



PORTLAND WALDORF  
SCHOOL

## School Profile 2022 - 2023

### Overview

Portland Waldorf School High School is an independent, coeducational, nonsectarian secondary school established in 1999, extending from a grade school founded in 1982. Students spend four years immersed in a rigorous and richly integrated academic, artistic and social education. Students explore the sciences, arts, and humanities through experiential projects, language study, and environmental sustainability education. Students develop capacities for life, along with the flexibility to step into a variety of situations, because they are confident that they know how to learn. Portland Waldorf School is part of the worldwide educational system of Waldorf Schools, taught in 1100 schools across 80 countries. The school is located nine miles south of downtown Portland on a 7-acre campus, standing at the intersection of city and country.

### Contacts

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#### High School Chair

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#### Accreditations

NAIS  
National Association of Independent Schools

COGNIA  
Global Accreditation

AWSNA  
Association of Waldorf Schools of N America

### The Student Body

Culturally and socially diverse, the student body of 65 students is drawn from across the greater Portland Metropolitan Area and from around the globe. Roughly half arrive from the grade school, which has approximately 200 students, and half come from public, parochial, other area Waldorf schools, other independent middle schools and internationally. 13 percent identify as students of color. More than 33 percent of families participate in the Tuition Adjustment Program.

### The Curriculum

The high school curriculum is a dynamic, intentional, academically challenging course of study that offers students strong preparation for college. The 11th and 12th grade curriculum covers much of the content of AP courses and presents an equivalent level of academic challenge and rigor. Students emerge from the program as well-rounded, deeply engaged individuals ready to make meaningful contributions to the world around them. Approximate yearly equivalents for our graduates:

- 4 years English** (Humanities, Language Arts Writing & Literature)
- 4 years Social Studies** (World History, US History & Civics, Cultural Studies)
- 4 years Sciences** (Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- 4 years Math** (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, Calculus)
- 4 years World Language** (Spanish or German)
- 4 years Art** (Fine Art, Applied Art & Craft)
- 4 years Music** (Vocal & Instrumental)
- 4 years Movement** (Eurythmy & Physical Education)
- 4 years Enrichment** (Drama & Life Skills)

### Explanation of Credits

Core academic subjects are taught in Main Lesson blocks. These daily periods offer intensive exploration, last for one hour, forty-five minutes and rotate every 3 to 4 weeks. Blocks include focus on History, Social Studies, English, Math and Science topics. Main Lesson is followed by yearlong classes in Mathematics, World Languages and Humanities, meeting three to four times per week for 60 minute periods.

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**Explanation of Credits**  
continued

In addition, all students participate in yearlong music, arts and crafts, eurythmy, and PE/movement and other enrichment classes two to three times per week for 60 minute periods as determined by the curriculum.

**Grading Scale & Policy**

Students receive letter grades in all classes unless otherwise arranged (\*see Covid appendix). GPA's are unweighted and weighted (with Honors). Honors classes are offered after 9th grade in Humanities & Sciences, Math, Music & World Language. Weighted Scale with Honors: A+ (4.3); A (4.3); A- (4.0)

**Class Ranking**

Students are ranked numerically based on their weighted GPA in Junior Year, within a class of 17 students.

**SAT Mean Scores**  
(Class of 2022)

EBRW: 604  
M: 601  
Mean Composite: 1205

**ACT Mean Scores**  
(Class of 2022)

Due to the small class size and reduced test-taking in the context of the pandemic, no student took the ACT from the class of 2022.

**Senior Projects**

In addition to their regular course requirements, seniors undertake an immersive independent project (50 - 75 hours), followed by a presentation to the community. Within the 12th grade curriculum are additional capstone projects, including a fifteen page, college-level research essay exploring questions of students' choosing, a Eurythmy recital featuring pieces of their own choreography, a self-portrait in an artistic medium, and a performance of a full-length play, created together as a class for the community. Taken together, these requirements bring together core elements of the PWHS education: rigorous academics, independence of-thought, creative self-expression and meaningful engagement with the world.

**Service Learning Program**

Students individually spend a minimum of at least 55 hours of volunteer service over 4 years with non-profit and public organizations outside the school community. In addition, students offer service twice a year during school-organized opportunities.

**Global Exchange Program & International Students**

The school participates in an exchange program with Waldorf high schools in Germany, Spain and South America that is available to 10th and 11th graders. About 5 percent of students participate in three month exchanges.

**Outdoor Education Program**

The school has a robust outdoor education program fostering both stewards of the natural world and adventurers of the great outdoors. The four-year curriculum offers experiences that both ground students, teach them to work cooperatively and to appreciate the bounty of nature, with each year having a distinct focus. The curriculum progresses yearly through week-long trips, beginning with camping in 9th and 10th grades, wilderness backpacking in 11th grade and two trips in 12th grade bracketing the year that focus on leadership in the community and the transition to adulthood.

## College Acceptance and Matriculation\* 2014 - 2021

Academy of Art University	Knox College	Simon Fraser College
Acadia University*	Lane Community College	Southern Oregon University
American University, Rome, Italy	Lawrence University*	Stanford University
Antioch College	Lewis and Clark College*	St. Edward's University*
Art Academy of Cincinnati	Linfield College	St. Olaf College
Art Institute of Chicago	London Metropolitan University*	Temple University,
Art Institute of Ohio	Macalester College*	Tyler School of Art*
Bard College*	Manhattan School of Music	The Evergreen State College*
Beloit College	Marlboro College	University of Colorado at Boulder
Berklee College of Music	Marymount Manhattan College	University of British Columbia at
Boise State University	Massachusetts College of Art	Vancouver*
Brigham Young University	McDaniel College Honors Program*	University of California, Los Angeles
Brooks Institute of Photography	Michigan State University*	University of Chicago
Bryn Mawr College*	Mills College	University of Denver
California College of the Arts	Minneapolis College of Art and Design	University of Illinois at Chicago
Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo*	Montserrat College of Art	University of Greenwich UK*
Chapman University*	Montana State University*	University of Minnesota
Clackamas Community College*	Morehead State University	University of Montana*
Claremont McKenna College	Mt. Holyoke College	University of Nevada, Reno*
Clark University	Mt. Hood Community College*	University of Oregon*
College of the Atlantic	New York University	University of Oregon,
Colorado College*	Northern Arizona University	Clark Honors College*
Colorado Mesa University	Oberlin College*	University of Portland*
Columbia University*	Oberlin Conservatory of Music*	University of Puget Sound*
Concordia University	Occidental College	University of Redlands
Cornell College*	Oregon State University*	University of San Francisco
DePaul University*	Oregon State Honors College*	University of Southern California,
DePauw University	Otis College of Art and Design	Los Angeles*
Drexel University	Pace University	University of the Pacific
Earlham College	Pacific University	University of Utah*
Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ*	Pacific Lutheran University	University of Washington*
Emerson College, UK*	Pitzer College	University of Waterloo*
Emerson College, US	Portland Community College* Portland	University of Wisconsin
Eugene Lang College of the New	State University*	Utrecht University*
School for Social Research	Prescott College	Warren Wilson College*
Fordham University*	Quest University*	Washington State University,
Fort Lewis College	Ralph-Macon College	Pullman*
George Fox University	Reed College*	Wells College
Gettysburg College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rhode	Wesleyan University*
Global College	Island School of Design*	Western Washington University*
Goucher College	Rice University	Westminster College*
Gustavus Adolphus College	Ringling College of Art & Design*	Wheaton College
Hampshire College	Salve Regina University	Whitman College*
Haverford College*	Seattle University	Whitworth University
Hofstra University	Sarah Lawrence College	Willamette University*
Humboldt State College	Simmons College	Woodbury University
Kent State University*		

### COVID Appendix\*

In March 2020, the Governor of Oregon ordered the closure of schools and Portland Waldorf School made an immediate transition to distance learning. Music and movement classes were suspended, but students were given full credit for the semester with a Pass grade, following the practice of the Oregon public schools. Students were given the further option to elect, in advance, a P/F grade for other spring classes.

In the 2020-21 school year, classes were fully online until March 2021, when we adopted a hybrid model in which students could remain online or participate in person twice a week while participating online on the remaining three days. The normal letter grade protocols were resumed. Music classes were made optional and physical education and enrichment classes were discontinued for the year, so that total credit for the year was somewhat reduced. Students unable to meet the requirements for passing by the end of the year were given an Incomplete, which gave them no credit for that course and did not impact their GPA. If the subject in which a student received an Incomplete dropped them below the credits needed for graduation, they have been required to make up that credit independently.

In 2021-22, all classes began in-person. Arrangements were made to serve students who needed to quarantine, and the transition to distance learning was made available for all students when circumstances required it.