



2017/2018 Waldorf School of Orange County High School Profile

CEEB Code 050559

High School Office (949) 574-7754

www.waldorfschool.com

School

Waldorf School of Orange County (WSOC) is an independent pre-K-12 coeducational, nonsectarian, nonprofit day school with a total enrollment of 360, with 67 students in grades 9-12.

WSOC is one of approximately 1039 Waldorf schools worldwide and 43 Waldorf high schools in the U.S. Founded with a single kindergarten class in 1988, the school enrolled its first ninth grade class in fall 2007, and graduated its first twelfth grade class in spring 2011.

The school's mission is to

"...[provide] academic excellence through awakening in our students genuine enthusiasm, an interest in the world, a love of learning and a sense of purpose in life. The Waldorf curriculum meets the student's age-related capacities and develops the student's initiative, creativity, critical-thinking and self-reliance. Our educational approach encourages balance, engaging the student cognitively, emotionally and actively across all disciplines. We recognize and welcome the unique gifts brought by each student."

This goal is aligned with the 99-year Waldorf tradition of providing a balanced program of rigorous academics, artistic endeavors, and practical skills to "develop free human beings who are able, of themselves, to impart purpose and direction to their lives."

WSOC is fully accredited through 2018 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), as well as with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), of which it is a full member.

Since the first U.S. Waldorf high school graduating class in 1943, 88% of Waldorf high school graduates have gone on to complete a college degree.

Curriculum, Graduation Requirements

WSOC High School provides a college preparatory program in a curriculum that fosters healthy cognitive development by revisiting core academic themes from year to year, unfolding progressive layers of complexity as the students mature.

One hallmark of Waldorf education is its regional adaptability. Reflecting the multicultural environment of the Orange County community, WSOC High School provides a Global Studies element in its curriculum. These courses are designed to engender an understanding of the interconnectedness of global financial, social, and political issues, history, and trends; foster empathy and compassion for other peoples; and provide opportunities for service work in our local community and country.

Graduates complete the full prescribed Waldorf curriculum shown here:

3 years history
5 years English
5 years mathematics
Over 3 years science

4 years foreign language
Over 6 years visual and performing arts
2 years physical education
Note: 1 year = 10 credits; see below

The prescribed nature of the curriculum compels each student to regularly operate outside his comfort zone, creating the confidence and willingness to accept novel challenges and the fortitude to see them through. As the curriculum requires a full course load all four years and does not allow students to focus narrowly on their stronger subjects, students are continuously being asked to stretch themselves. In light of these facts, coupled with the overall rigor of the program, AP courses are not offered.

Diplomas are awarded to students who receive passing grades in all classes while in attendance. The high school faculty may approve deviations from these requirements to accommodate transfer students or those with documented learning disabilities.

Explanation of Credits

Each school day begins with "Main Lesson," a one-hour-and-forty-five-minute double period devoted to intensive work in academic subjects. "Main Lesson blocks" last three to five weeks, and block subjects alternate through the year between humanities and science or mathematics. Art classes are also double periods scheduled in blocks and take place two or three times per week for six weeks. In addition, students take semester- or year-long, forty-five-minute single-period "track classes" in English, mathematics, history, Spanish, performing arts, and physical education.

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Waldorf School of OC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, ethnic background or national origin.

Course credits are calculated as follows:

Main Lesson blocks - Double period 5x/week for 3-5 weeks = 2.5 credits

Single period 4x/week = 5 credits per semester, 10 credits per year

Arts blocks - Double period 2-3x/week for 6 weeks = 2.5 credits

Single period 2x/week = 2.5 credits per semester, 5 credits per year

Grading Scale and Policy

Students receive letter grades in all academic subjects. A passing grade in a letter-graded course is C- or better. Some arts and practical activities courses are graded as “pass/fail,” and are not included in GPA calculations. No credit accumulates for a “fail” grade.

GPA Points	Grade	Grading Range	
4.00	A	93	100%
3.67	A-	90	93
3.33	B+	87	89.9
3.00	B	83	87
2.67	B-	80	83
2.33	C+	77	79.9
2.00	C	73	77
1.67	C-	70	73
1.33	D+	67	69.9
1.00	D	63	67
.67	D-	60	63
0	F	Below 60	

WSOC does not rank its students.

Cumulative GPA Range, Class of 2017
(14 students): 2.938 – 3.951

Arts, Crafts, Practical Activities, and Physical Education

The Waldorf curriculum incorporates art and aesthetics into every area of study and, conversely, considers coursework to develop skills in the fine and performing arts, crafts and activities, and physical motion to be as important to a well-rounded education as academic classes.

- Fine arts include black-and-white composition, sculpture, portrait, still life, and landscape drawing and painting.
- Performing arts include monologues, drama, choral singing, instrumental music, and eurythmy, a form of movement particular to Waldorf education.
- Crafts include woodworking, basketry, bookbinding, marionette making, stone carving, and screen printing.
- Practical activities include personal finance, ecological stewardship, and practicum/job shadow experience.
- Physical education includes basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track and field.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Intramural sports include girls’ volleyball, boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ football, and coed cross country, soccer, and track & field.

Extracurricular clubs include Student Council, Surfing, Sailing, Cheer Team, Japanese, and Drama. Students may submit new club proposals for faculty approval at any time.

Community Service and Special Programs

Each student independently completes a minimum of 10 hours of community service per year from ninth through eleventh grades, both outside of and for the school community. In addition, groups of students participate in several service projects throughout their four years.

Students complete group fieldwork in astronomy and geology during week-long field trips. In the junior year, students seek out and complete a one-week internship in an area of future employment interest.

WSOC has, with its Tuition Adjustment program, made a firm commitment to admitting families that enrich the school community, regardless of their ability to afford full tuition. Approximately 27% of our 360 students receive financial aid.