

Program Notes

Grade 9

Outdoor Week, September 18 to 22

Grade 9's inaugural outdoor trip is coming up in September. Please see the gear list and program description enclosed in this packet! Students will spend the week at Oxbow Park, getting acquainted with camp procedures and outdoor life, and will move on next year to the tracking and naturalist curriculum, followed by a backpacking trip in Grade 11 and the senior Solo Sit in Grade 12. The trip will be led by Adelaide Nalley, our new Outdoor Program coordinator, and Mr. Wasko will also attend.

Schedules and Advisors

Class schedules, advisor assignments, and main lesson rotations will be available at the start of the school year.

Service Program

All students participate in our service program, which includes group projects organized by the faculty on Martin Luther King Day and Earth Day, and one or two student-initiated individual or group projects totaling approximately 16 hours over the school year. Students must submit a service proposal form to their class sponsors, and after approval, bring the form to their volunteer supervisor to verify their hours when they have completed the service. In Grade 9, students may volunteer up to 12 hours for PWS, and at least four hours for an off-campus non-profit organization. Class sponsors will review the program with students during their class meetings. A copy of the proposal form is included for students who'd like to get a head start!

Self-paced Math Studies

Our math department will introduce our self-paced math program during the HS meeting on Back to School Night, Wednesday, August 31, and during Grade 9 orientation on Thursday, August 31. Another meeting is scheduled for that Thursday evening at 6 pm for those who would like a more detailed presentation. Grade 9 math students will be taught by Ms. Shupack, Mr. Wasko, and our new math teacher, Ms. Sabrina Kaplan, who will also teach Computer Science in Grade 10.

Project Week

In November, students and faculty will take a week off from classes to participate in cross-disciplinary, mixed-grade learning projects. Topics have included dance, yoga, applied arts, design, literature, cooking, and many other endeavors.

Farm Curriculum

In May, Grade 9 students will be assigned to various farms in the area for a five-day, four-night stay to deepen their connection with the earth and their understanding and respect for the people and processes that produce our food. Please watch for more information from Kelly Hogan, who coordinates the curriculum, in the spring.

Foreign Exchange

Students who would like to arrange a foreign exchange with a student from a Waldorf school in a German- or Spanish-speaking country in Grade 10 or 11 can speak with Frau Fretz, our exchange coordinator, for program information, approval, and help in finding an exchange partner.

Graduation Day

The last day of school is actually a Saturday: June 16, the day of graduation. Students prepare music in the last few weeks of school to perform during the ceremony, and Grade 9 is responsible for clean-up from 4:30 to 6:30 following the reception. Parent assistance is appreciated!