

EMERSON WALDORF SCHOOL



High School Profile

EMERSON WALDORF SCHOOL

Established in 1984, EWS is a full member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), the organization governing certification for Waldorf schools in the United States. Waldorf schools represent the largest independent educational movement in the world, with over 850 schools in 32 countries.

The seniors of 2006 are the first class of high school graduates for Emerson Waldorf School, fulfilling the school's mission to offer the complete Waldorf curriculum, kindergarten through twelfth grade. At its core, Waldorf education is based on a holistic understanding of human development that takes into account the gradual emergence of capacities for thinking, feeling and doing. From its inception, the school has demonstrated strong commitment to serving a diverse community of learners, to parent education, and to a generous program of need-based tuition assistance.

The school consists of approximately 250 students and 50 full and part-time faculty and staff. Located in the Piedmont section of North Carolina, the hilly 54-acre campus spreads out beneath a canopy of maple, sweet gum, oak, and pine. While the land encompasses classrooms plus a working farm, gardens, playgrounds, fields, and studio buildings, the natural landscape is protected by an underlying commitment to good stewardship of the earth.

WALDORF EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Waldorf teaching approaches education as an art, dedicated to the development of the whole student. Each school day begins and ends with recitation of a non-denominational verse to provide a moment

of reflection in community. The rigorous academic and artistic curriculum is preparation for college and for life. Throughout the U.S., 93% of Waldorf high school graduates attend 4-year colleges. The breadth and depth of the curriculum provide constant opportunities for work that engages head, heart, and hands, helping students develop self-knowledge and knowledge of the world.

Very few electives are offered in a Waldorf high school; all students take nearly all the courses, including all the traditional academic subjects, the four major sciences, music, a wide variety of physical education classes, and a wide range of fine, performing and practical arts. As students progress together through the challenges of these diverse offerings, a sense of community emerges built on recognition and respect for individual strengths and differences.

As they move through their education, Waldorf students learn about the art of self-expression - through intensive writing across the curriculum, through discussion in seminar style classes, through drama, song, drawing, metalwork and instrumental music. As a result, several important capacities are nurtured - to be interested, engaged, compassionate and enthusiastic. Regardless of chosen profession or path, these capacities help each person find his or her own way towards a meaningful and successful life. Emerson Waldorf School does not designate specific courses as AP or honors, and does not rank students.

HIGH SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

- Small class sizes; approximately twelve students per class
- Mentoring relationships with faculty

- All full-time faculty and administrative staff have advanced or double bachelor degrees
- Advising system that promotes student support and responsibility, and cultivates positive home-school communication
- High degree of parent involvement
- Student evaluation by letter grade and individual narrative
- Block scheduling with unique “Seminar” format that promotes active learning, creativity and synthetic thinking
- Dramatic performance opportunities for all students

Curriculum Guide

Emerson Waldorf High School

9th	10th	11th	12th
English			
English 1 Seminars: Mythology Comedy and Tragedy	English 2 Seminars: Odyssey Bible as Literature Drama History of Poetry	English 3 Seminars: Parzival Shakespeare Dante	English 4 Seminars: Transcendentalism Faust Drama
History			
Current Events Seminars: Revolutions History through Art Ancient History Modern History: Gender Studies	Current Events Seminars: Medieval History History of Asia History of Russia	US History Seminars: History through Film History through Music	Seminars: The World since 1945 History through Architecture
Mathematics			
Algebra I Seminar: Probability	Geometry Computer Education 1 Seminar: Trigonometry	Algebra II Computer Education 2 Seminar: Projective Geometry	Pre-Calculus Seminar: Calculus
Science			
Seminars: Anatomy Geology Thermodynamics Organic Chemistry	Seminars: Physiology Hydrology/ Meteorology Mechanics Inorganic Chemistry	Seminars: Botany Embryology Electricity/ Magnetism Physical Chemistry	Seminars: Zoology Human Development Ecology Optics Applied Chemistry
Foreign Language			
Spanish 1 German 1	Spanish 2 German 2	Spanish 3 German 3	Spanish 4 German 4

Music:

Fine and Practical Arts:

Physical Education:

Chorus, Percussion, Strings, Jazz Improvisation

Drawing, Painting, Calligraphy, Block Printing, Photography, Land Surveying, Sculpture, Woodworking, Coppersmithing, Bookbinding/Paper Arts, Basket-making, Pottery, Weaving, Nature and Technology

Sports, Circus Arts

A student at Emerson Waldorf High School will take a combination of Main Lesson Seminars, full-year courses, semester electives and art blocks.

Each morning begins with a Main Lesson Seminar. Seminars are a key component of a Waldorf education; they are mandatory for all students and are grouped by grade level. Each seminar is approximately two hours per day and is scheduled for a block of three to four weeks. The purpose of these seminars is to explore one subject intensively through lecture, discussion, written and artistic projects. They are offered in the sciences, mathematics, literature, history and history of the arts.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Mythology

Ninth grade, is a time of tumultuous change, when feelings vacillate between extremes of sympathy and antipathy. Students read Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to have before them the images of transformation - in the stories of Baucus and Philemon, Daedalus and Icarus, Echo and Narcissus, Venus and Adonis, Midas, Persephone, Phaeton, and so many others - that have carried great themes of Western literature and art.

History through Architecture

History through Architecture allows twelfth graders to explore how human progress is reflected in public and private buildings and spaces created over the centuries. The class surveys architecture from ancient civilizations through the 21st century.

Embryology

A morphological study of the first trimester of embryonic development supports an understanding of the final stages of fetal growth and maturity in the third trimester of pregnancy. By exploring the process of development as a phenomenon of its own through a study of the human fetus, tenth graders gain insight into the deeper aspects of their own individual growth and change.

Hydrology

Taking students out of the classroom to nearby New Hope Creek gives them the opportunity to explore water flow patterns, benthic macro invertebrates, and basic stream ecology. This hands-on exploration of a part of their local environment brings eleventh graders to a more thoughtful

understanding of nature and their place in it.

Parzival

In the mythic tale of *Parzival* by Wolfram von Eschenbach, students in eleventh grade read the stories of three medieval knights who make separate journeys from selfishness to compassion, from sympathy to devotion, and from ardor to faith. By engaging with the challenges of each knight in this Grail story, students can mark the trials to thinking, feeling, and willing in the trajectory of their own lives.

Projective Geometry

In this eleventh grade seminar, students expand the conventional understanding of geometry and experience a more modern approach to the subject that blends theoretical and practical knowledge. They learn that projective geometry is the key to perspective drawing, for example, and in studying the role of the "vanishing point," come truly to understand the significance of Desargue's theorem.

History through Music

Waldorf philosophy stresses education in the arts as a means to better understanding of the world in which we live. Music has always played an important part in the religious and social practices of all peoples. Through the exploration of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern musical styles, students come to a better understanding of the history and development of Western civilization.

Transcendentalism

Throughout high school, students are asked to complement careful observation of the world with reflection on their own insight and intuition. Because the Transcendentalists considered it axiomatic that self-knowledge and the study of nature are unified, students read the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau in senior year. This seminar encourages them to look backward and ahead to become consciously aware of how attentiveness and intuition conjoin. With Emerson, they can then imagine how they might help return the broken world to

ADDITIONAL COURSE HIGHLIGHT

Class Plays

Since drama is the embodiment of word and image, all students in the high school perform plays to live into imagination. In creating a character one can rehearse in imagination becoming oneself. In production, imagination also fosters the whole. Individuals form an ensemble and cohesion of the company supports the integrity of each actor. All students in the class become the acting company so that individual and class develop together.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Faculty-guided week-long curriculum trips
- Junior Internships
- Senior Independent Projects
- Extra-curricular options for athletics (Basketball, Cross Country, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee); Theatre club; Yearbook; Coffeehouses; Student Relief Aid

QUOTES FROM SENIORS

“Waldorf-style education provides a nurturing environment where the student can develop a unique view of the world. This leads to more enlightened citizens and individuals, who are able to create, invent and prosper in society.”

wholeness by overcoming disunity in the self, or simply, how the Delphic mandate of self knowledge serves the world.

Circus

The Waldorf High School circus curriculum is a multi-disciplinary form of performance art developed through the physical education program. Skills include stilt walking, juggling, hooping, poi dancing, giant size puppetry, fire dancing and aerial dance. Every HS student participates in the circus when it is showcased in the spring at various local venues.

“I like the artistic emphasis in our curriculum; I think art is an important aspect in one’s education and so does Emerson Waldorf.”

“I value this school because it values me.”

“Everyone here always encourages me to think as an individual.”

“This school promotes free thinking and a relaxed atmosphere.”

“I have come to deeply appreciate the sense of close community that lives within a small school. The creativity that is incorporated into each aspect of the curriculum keeps the work alive and interesting.”

MINIMUM DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Courses	Credits
English	5
Math	4
Science	4
History	3
Foreign Language	3
Art	3
Music	3
<u>Physical Education</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Credits	28

In addition to meeting these credit distribution requirements, Emerson students must successfully complete the following in order to graduate:

- Independent Senior Project
- Community Service (minimum 40

SENIOR INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

The Senior Project serves as a capstone to the high school experience for Waldorf students around the world. Working with mentors from the outside community as well as within the school, students identify, undertake, and complete a project of intellectual and artistic interest and substance. Emerson Waldorf High School values the Senior Project as a means of self-education and individual expression. The projects - ranging from the building of a bass guitar to the creation of a children's book on bats - are as varied as the student body itself. Public presentations in the spring semester allow seniors to share their achievements with whole school community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emerson Waldorf High School
6211 New Jericho Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 932-1195
www.emersonwaldorf.org