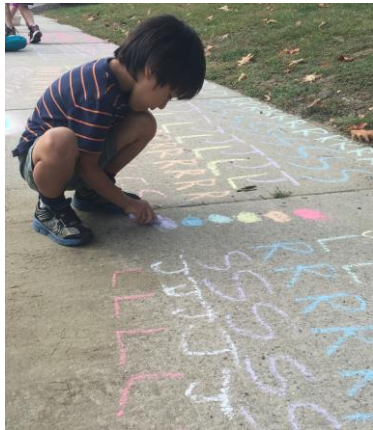


# WALDORF SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE



The Next Step: looking to  
First Grade and Beyond

## Visiting Day

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Dear Parents,

We warmly invite you to visit our Lower School classes and explore Waldorf for your child on Tuesday, February 2 at 8:15am.

Join us to, observe the depth and richness of our curriculum, see students work and meet with teachers to discuss academic, artistic and social aspects of our program.

### Schedule

8:15 – 8:30	Welcome, introductions, and coffee
8:30 to 9:30	Lower school classroom visits – 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades
9:30 to 10:00	Q&A with Academic Director and teachers

*“Lower School teaching aims to develop individuality and freedom balanced with cooperation and collaboration. Academic subjects such as math, reading, and writing are introduced in ways that nurture students’ natural curiosity and imagination. Subjects are brought to life through multicultural and history-based stories.”*  
Class Teacher

Please RSVP [admissions@twsb.org](mailto:admissions@twsb.org)

Thank you!

[Lynn Bufano](mailto:Lynn.Bufano@twsb.org), Admissions  
410-367-6808 ext. 202

# Lower School Curriculum

*The Waldorf School of Baltimore educates children to think, feel, and act with depth, imagination, and purpose.*

*Students develop critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual awareness through a rich and rigorous curriculum.*

The Waldorf curriculum follows the development of the child, considering his or her physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. This makes the educational experience relevant, engaging and satisfying.

## MAIN LESSON

Each school day begins with a dedicated two hour block of time for a central academic focus that lasts 3 to 4 weeks. The blocks include subjects such as: math, science, literature, history, English, and geography. From these studies, students create a main lesson book. The main lesson book contains subject-related compositions, artwork, illustrations, diagrams, maps and timelines. These workbooks reflect comprehension and academic growth and are used by the teacher along with weekly tests and classroom observations to evaluate the progress of each student.

In addition to the Main Lesson the student's day is enriched with a variety of special subjects and skills classes taught by subject specialists.

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Language Arts Mathematics Pre-History/Ancient Legends Form Drawing Nature Studies Spanish Handwork: Knitting Painting Woodwork Eurythmy Games Music	Language Arts Pre-History/Ancient Legends Mathematics Form Drawing Nature Study/Gardening Spanish Handwork: Crochet Painting Woodwork Eurythmy Games Music Class Play	Language Arts History and Geography Pre-History/Legends Mathematics Zoology Spanish Handwork: Knitting, Crochet Art Woodwork Eurythmy Games Music Class Play
Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	
Language Arts Mathematics Form Drawing Pre-History/Ancient Legends Nature Studies Spanish Handwork: Knitting Painting Woodwork Eurythmy Games Music	Language Arts Mathematics Form Drawing Pre-History/Ancient Legends Nature Study/Gardening Spanish Handwork: Crochet Painting Woodwork Eurythmy Games Music Class Play	

**Spanish:** instruction begins in the first grade and continues through eighth grade.

**Eurythmy:** a form of movement unique to Waldorf schools taught throughout the grades. It is an effective and artistic means for helping children develop body integration and physical coordination. Certain gestures and movements correspond to musical tones and sounds in language.

**Music:** Recorders are introduced in first grade accompanied by percussions and singing. In addition to chorus a string instrument is chosen by each student at the end of third grade. Small group ensemble lessons begin in fourth grade. Orchestra class begins in sixth grade. Students are expected to devote time to instrument practice each day.

**Class Trips:** begin in third grade with a trip to a farm in upstate New York. Each grade takes a trip during the school year. These trips into the woods and mountains are designed to meet the children's developmental level, help them gain self-confidence, and encourage their connection to the natural world and to each other. In the fifth grade, students travel to a Waldorf school within our AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) region to participate in an Olympiad competition with fifth graders from other Waldorf schools.

**English and Math Skills:** skills classes are held throughout the week augmenting Math and English Main Lessons.

**Games:** The children learn a variety of games beginning with circle games that go through rhythmic, repeated familiar activities in song and movement. Games promote group awareness, social interaction, and healthy exercise. Children learn and follow rules and improve gross motor, balance, and coordination. This is the beginning of good sportsmanship and cooperation.

**Sports** programs begin in the fifth grade; all students may participate. Sports include soccer, basketball, and cross country.

**Homework:** The complexity of the homework and the time required to complete it will increase as the students move up through the grades. By seventh and eighth grades may increase and special projects could demand time during the weekends for completion.

**Student progress reports** come in the form of narrative reports with the class teacher and each subject teacher contributing their evaluations. These reports are sent at the end of the school year in June. Parent teacher conferences are held in November and February. Teachers are generous and available anytime throughout the school year for discussion with parents. Students get ample feedback on their work in daily conversation with their teachers, through frequent main lesson book checks, and in grades four and higher, ample quizzes and in school exams.

**Parent Evenings** are held several times per school year and offer the opportunity to meet with the teacher and fellow parents to see the children's work, learn more about the curriculum, plan class events or trips, and to build the class community.

**Handwork** fosters the harmonious development of the child, providing a balancing element to the more linguistic activities of a student's day. The process of creating practical items enhances the development of kinesthetic and spatial skills, and cultivates manual and intellectual dexterity. Concentration, coordination, and design, problem solving, and time management abilities are augmented through the crafting of developmentally appropriate projects

**Art & Woodworking:** Projects are drawn from curricular studies for both art and woodworking. In woodworking students learn to use hand tools for carving objects that are both beautiful and practical.