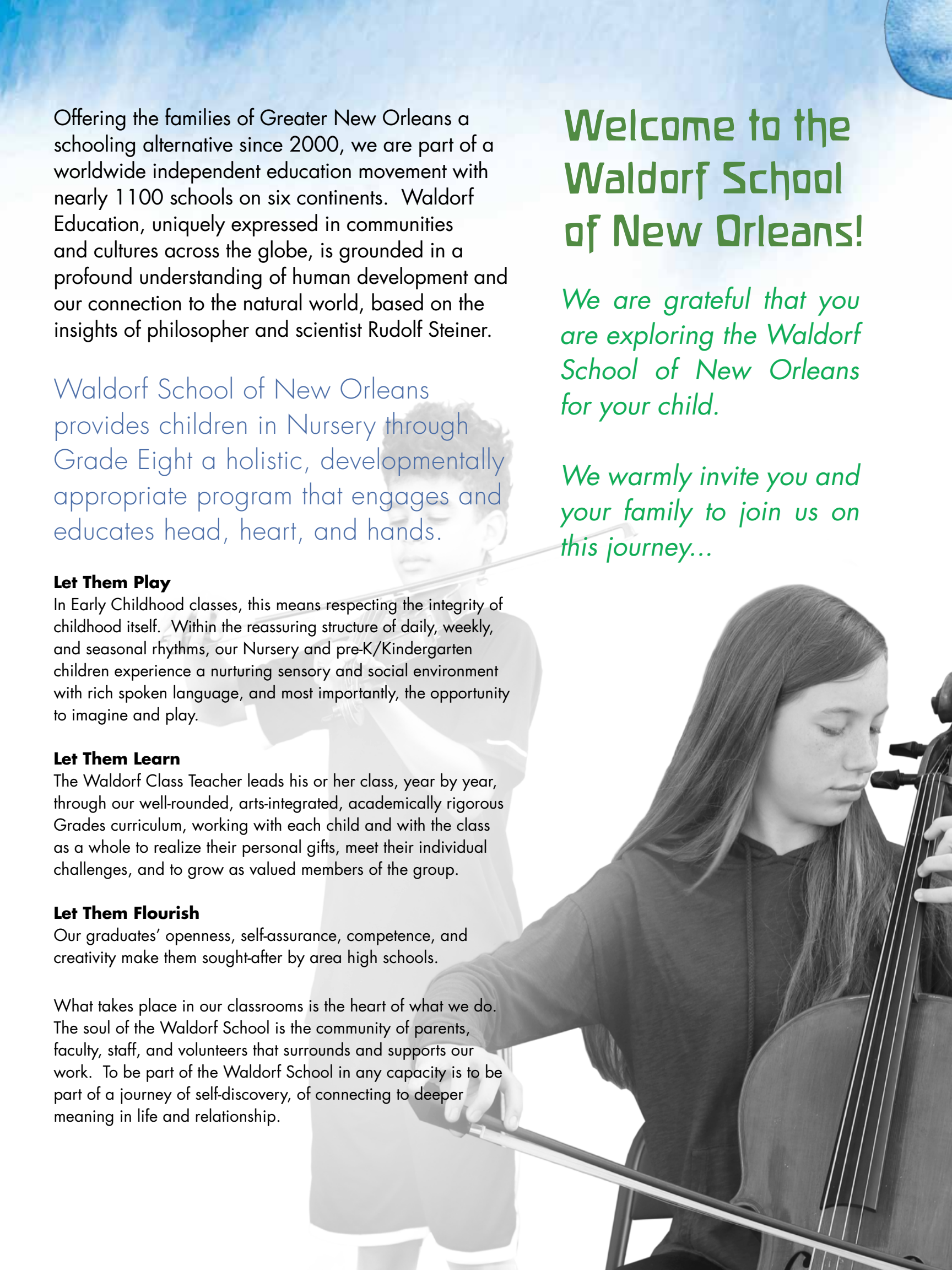
Our graduates' openness, self-assurance, competence, and creativity make them sought-after by area high schools.

What takes place in our classrooms is the heart of what we do. The soul of the Waldorf School is the community of parents, faculty, staff, and volunteers that surrounds and supports our work. To be part of the Waldorf School in any capacity is to be part of a journey of self-discovery, of connecting to deeper meaning in life and relationship.


## Welcome to the Waldorf School of New Orleans!

*We are grateful that you  
are exploring the Waldorf  
School of New Orleans  
for your child.*

*We warmly invite you and  
your family to join us on  
this journey...*







Walk through the doors of our Early Childhood Center, and find yourself in a magical world, where all the senses are engaged:


Smell the aroma of bread baking  
– we ground the flour ourselves!

See the soft colors on the walls, and  
the warm candle-glow at mealtime.

Hear us sing and clap and laugh...  
and sit very still for a fairytale.

Feel all the natural materials and  
textures that surround us  
– silk, wool, wood, beeswax.

Taste the delicious organic vegetables  
we're slicing for our soup!



*"Being in this space reminds  
me of the parent I want to be"*  
– Kindergarten Parent

## Scientific evidence is now overwhelming for what Rudolf Steiner asserted a century ago:

Free play in early childhood is essential to healthy physical, emotional, and intellectual development later in life. To force abstract learning prematurely on young children is to squander their most precious gift - their childhood.

In our Nursery and Pre-K/Kindergarten classrooms, we honor and nurture your child's innate sense of joy and wonder at the world around them. Our teachers create a beautiful, orderly home-like environment, and a daily rhythm that allows the children to do their real work: Play!

# EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

Both indoors and out (in all kinds of weather), our little ones experience what it means to be a child – jumping, climbing, splashing, building, exploring, negotiating who's who in playing out today's story.

Free play is balanced with daily circle time, where the children quickly pick up tongue-twisting verses and pretty poetry, rhythmical movement, songs, finger-play, and counting games.

Each day of the week has a morning activity: watercolor painting, crafts, bread-baking, soup-making, and housekeeping. Young children learn through imitation, which means the adults in our Waldorf Early Childhood classrooms must be worthy models in both gesture and demeanor, in speech and action.

Gratitude for the many gifts of life, the earth, family, and friends is affirmed with morning and closing verses and a blessing at snack-time.





## GRADE SCHOOL

Waldorf Education is the beginning of a lifelong journey of exploration and learning.

The Class Teacher ideally accompanies their class through the eight years of this journey, forming a deep bond with their students, and a committed working relationship with class parents. For the Class Teacher, the mandate is not only to be a worthy role model, but also to demonstrate mastery of the content of their lessons. These lessons are thoughtfully and intentionally developed out of original, classical sources of knowledge and inspiration, addressing the emotional and intellectual development of the growing child.

You will notice an absence of textbooks in a Waldorf School. Under the teacher's guidance, every student creates their own artistic and meticulous lesson book for each subject. These "main lesson" books become a treasured record of your child's grade school learning and achievement.

*"Other schools claim they'll teach your child to conquer the world.  
The Waldorf School teaches your child to save the world."*

— Catherine and Sidney Cates IV  
Waldorf Parents

The Waldorf Grades curriculum (see chart, opposite) mirrors the journey of the growing child, bringing subject matter for each year in vivid literary and/or historical imagery appropriate to that stage of development.

### EARLY GRADES

Writing and reading evolve out of the vivid fairytale imagery of **First Grade**, where the letters of the alphabet take shape out of stories; and even mathematical operations are introduced through the relatable antics of imaginative characters.

**Second Graders** absorb the fundamental life-lessons from legends of holy women and men from various world traditions, and from fables populated with capricious animals.

The ancient tales of the Old Testament inform the classwork of **Third Grade**, which includes lesson blocks on farming and vernacular architecture.

The boisterous bravado of Norse mythology in **Fourth Grade** is accompanied by exquisite knotwork borders in the children's lesson books.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

In **Fifth Grade**, we turn to the classical aesthetic, drama, and athletic prowess of ancient Greece. Each year our Fifth Graders train to compete in a regional Pentathlon with other Waldorf Schools from throughout the South.

**Sixth Grade** focuses on the rise and fall of Empire, through studying civilizations such as ancient Rome or China.

"Journey" takes on new meaning as **Seventh Graders**, having emerged from their studies of the Dark Ages and Medieval times arrive at the Renaissance, a rebirth of human spirit and endeavor, and set sail on the Voyages of Discovery.

The young person's mind is expanding and their elementary Waldorf education culminates with the study in **Eighth Grade** of world geography, American history, and an exploration of Shakespeare.

	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
<b>Language Arts</b>	intro to reading fairy tales introduction to letters form drawing handwriting class play	reading animal fables/ legends grammar & punctuation form drawing handwriting class play	reading grammar form drawing handwriting, cursive letter writing class play	reading & research grammar & spelling form drawing composition letter writing class play	reading & research grammar & spelling form drawing composition group projects class play	literature & biography speech grammar & spelling composition group projects drama & recitation creative writing: poetry	literature & biography speech grammar & spelling creative writing: short story composition group projects drama & recitation	literature & biography speech grammar & spelling playwriting composition group projects drama & recitation
<b>Math</b>	arithmetic Roman numerals	arithmetic multiplication tables numerical form, pattern	arithmetic long division measurement  multi-digit multiplication	fractions long division freehand geometric drawing	decimals & fractions freehand geometric drawing ratio & proportion numbers & bases	pre-algebra formal geometric drawing business math percentage	algebra Euclidean geometry area & circumference	algebra Euclidean geometry platonic solids & volume polynomials & graphing
<b>Science</b>	experience with nature, nature stories home arts gardening	experience with nature, nature stories home arts gardening	experience with nature human vocations: house building, farming, gardening, cooking, weaving, etc.	human & animal studies (zoology) gardening	botany insects zoology gardening	mineralogy astronomy physics: optics, thermics, acoustics, electromagnetics gardening	human physiology introduction to chemistry physics: mechanics gardening	human physiology & anatomy organic chemistry physics: aerodynamics, hydraulics, electricity meteorology gardening
<b>Social Studies</b>	ancient legends from around the world	multicultural legends of heroes & saints fables	Hebrew legends from myth to history multicultural creation stories	Norse legends local/state geography, map-making & history Native American legends & cultures	Ancient Civilizations: India, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, Greece geography of North America Native American legends & cultures	Roman, Medieval & early Islamic history geography of South America empires of Asia	Renaissance and Reformation Age of Exploration world geography: cultural and physical	U.S. history: American Revolution to present world geography: political geography and cultures of Africa
<b>Foreign Language</b>	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts	parallels language arts
<b>Music</b>	pentatonic flute singing	pentatonic flute singing	diatonic recorder singing	diatonic recorder singing string ensemble	recorder ensemble 5th/6th grade choir string ensemble	recorder ensemble 5th/6th grade choir string ensemble	recorder ensemble 7th/8th grade choir chamber orchestra	recorder ensemble 7th/8th grade choir chamber orchestra
<b>Movement</b>	circle games eurythmy	traditional games eurythmy	traditional games gymnastics eurythmy	traditional line games gymnastics eurythmy	pentathlon gymnastics eurythmy	team sports social dancing gymnastics eurythmy	team sports social dancing gymnastics eurythmy	team sports social dancing gymnastics eurythmy
<b>Art &amp; Handwork</b>	watercolor beeswax modeling knitting drawing	watercolor beeswax modeling knitting drawing	watercolor beeswax and clay modeling crocheting drawing	watercolor clay modeling cross-stitch, embroidery drawing	watercolor clay modeling knitting with 3 needles drawing	watercolor clay modeling hand-sewn dolls drawing	watercolor clay modeling hand-sewn garments perspective drawing	watercolor clay modeling machine-sewn quilts perspective drawing

Throughout the elementary grades, our school's specialty teachers offer handwork, instrumental and vocal music, movement, foreign language and, in the older grades, additional math.

No letter grades are assigned to your child's work, nor does the Waldorf School subscribe to standardized testing. It is expected that in close communication and partnership with the Class Teacher, you are kept apprised of your child's development throughout the year. Each Class Teacher and subject specialist writes narrative reports documenting your child's progress, achievements, and challenges.

The eight-year journey has brought your child from a fairy-tale land into modern times, now poised and ready to move into the world, into the next stages of life and education. Your Waldorf School of New Orleans graduate is prepared to transition to the best local high schools - producing at or above grade-level work in Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Botany, Physiology, Social Studies, Language Arts and Fine Arts.

Because Waldorf Education has proliferated across the globe, many secondary schools and colleges across the country know and appreciate applicants with a Waldorf background. Locally, we work with admissions officers at area high schools to ensure they are familiar with our program and know our students. Waldorf School of New Orleans alumni are readily accepted into high schools of their choice.





# COMMUNITY – THE SOUL OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL

When Emil Molt, owner of the Waldorf Astoria cigarette factory in Stuttgart, Germany approached Rudolf Steiner about creating a school in 1919 for the children of his factory workers, the intention was to create more than “just a school”. They sought to heal a community and culture reeling from the horrors of the Great War. How might children be protected and also empowered to help bring about a new world? Dr. Steiner, through his worldview (anthroposophy), initiated and inspired numerous social reform efforts of the day, striving to restore health and humanity to economics, agriculture, medicine, education, and the arts.

A century later, that legacy works on. Waldorf Education, as well as growing worldwide adoption of Biodynamic farming methods and Community-Supported Agricultural associations (CSA's), are the most salient examples of Rudolf Steiner's ongoing multi-faceted influence in cultural transformation.

Because of the visionary nature of Waldorf Education, our school attracts parents who are committed not only to their own children's education, but to making the world better for all. The efforts of parents and friends are vital to the Waldorf School of New Orleans, and the rewards are mutual. Teachers work with parents to ensure a supportive, healthy environment both at school and at home. From helping out in the classroom, to gardening, to fundraising, to serving on the Board of Directors, our community volunteers' gifts of time and talent ensure that school and students thrive.

We recognize our shared responsibility as adults to all the children of our school, striving to be worthy role models of moral courage, community engagement, and interest in the world. Our school community is a reflection of all the insightful, accomplished, and creative individuals who are part of Waldorf School of New Orleans. We celebrate our diverse community in seasonal Festivals, family picnics, craft circles, class plays, school-wide concerts, and in the everyday encounters that make coming to the Waldorf School a joy.

*“All [human beings] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the inter-related structure of reality.”*



## Rudolf Steiner 1861-1925

*“Rudolf Steiner was ahead of his time during his time, and he's actually ahead of his time even in our time.”*

– Dennis Klocek

*– Martin Luther King Jr.,  
Letter from Birmingham Jail*











*"Receive the child in reverence,  
educate them in love,  
let them go forth in freedom."*

*- Rudolf Steiner*

**Early Childhood  
Education Center**

2010 Peniston St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
504.345.2366

**Main Campus**

517 Soraparu St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504.525.2420

[www.waldorfnola.org](http://www.waldorfnola.org)

The Waldorf School of New Orleans welcomes, values, and actively seeks racial, religious, economic, and cultural diversity, including single, dual, or multiple parent households and LGBT parents, faculty, and/or students.