

chicago waldorf school

HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

Overview

The Chicago Waldorf High School is a mixed ability college preparatory school located in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. As an urban independent school we are a leader in Waldorf education (we are the largest Waldorf school in the Midwest offering Pre-K thru 12th grade). There are more than 1,000 Waldorf schools worldwide, with over 200 in North America. Currently there are over 40 Waldorf high school programs in the United States. Our high school program is distinguished by these philosophies and values:

- Education should be a spirited experience which awakens curiosity, fires the imagination, and stirs the human being.
- The goals of a Waldorf education are many and include: compassion, generosity, integrity, idealism, emotional growth, intellectual development, and creative thought.
- The arts are integrated across the entire academic curriculum as they actively build capacities, sensitivities, and problem-solving abilities in the students.
- Waldorf education intentionally explores subject matter at critical and motivating times appropriate to the student's emotional and intellectual development.
- Students benefit from an environment which stresses cooperation and collaborative learning over competition.
- Waldorf education is rooted in the ideals, insights and pedagogical methods of Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925).

Graduation Requirements

(may vary if student does world language exchange)

- English - 4 years
- Math - 3.75 years (3 years plus 3 blocks)
- Science - 3.5 years (14 blocks)
- Social Science - 4.0 years (16 blocks)
- Foreign Language - 2 to 4 years
- Arts - as described in the following *curriculum page*
- Electives may be taken in lieu of world languages in 11th & 12th grades
- Senior Internships - 3 weeks; minimum of 90 hours
- Community Service - 60 hours over 4 years
- Service Learning Trips - one 2-week trip each year
- Senior Project

Unique Aspects of the Curriculum

- Two class formats: 3-4 week intensive blocks (science, humanities, arts) and semester classes (English, math, foreign language).
- Students receive narrative evaluations, in addition to a grade, for each class.
- World Exchange Program broadens diversity, cultural perspectives and experience of the student body.
- Academic subjects stress depth over breadth.
- Students have little choice in their coursework, and are exposed to subject areas which they might not seek on their own. This challenges students to work in unfamiliar subjects and to appreciate other students' strengths and contributions.
- Music, drama, painting, sculpture and other arts are required classes, not electives.
- We do not offer Honors, AP or IB courses. We avoid tracking; ALL students take the same classes with minimal exceptions in some variations of math and language skill levels.

Student Profiles & Demographics*

- High School enrollment: 97 HS students for 2015-16
School Size (pre-K through 12th grade): 358 students
- Student's Geography: 25% in Rogers Park / 25% in Evanston / 50% in other neighborhoods & suburbs
- Diversity: 72% White; 15% Multi-Racial; 6% Hispanic; 6% African American/Black; 2% Asian; 3% Other
- Diverse socio-economic backgrounds;
50% of our students receive Tuition Adjustment (Financial Aid) & 22% receive Merit Scholarships
10% students from FPL defined low income families
- International Students: 10.3% are full-time enrolled international students, and adding to the student diversity are 17 exchange students (17.5% of students) visiting for 3 months in exchange with our students

* Student Demographics are based on the entire school, Pre-K through 12th grade, for the academic year 2015-16

College Matriculation (2011-2015)

Chicago Waldorf High School graduated 80 high school students from 2011-2015.

Collectively these students were awarded on average:

\$82,250 per student in merit-based scholarships*

to attend schools including:

Alfred University, NY
Carleton College, MN
Claremont-McKenna College, CA
Connecticut College, CT
DePaul University, IL
Dickinson College, PA
Elon University, NC
Hampshire College, MA
Hobart & William Smith Colleges, NY
Ithaca College, NY
Lawrence University, WI
Lewis & Clark College, OR
Loyola University Chicago, IL
Macalester College, MN

Northwestern University, IL
Parson's-The New School for Design, NY
Pratt Institute, NY
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
St. Olaf College, MN
Temple University, PA
University of British Columbia
University of Illinois at Chicago
Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Oregon
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vassar College, NY

...among other colleges and universities

Post School Options (2011-2015)

College Acceptance Rate = 100 %

- All CWS High School seniors applying to college were accepted to schools of their choice. (71 students)
- 11 CWS High School seniors chose to pursue professional employment, entrepreneurship, or a gap year for travel, scholarship and volunteer work.

Questions about our school? • Want to schedule a tour or a class visit?

Contact Enrollment Director, Lisa Payton: lpayton@chicagowaldorf.org • 773.465.2371

** this figure does not include need-based financial aid.*

Tours & Orientations:

- **Prospective Parents:** we offer an in-depth tour of the high school and a round table discussion with high school teachers and students.
- **Students:** we strongly encourage you visit for a full day. You will be paired with a student host and have an opportunity to attend classes as well as meet our students and teachers