



Community Life Handbook

2022–2023

(updated 8/20/2022)



Table of Contents

[Educational Philosophy](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Mission](#)

[Philosophy of the Nursery and the Kindergarten](#)

[Philosophy of the Grade School](#)

[Philosophy of the Special Subjects](#)

[Handwork/Woodworking](#)

[Eurythmy](#)

[Foreign Languages](#)

[Music](#)

[Arts in Education](#)

[Games/PE](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Class Plays — Grades Children](#)

[Festivals and the Rhythm of the School Year](#)

[The Role of Spirituality in the Waldorf School](#)

[Multicultural Statement](#)

[The Role of the Parent](#)

[Parent Involvement: The Key to a Child's School Success](#)

[How Parents Can Best Support Teachers](#)

[Recommended Parent Reading List](#)

[WSP Community Life Handbook Letter of Acceptance](#)

Welcome to the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh!

We are not able to hold festivals and fairs in the same way as we have in years past due to the pandemic, but we continue to acknowledge and celebrate them in ways that are in alignment with our health and safety plan.

Please read this handbook carefully and refer to it throughout the school year as necessary.

For all school policies and procedures, please consult the Family Handbook available on the school's [website](#).

Educational Philosophy

If the child has been able in his play to give up his whole being to the world around him, he will be able in the serious tasks of later life to devote himself with confidence and power to the service of the world.

—Rudolf Steiner

Code of Conduct

We understand that we are all part of one human family. We will:

- treat others as we wish to be treated.
- listen when we are asked to stop.
- strive to do our best work.
- find a voice to perceive and speak the truth.
- work to be honest, respectful and kind to others.
- be accepting of the differences of others.
- strive to use friendly and positive words with others, rather than rude, hurtful, or insulting words.
- welcome our schoolmates to join us in activities and games, and we will strive to play fairly at all times.
- think for ourselves and be creative.
- try to keep our minds open, clear, and strong.

Working together in this way helps us keep a healthy, balanced, and kind community that is welcoming to all.

Mission

The Waldorf School of Pittsburgh fosters each child's capacity to become an independent thinking, compassionate, courageous, and purposeful human being.

Philosophy of the Nursery and the Kindergarten

The Waldorf Nursery and Kindergarten philosophy is based on the conviction that the young child learns best by imitation of what is beautiful and meaningful. Each child's innate capacity for wonder, reverence, and awe is valued and nurtured in a carefully planned program and environment. Learning is joyous because children are guided to healthy, creative self-expression while they develop the foundations for future academic work.

Philosophy of the Grade School

When the children leave the Kindergarten and move into the Grade School, they carry with them a reverent and loving experience of nature and humanity. In the elementary grades, the content of the

curriculum builds on what has gone before and unfolds in a way that is interesting and meaningful to the children of a particular grade because it addresses the development stages of the growing child. The children in a class form a community and travel the journey from childhood into adolescence together with their class teachers.

The children develop in a natural way through the grades. Some learn quickly and others need more time. Rather than describing the children by how much they know or don't know, Waldorf education emphasizes experiencing the wonder of the world, recognizing and appreciating each others' gifts, working on skills, and being part of the class community.

Philosophy of the Special Subjects

Handwork/Woodworking

Our hands separate us from other species of the animal kingdom. When children use their hands it strengthens their will, which assists brain development, preparing it for reading and the crossing over of left-and right-brained thinking. Handwork and woodwork in the Waldorf curriculum enhances the main lesson and teaches valuable living skills.

Eurythmy

*“The brain discovers what the fingers explore.
The density of nerve endings in our fingertips is enormous.
Their discrimination is almost as good as that of our eyes.
If we don't use our fingers, if in childhood and in youth
we become “finger-blind,” this rich network of nerves
is impoverished— which represents a huge loss to the brain
and thwarts the individual's all-around development.
Such damage may be likened to blindness in itself.
Perhaps worse, while a blind person may simply not be
able to find this or that object, the finger-blind cannot
understand its inner meaning and value.”*
—Matti Bergestroem, professor and neurophysiologist

Eurythmy means beautiful, harmonious rhythm. The core of Waldorf Education is based on rhythm and feeling; at the center of this rhythmical education lies eurythmy. Founded early in this century, eurythmy is also known as “visible speech and visible song,” providing a vocabulary of gestures for the sounds of language and the entire range of musical experience. The eurythmist attempts to make visible through movement the forms sounds create in the air, ordinarily perceived only by the ear. Eurythmy is not a sign language, nor are words spelled out, or actions and situations mimed. Rather, the eurythmist strives to create the quality, mood, and dynamic force of sound through gesture.

All educational exercises in eurythmy have a rhythmical character. Starting from the center, they work in two directions: the experience of movement in space and the experience of knowledge of the mind. A child only gradually wins the freedom of space, and there are many exercises in development—from simply clapping and walking in different rhythms to group exercises with copper rods which require

considerable skill and exact timing. A number of exercises are specially designed as social education to make the children aware of each other.

All learning—especially the learning of children—should bring about new distinctions of experience, and there are hardly any such distinctions which eurythmy does not meet or enhance. For example, when children learn grammar, at a certain age they come to terms with past, present, and future tenses; at another, they feel the difference between active and passive tenses; and later, they realize the function of verb, noun, and adjective. Eurythmy meets all these fine distinctions with appropriate movement and gesture, so that the grammar lessons enter the domain of the whole human being. Eurythmy imparts a knowledge captured in the old phrase “to know it in your bones,” so different from merely knowing it in your head.

Foreign Languages

Foreign languages play an essential role in the curriculum of the Waldorf School. It was Rudolf Steiner’s plan to have children exposed to two contrasting foreign languages (e.g. a Romance and a Germanic language) beginning in first grade and continuing through eighth.

Waldorf schools recognize what a profound influence the spoken word has on the physical and mental development of children, how even the sound of a teacher’s voice influences their growth, and how we must strive for a reverent attitude toward the words we speak. This is of special significance to language teachers: if they are able to bring to their teaching a rich imagination, a sense of beauty, and a sense of humor, their students will gain far beyond the mere basic knowledge of a particular language. Learning a foreign language can open countless doors to various cultures. It even enables us to think differently and to become more aware of our own language and modes of expression. Each language contributes to our appreciation of the world around us. Perhaps it may be said that the teacher of foreign languages in a Waldorf school is dedicating her/his own efforts to the re-enlivening of language so that a true sense of brotherhood may arise among human beings.

Music

Music is a very important part of the Waldorf curriculum. Singing and playing an instrument require a level of listening that engages the child’s whole being. Waldorf teachers gear musical instruction to the child’s developmental level and integrate it with the curriculum in a way that strengthens learning as a whole. Music conveys an inner logic, wisdom, and beauty that strengthens the sense of self within the context of the whole and creates a sense of harmony and social awareness.

Students sing with teachers beginning in the youngest Early Childhood classrooms. Beginning in first grade, they play the pentatonic recorder; in third grade, they will play a stringed instrument; and in sixth grade, students will have a choice to switch to play a woodwind instrument.

The long-term goals of the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh’s music program are to:

- Provide the best possible experience of choral and instrumental music throughout the entire school, building on the foundation established by class teachers in the early years;
- Ensure that every child in the school is actively engaged in music as a necessary balance to other aspects of the curriculum;

- Develop in each young person effective social abilities, clarity of tone, and capacity for listening, as well as an understanding of music that encompasses the whole human being.

Arts in Education

The arts—drama, painting, music, drawing, crafts, and handwork—are integrated into the entire curriculum, including math and science. Educating through the arts brings vitality and wholeness to learning, balancing intellectual development.

Form drawing, which was introduced by Dr. Steiner, is unique to Waldorf Education. It is designed to enhance eye-hand coordination, fine motor skills and spatial orientation.

Coordination, patience, perseverance, and imagination are schooled through practical work. Other activities—such as woodwork, house-building, gardening, and blacksmithing—give children an understanding of how things come into being and a respect for the creations of others.

In painting, children come to experience the feeling that colors arouse in all of us through stories about them—the challenging nature of red, the stillness and contemplative nature of blue. It is the “soul nature” of the colors that Waldorf Education strives to introduce to young children. As the child matures, the artistic method matches development so that in the adolescent, for example, the experiences of intense likes and dislikes, right and wrong, are paralleled with exercises in black and white.

Games/PE

Movement is an integral part to every day at the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh. In our Games/PE weekly classes, Grades students are given the opportunity to work on physical and social skills that reflect their stage of development.

The Games and Physical Education curriculum at the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh closely follows the Spacial Dynamics curriculum. In early grades, the teacher focuses on building a strong, connected group of children. Obstacles, challenges, circus arts and territory games are all part of the early grades curriculum. The 5th grade Greek Pentathlon curriculum invites uprightness into the child’s life. The Middle School PE curriculum focuses on team sports and Bothmer gymnastics. [See Spacial Dynamics curriculum overview listed next to the Community Life Handbook icon on the website.](#)

Computer Science

As students enter the Upper Grades (6th–8th Grades), the use of computers is introduced in a thoughtful manner. This work includes class discussions about the use of social media, understanding how to present one’s self in the healthiest manner online, and how to be a discerning user of the internet. Beginning in 6th Grade, students begin to study word processing, keyboarding, and internet research. Throughout 7th Grade, students write essays using word processing and continue learning fundamentals of academic research using the internet. In 8th Grade, students study the structure of computers in conjunction with the Industrial Revolution studies and work on computer programming.

Class Plays — Grades Children

Class plays are an integral part of the Waldorf curriculum. They are unique for each class and based on the curriculum the children have been learning during the year. The plays enhance the child's learning experience, and are exciting, community-building events.

Every child is an artist.

The question is how to remain an artist when he grows up.

—Pablo Picasso

Festivals and the Rhythm of the School Year

In our Waldorf School, our annual celebrations and observances of the seasonal and cultural festivals help to develop children's relationships to their larger environment. These yearly rhythms are repeated just as we keep to daily classroom routines and rituals, thus creating a safe, secure environment where learning and growing can occur. These annual observances become opportunities for experiencing nature's seasonal changes. We bring to the children age-appropriate songs, stories, verses, games, and activities for the various turning points of the year.

Year by year, the child's awareness and relation to the cycles in nature is deepened by these observances. We also hope to bring in this experiential way an understanding of the seasons of life itself.

We invite and encourage parents to share their traditional festivals and customs with their child's class teacher. The world holds many celebrations marking turning points in the year, recognizing the miracles of life and re-birth and the struggle to overcome darkness that are common to all people. Through stories, songs, and myths, we can share the beauty and richness of our diversity while also confirming that which we all have in common as striving human beings.

Evolving list of Waldorf Celebrations:

- First Grade Rose Ceremony
- Michaelmas
- Rosh Hashanah
- Halloween
- Martinmas
- Advent
- Winter Spiral
- Hanukkah
- Kwanzaa
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Spring
- Ramadan

- Passover
- Eid al-Fitr
- May Fair
- Rite of Passage Ceremony
- Eighth Grade Rose Ceremony
- Commencement
- Juneteenth

The Role of Spirituality in the Waldorf School

Waldorf schools are non-sectarian and non-denominational. They educate all children, regardless of their cultural or religious backgrounds. The pedagogical method is comprehensive, and, as part of its task, seeks to bring about recognition and understanding of all the world cultures and religions.

Waldorf schools are not part of any church. They espouse no particular religious doctrine but are based on a belief that there is a spiritual dimension to the human being and to all of life.

Waldorf families come from a broad spectrum of religious traditions and interests.

Adapted from: [FAQs About Waldorf](#)

Multicultural Statement

The Waldorf School of Pittsburgh is an independent school, committed to fully developing the human potential of each and every child enrolled here, thus reflecting the mission of Waldorf education: To receive the child with reverence, to educate the child with love, to send the child forth with freedom.

Waldorf pedagogy is founded on principles that underscore our common humanity and the equality of all people. We welcome children of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and religions. We believe that the educational experience of all children is enriched when they play and learn in the company of peers from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds.

It is therefore the policy of the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh to promote diversity within the student body, the faculty, and the curriculum so that it mirrors the richness of the community in which we live. To fulfill these goals, we commit ourselves to the following actions:

- We will strive to promote the school and Waldorf pedagogy to people from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds.
- We invite and encourage the parents of our students to share their backgrounds with their children's teachers. Through stories, songs, myths, and customs, we can share the richness of our diversity and enhance the community.
- The faculty will engage in a continuing review of the school curriculum to ensure that the richness and variety of our diverse heritage is communicated to the children in a manner that is both consistent with the principles of Waldorf pedagogy and the vision expressed by the founder of Waldorf Education, Rudolf Steiner.

*We seek to unite people of all races and nations,
and bridge the division and differences between various groups of people.*
—Rudolf Steiner, *The Universal Human*, Lecture 1, December 4, 1909

The Role of the Parent

Parent Involvement: The Key to a Child's School Success

Dozens of recent studies indicate that the key to improving student achievement is the involvement of parents or other family members in a child's education. What exactly does this entail? There are four general ways parents can get involved:

1. Understand and respect the shared agreements for the school and also each classroom
2. Provide support at home
3. Communicate with the school
4. Volunteer at the school
5. Support the work of your child's teachers

Where we choose to put our energies depends on our background, experience, skills, interests, and available time. What is crucial is that we do participate. Parents are the first teachers and most significant adults in a child's life. Our actions form the attitudes and outlook toward learning that our children will carry throughout their lives.

How Parents Can Best Support Teachers

- 1. Learn about and embrace the principles of Waldorf education.**
Throughout the year, the school will sponsor lectures and events covering various aspects of Waldorf education. We grow stronger as a community when the parent body is well represented at these events. The more we know about Waldorf pedagogy—individually and collectively—the better equipped we will be to support the education we've chosen for our children.
- 2. Attend all parent evenings regularly to discover how your child's day unfolds in the classroom.**
Parent evenings are important enough to be considered mandatory attendance events. Teachers arrange quarterly parent evenings throughout the year; they are announced several weeks in advance through the school newsletter. These evenings are relaxed and informal, involving the teacher and all of the parents in discussions about the nature of Waldorf Education and its ongoing evolution in the classroom. Teachers outline the curriculum, broadly sketch the process, and share a picture of the classroom dynamics. Parents are encouraged to bring their questions and insights. It is essential for teachers and parents to communicate as much as possible, and parent evenings are the basis for this communication. Please make every effort to be there; if you cannot, please inform your child's teacher beforehand.
- 3. Communicate with teachers regularly, both with your concerns and your positive comments about what your child is learning.**
Teachers want and need to hear from parents about how various aspects of the curriculum unfold within each child. If you have particular concerns, voice them early. If you notice specific changes—positive or negative—in your child at home, make these known to the teacher.

4. **Create a home environment that supports the teachers' work.**
Encourage children to play imaginatively, and avoid relying on television to placate or mollify a child. We urge parents to limit television viewing to non-school nights, if at all. Far from being confined to R-rated films, violence, sex, and profanity have slipped into daytime television, impacting children's behavior and language in the classroom. Please refrain from exposing younger children to movies, and monitor the movies older children watch. Visual images on television and in films can interfere with the development of a child's imaginative capacities and contribute to disruptive behavior; eliminating television, on the other hand, produces no known adverse effects. If your child is especially fond of television, talk to your classroom teacher for practical suggestions on encouraging other forms of play.
5. **Make sure children arrive on time and properly dressed for the weather.**
Unless the weather is dangerously cold or wet, the children will play outside every day, rain, snow, or shine. Make sure your child has extra clothing, raincoats, hats, and footwear at school. All children need an indoor pair of soft-soled shoes to wear when inside the classroom. (Please avoid open-backed shoes, which can limit mobility.)
6. **Volunteer to assist with special activities and help with classroom projects.**
There are almost unlimited opportunities for school-wide volunteerism. From writing grants to chaperoning school trips to mulching the playground, parents can get involved at any level. Please see the Service Contract section of the Parent Handbook for further information. Almost every parent newsletter will include requests and ideas for volunteering. Most importantly, don't wait for someone to contact you! Ask the office staff, your class parent, and board members what you can do to help.
7. **Inform the teacher if anything special is going on with your child,** if there are major changes in the home (death of a loved one or pet, new baby, etc.), or if they will be absent from school for more than one day.
8. **Provide a regular time and space for homework and musical instrument practice.**
9. **Take an interest in all subjects, not just main lessons.**
Your interest in the subjects—handwork, eurythmy, foreign languages, musical instruments, painting, etc.—will communicate their importance to your child. Find out how the stories and activities of the day live in your child by being available for conversation at quiet moments. Children often will not or cannot provide information on demand. Simply asking, "How was your day?" almost always provokes a monosyllabic response. The quiet time just before sleep—after a nightly story, for instance—can be an especially fruitful opportunity for parents to hear real news of the day; older children may open up while occupied with other tasks—helping to prepare dinner, for example. Share with your child's classroom teacher information about stories, activities, or images that seem to strike a chord in your child. Understanding the subjects that take hold of a child's imagination helps the teacher to better know—and teach—that individual.

Recommended Parent Reading List

For parents who are interested in gaining a more complete understanding of the view of the child inherent in Waldorf pedagogy, we suggest the following books.

Braiding Sweetgrass

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

Childhood

by Caroline von Heydebrand

This is the classic work on the Waldorf Kindergarten. Heydebrand worked with Rudolf Steiner at the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart, and her book contains a wealth of insight about working with preschoolers.

Creativity in Education

by Rene Querido

Rudolf Steiner recognized that all children are born with the capacity for wonder, gratitude, and responsibility. The Waldorf teacher's task is to awaken these faculties, thereby helping young people to discover within themselves the strength, enthusiasm, and wisdom to become creative shapers of civilization, rather than passive onlookers. In these seven lectures given at the San Francisco Waldorf School, Rene Querido describes an educational approach that has as its goal the balanced development of the whole child—hand and heart as well as mind—an approach that is now being practiced in over 600 Waldorf Schools throughout the world.

The Education of the Child in the Light of Anthroposophy

Another booklet that provides a good introduction to Waldorf pedagogy, as well as to anthroposophy in general. It is one of the few lectures Steiner gave in 1909 that he revised for publication as a written work, 10 years before the first Waldorf School was founded. A main theme here is the “birthing” of the “sheaths” of human individuality. Study of this essay will lead the reader to a rather profound grasp of the Waldorf impulse—as an “education towards freedom.” Although the content may make for difficult reading as a first glance into this field, it should be readily understandable if read as the second or third of these recommended books.

Education Towards Freedom

by Franz Calgren

This sumptuous, oversized volume, filled with color and black-and-white images and beautifully designed by Anne Klingborg, is the perfect introduction to Waldorf Education. Following an opening section entitled “Rudolf Steiner and His Ideas on Education,” the evolution of the child from the preschool to high school years is described in detail, in terms both of psycho-spiritual development and curriculum. A final section on “The School in the Modern World” surveys the work of Waldorf schools throughout the world.

Encountering the Self: Transformation and Destiny in the Ninth Year

by Hermann Koepke

Between the ages of nine and ten, as children incarnate more deeply, they often experience themselves for the first time as separate individuals, different from their parents and peers, and essentially alone. This inner experience is sometimes precipitated by a first encounter with death in the child’s environment, a first inkling that life is fragile. Koepke provides a lucid and highly readable explanation of the outer signs and symptoms of this essential turning point in the life of a child. He demonstrates the significance of this crucial moment by showing how the destiny and achievements of such personalities as Dante, Schliemann, Kokoschka, Steiner, and Bruno Walter rest upon a fateful encounter or event in their ninth year.

The Four Temperaments

An early Steiner lecture (1909) and an interesting introductory booklet. Here, the reader can get a feel for Rudolf Steiner’s own style as a teacher of anthroposophy while gaining valuable insight into human character—Steiner’s understanding of the four temperaments. Class teachers, as well as many of the special subject teachers, “teach to the temperaments” to a considerable degree. This lecture also presents the four-fold aspect of the human being in a brief, engrossing context, and is therefore an ideal glimpse into the whole of anthroposophical literature.

How to Be An Antiracist

by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves

The Kingdom of Childhood

by Rudolf Steiner

Steiner presents the idea of the three seven-year periods of child development and gives many classroom examples.

The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century

by Grace Lee Boggs

Grace Lee Boggs, a legendary figure in the struggle for justice in America, shrewdly assesses the current crisis—political, economical, and environmental—and shows how to create the radical social change we need to confront new realities.

Phases of Childhood

by B.C.J. Lievegoed

The author describes the development of the child in phases of around seven years, each phase having its own character. The changes in the body are well known: for instance, change of teeth, puberty, and completion of physical growth. The psychological development parallels physical and is at least as important. Examining the relationship of children to the world around them, Lievegoed describes the experience of the preschooler, school child, and teenager in a clear and concise way. The latter part of the book is concerned with the practical application of these insights, allowing a method of education in harmony with the stages of development.

Raising White Kids

by Jennifer Harvey

This *New York Times* best-selling book is a guide for families, educators, and communities to raise their children to be able and active anti-racist allies.

The Recovery of Man in Childhood

by A.C. Harwood

In this absorbing study of Rudolf Steiner's educational work, Harwood argues that childhood is a time of losing, as well as gaining, capacities. Is there a connection between the loss of a childhood faculty and the acquisition of an adult one? Yes—in fact, a three-fold connection. Harwood gives an insightful survey of the three seven-year stages of child development depicted by Steiner, presented in connection with numerous examples and anecdotes on Waldorf Education, such as foreign languages, eurythmy and music, and the temperaments. These lucid explanations qualify this book as the most intelligent and stimulating introductory work on that unique approach to education known as “education as an art.”

Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Education

by David Mitchell

This colorful pamphlet with photos, drawings, and simple text is an excellent introduction for interested parents.

So You Want to Talk About Race

by Ijeoma Oluo

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality and cultural appropriation to the model minority myth in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race, and about how racism infects every aspect of American life.

Steiner Education: In Theory and Practice

by Gilbert Childs

This thorough and detailed account of Rudolf Steiner's view of the child's development toward a whole personality shows how the teaching practice of the Waldorf schools is firmly grounded in a rationale which perceives the child's past, present, and future. For the child to mature into a unique and responsible adult, “free” from distorting and harmful influences, certain fundamental human truths, both individual and social, must be respected. The curriculum of Waldorf schools is explained, together with approaches to subjects both familiar and unfamiliar.

Teaching as a Lively Art

by Marjorie Spock

The author vividly introduces the reader to the important changes in child development and curriculum for each year of the Waldorf elementary school experience, from age six to age 13. She explains how in every subject the teacher strives “to shape each lesson on a rhythmic pattern in which listening or looking is balanced by the child’s own activity in doing.” This wide-ranging survey concludes with an account of some of the more intimate aspects of Waldorf teaching—the use of the four temperaments to harmoniously orchestrate a class, the necessary qualities of a teacher’s character, and the close relationship between teacher and child. This second edition includes a new introduction by Eugene Schwartz and an extensive bibliography.

The Transgender Child

by Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper

This comprehensive first of its kind guidebook explores the unique challenges that thousands of families face every day raising their children in every city and state. Through extensive research and interviews, as well as years of experience working in the field, the authors cover gender variance from birth through college.

Transgender Teen

by Stephanie Brill

This comprehensive guidebook explores the unique challenges that thousands of families face every day raising a teenager who may be transgender, gender-variant or gender-fluid. Covering extensive research and with many personal interviews, as well as years of experience working in the field, the author covers pressing concerns relating to physical and emotional development, social and school pressures, medical options, and family communications. Learn how parents can advocate for their children, find acceptable colleges and career paths, and raise their gender variant or transgender adolescent with love and compassion.

The Truth about Boys and Girls: Challenging Toxic Stereotypes about our Children

by Caryl Rivers and Rosalind C. Barnett

In *The Truth About Girls and Boys*, Rivers and Barnett tackle a new, troubling trend in the theorizing of gender: that the learning styles, brain development, motivation, cognitive and spatial abilities, and “natural” inclinations of girls and boys are so fundamentally different, they require unique styles of parenting and education.

The Way of the Child

by A.C. Harwood

Provides an excellent and surprisingly deep and thorough introduction to this “new” approach to child psychology. Several of the themes discussed in the book were first brought by Steiner to the group of teachers he trained in his rigorous 1919 lectures entitled Study of Man. Here the same themes are made remarkably transparent by Harwood, arising from his obvious love for children, long years of experience, and facility of written expression. In his Preface he notes: “I have not endeavored to distinguish between what is immediately contained in Steiner’s own works and anything that my own thought and experience have taught me, or that I may have added by way of illustration. Rather have I tried (as I think he would have wished) to present in my own way that limited part of his work which I

feel I have best understood and made my own.” If parents want to read only one book (for a start) to more fully appreciate and support their children’s class teachers, this would be it.

Renewal: A Journal for Waldorf Education

published twice a year by the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA).

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.

It is the source of all true art and science.

*He to whom the emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause
and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.*

—Albert Einstein



Waldorf School of Pittsburgh
201 S. Winebiddle Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

ph. 412.441.5792
f. 412-441-5179

waldorfpittsburgh.org

WSP Community Life Handbook Letter of Acceptance

Welcome

Welcome to the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh!

Handbook

The handbook is intended to be the outward sign of, and an instrument that lays the foundation for our community culture at the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh.

Acceptance

Acceptance of the Community Life Handbook is a condition of enrollment. It is the community member's responsibility to read, question, and understand the handbook within the first 15 days of the school year.

Signature

Name (Print)

Date