STRIVE TO LEARN

College & Career Counseling at WSOC

WSOC COUNSELING PROGRAM MISSION

Support Waldorf students through reflective mentorship to aid them in finding agency over their own process and future plans in a way that resonates with their personalities and interests and aligns with Waldorf education centered on the body, heart and soul, in addition to the mind.

How We Support WSOC Students in their Post-Grad Paths

College & Career Counseling Journey

1. Step 1: Reflection on personal "good fit" factors and learning about available post-grad opportunities (10th/11th)
2. Step 2: Development of personal plan to work towards education/career goals after graduation (11th)
3. Step 3: Putting personal post-grad plan into action through completing and submitting applications (11th/12th)

Focus on Good Fit

- "Fit" = specific factors that connect to a particular student's goals, interests, passions, background, personality, values, etc.
- What leads to a "good fit" is unique for each student
- Identifying "good fit" factors → enables students to focus on best opportunities for their needs/goals
- Deemphasizes a one-size-fits-all approach based on popular myths

Average Student : Counselor Ratios

WSOC	**18:1**
Large Public Schools	**450:1**
Large Private Schools	**150:1**

Gina Garrison
High School Coordinator at the Waldorf School of Orange County

"WSOC has partnered with Strive to Learn, a team of highly specialized College Counselors, to provide our high school students and families with the tools needed to navigate the daunting road of college applications. Strive to Learn offers our high school students personal one-on-one support as well as group classes and family workshops. The guidance they provide has been top-notch! The student, parent, and faculty feedback is overall extremely positive and we look forward to our continued partnership."

COLLEGE READINESS

How a Waldorf education prepares students

Frequently Asked Questions

We know there is a lot on your mind as you look towards high school as preparation for your child's future. We've gathered some of the most common questions we get below. Please reach out to us any time to dive deeper into any topics that are on your mind.

Q: What kinds of colleges do Waldorf students attend?

A: All kinds! From small liberal arts colleges to large universities, specialized STEM schools, community colleges, and everything in between.

Q: Are Waldorf students competitive college applicants even though they don't take APs?

A: Absolutely! Colleges consider each student's academic record in the context of what their high school offers. This means WSOC students are not at a disadvantage for not taking AP classes. In fact, our students take additional years of several core academic subjects beyond typical high school requirements, demonstrating the depth and rigor of their education.

Q: What advantages do Waldorf students have when applying to college?

A: Waldorf students are especially well prepared to reflect on their experiences and communicate their personal growth through writing. They also benefit from detailed, personalized letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors, along with individualized guidance throughout the application process. Furthermore, they demonstrate creative out-of-the-box thinking that is truly original and shines through on their applications.

Q: Can Waldorf students earn competitive scores on the SAT and ACT?

A: Yes! By the time students begin their junior year, they have typically covered the English and math concepts tested on the SAT and ACT. Our students generally earn scores in a similar range to students from other high schools.

Q: How does a WSOC education prepare students for college programs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)?

A: WSOC students receive a rigorous education in math and science, with opportunities for advanced study, including Calculus A/B and AP exams. Our approach emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and understanding the why behind concepts, rather than simply memorizing information. Our alumni have shared that they felt just as well prepared as their non-Waldorf peers for college-level math and science courses, and in some cases, even better prepared!

Hannah Lieberman

Class of 2023

"Through admissions anxiety, my Strive to Learn counselor kept me accountable, making check-lists and small goals out of this hugely intimidating process. I am now a freshman at my dream school, which is the same school I had told her in early senior year I didn't think I would apply to. She knew me well enough to see the school as a good fit, and to keep pushing through my anxious stubbornness, and for this I am deeply grateful."

Contact Info

William Giacchi

Head Counselor
(949) 229-3972
wgiacchi@waldorfschool.com

Andrea Scampini

Assistant Counselor
(949) 873-6807
ascampini@waldorfschool.com