



*Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, and send them forth in freedom*

Rudolf Steiner

Dear parents,

This application is the beginning of an extraordinary journey. It is a journey of discovery not only for you, but for us as well. The process of completing an application for elementary school may be new to you. Not to worry - I've included answers below to the most frequently asked questions. Please know that I am your partner in this process and am available to assist you if you have any questions that are not answered here. Please don't hesitate to ask me.

### **What is a Family Interview?**

This is the teachers' first opportunity to get to know you and your child. First and foremost the teachers want to be certain that you are well-versed about what Waldorf Education is and whether or not it is a good fit for your family.

### **A good "fit"?**

That means that you embrace the mission of the school and the form and structure of its curriculum. It means that you have researched and have chosen this alternative form of education with an understanding about what makes it different - that you are choosing this particular education rather than simply rejecting another.

### **What is a Student Assessment?**

Your child will join our Resource Teacher for approximately one hour to play some games together. This is not a test. It's important that your child be able to relax and not be nervous about this assessment. Describe it as "fun." You won't be mistaken!

### **What happens next?**

Following the Family Interview and Student Assessment, the teachers will meet together to discuss their observations and the current makeup of the class. They are looking to determine whether or not the current class can embrace your child in a way that will allow him or her to thrive. Your child's well-being is as important to us as the well-being of the entire class.

**Does my child visit?**

If it is agreed by the teachers to proceed, your child will be invited for a three-day visit. Three days are required as we desire for all of our specialty teachers, (Spanish, Japanese, Games, Handwork, Woodwork, Eurythmy, Music), to have your child in their class. All of the teachers will be aware of your child's visit and will welcome them with warmth.

The school day begins at 8am and ends at 2:50pm - (with the exception of grades 1, 2 and 3 which have several "short" days). You will send your child to school with a healthy snack, lunch, water bottle and layer for warmth. Any other materials will be provided for them.

Following the visit, the teachers will gather to share their observations of the student, the class social dynamic and overall impressions, and will come to a consensus. This decision is then approved by the College of Teachers before the Admissions Director may confirm a welcome. The College of Teachers meets once weekly; on Thursday nights. The College of Teachers will make every effort to confirm a decision quickly.

**When are we notified of the decision for a welcome to the grades?**

You will receive written notification within two weeks following the culmination of your student's visit. Rare exceptions may occur in the case of a student waiting for some additional assessments to be completed.

**When do we register?**

Registration for new students to grades 1-8 occurs on a rolling basis dependent on the time of application. Once welcomed, you are required to register within the time period given in writing in order to guarantee your place in the class. Should you choose not to register, your space will be released.

**What if the class we need is full?**

We accept applications year-round, but are limited by space availability. For classes which are already filled, applications will be held in a wait pool until such time that space becomes available. These are valid for one academic year and parents must complete a new application each year. There is no additional fee - only one is required. If a class is full, we will do our very best to welcome you as soon as we are able.

While it is a tremendous blessing to have a healthy enrollment and full classes, it is very difficult to ask parents and students to wait for this wonderful education. We appreciate your patience in our wait pool and desire and will advocate on your behalf.

**Can my child be considered for another class?**

WSOC does not double-track classes. We have only one class per grade. The classes are formed based on age guidelines beginning with first graders who enter at 6 years old by May 31st of the year of entry. You can use that as a guideline for your child's class placement. In some cases, a child who transfers to WSOC may be asked to repeat a grade if his age places him in a grade other than his current grade.

**Do we have to submit teacher evaluations? Can we wait to do this?**

Unfortunately, these evaluations are a necessary part of the teachers' consideration. We cannot proceed without them. While your child is not defined by another's evaluation, these comments can help guide us to a healthy conversation about where your child is coming from.

If you have any additional questions not covered here, please don't hesitate to ask.

Have fun! This is just the beginning.

Sincerely,  
Linda Timmons  
Admissions Director, WSOC



- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete **Parent Questionnaire**  
Please include as much information here as possible. Remember this is your opportunity to introduce your child to us. The teachers will appreciate your providing thoughtful, thorough answers.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit a **Family Photo**  
The teachers appreciate this as a reminder of all of you - they meet so many parents and children and want to be certain that they hold you properly in their thoughts.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your child has undergone any **Testing or Special Assessments**, please include copies of the results or progress from such testing.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your child is coming from another school setting, please include any **Reports** provided to you from the school.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit a non-refundable **Payment of \$100**. This is not a guarantee of entry.

**With all of the above completed, TADS will alert us that your submissions are "ready."**

## What next?

Once the application is completed in full, if there is space available in the class, your application will be forwarded to the class teachers for their review.

If the class is full, your application will be placed on file for you to be contacted when a space becomes available. A new application must be completed for each academic year - applications will not be automatically carried forward to the next year. Only one application fee is required.

If agreed, both parents and their child are invited for a Family Conversation with the class teachers. **Both parents and child are required to attend.** These meetings take place in the classroom and are scheduled by the Admissions Director.

If it is agreed to be beneficial, the student may be invited to visit the class for one to five days.

Notification of status will be sent in writing to the applicant.

If an invitation has been extended, a student must complete registration before entering the classroom. Registration confirms your child's space in the class. If you do not register by the deadline, the space will be released to another in the wait pool.