

# EMERSON WALDORF SCHOOL

Preschool through 12th Grade

6211 New Jericho Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Ph 919 967 1858

EmersonWaldorf.org

main.office@emersonwaldorf.org

“Waldorf education taught me how to think for myself, to be responsible for my decisions....In all the Main Block lessons—in history, science, philosophy—we really probed the importance of values and beliefs.”

**Kenneth Chenault**

Chairman and CEO, American Express

“My daughter’s experience at the Waldorf school has been both exciting and mind-opening. I hope that more people can make Waldorf education available to their children.”

**Russell Schweickart**, *NASA astronaut (Apollo 9)  
and technology advisor, 1963–1979*



MEMBER OF:

Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)

Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)



Corey Alicks

## Teaching the WHOLE STUDENT

### Emerson Waldorf School Preschool through 12th grade





**MULTIPLICATION TABLES** with hand-eye coordination. Second graders stand in a circle, tossing bean bags to each other while chanting numbers. The pattern of throws around the circle, the timing, and the numeric chanting are all carefully perfected. The object is to learn by integrating mind and body in a cooperative enterprise. (Adults find these exercises very difficult.)



**THE PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM** create a protective and nurturing environment where imagination and creativity flourish. By learning through daily activities such as gardening, baking, or sewing, children develop listening, fine motor, and social skills along with the concentration necessary for academic success. They develop a love of learning, an appreciation of beauty, and a strong connection to the world.

**T**HE UNIQUE VISION OF A WALDORF SCHOOL IS TO USE ACADEMICS TO DEVELOP THE THREE PARTS OF A CHILD—THE “HEAD” OR INTELLECT, THE “HEART” OR FEELING, AND THE “HANDS” OR WILL—into a whole person.

**AN EMERSON WALDORF SCHOOL EDUCATION IS A CLASSICAL CURRICULUM,** with rigorous studies of mathematics, science, history, literature, Spanish, German, the arts, music, and all the other disciplines that prepare students for college and beyond.



**FIFTH GRADE, day one.** A girl chooses a plant from our 54-acre campus. She will keep meticulous notes—with her own illustrations, of course—on the way “her plant” grows and changes through the seasons. At the end of the year, she will present this information to her class.



**MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE** are integral to the Emerson experience. Fourth graders learn a stringed instrument, and continue that throughout their schooling. Eighth graders often perform Shakespeare plays. All high school students participate in the annual circus, featuring stilt walking, hooping, poi dancing, fire dancing and aerial dance.

“The first time I understood the benefit of a Waldorf education was my first week in college. Students around me were flipping out because they were afraid of writing papers. At High Mowing [Waldorf School] we had at least ten pages to write every night.”

*Julianna Margulies, Actress, former Waldorf student*

**THE SENIOR YEAR** culminates in a project—chosen by the student, mentored by the faculty. Projects require students to devise, plan, complete and publicly present a significant undertaking. One student recently built his own electric guitar, and played his own compositions on it. Another developed an equestrian riding test, set to music. Others have started a small business, recorded CDs and produced animated films.



**EIGHTH GRADE LAB** on pH and organic chemistry. Students make litmus paper out of red cabbage juice and bring in their own household items for testing. Then they predict what the results will be and test their hypotheses. Only after the students have developed an intuitive understanding of the concepts are the standard formulas introduced.



**BUT THE GOAL OF LEARNING SCIENCE IS NOT JUST TO KNOW SCIENCE; THE GOAL OF LEARNING HISTORY IS NOT JUST TO KNOW HISTORY.** The goal is to develop people.

**SPANISH AND GERMAN** are taught from the first grade onward, starting with songs and stories and progressing to a more traditional study of grammar, vocabulary, and literature.



**IN FIFTH GRADE,** students train for a Greek Olympics, and compete alongside other national Waldorf schools in javelin, discus, relay races, and more. In the spirit of the original Olympics, an athlete’s grace, beauty and technique are prized more than mere speed, strength, or endurance.



“Waldorf schools generally turn out young people who get into the colleges of their choice, but more importantly are well prepared for life.”

*Eric Utne; Founder, publisher, and former editor-in-chief of Utne Reader, now a Waldorf teacher*