

The Waldorf School Curriculum

An Overview for American Waldorf School Teachers

These course descriptions present possibilities for teachers to expand upon

INNER PATH — THE WORD										OUTER PATH — SENSE PERCEPTION AND MOVEMENT										
G	HISTORY	LITERATURE	ENGLISH & GRAMMAR	LANGUAGES	GEOGRAPHY	SCIENCES	MATHEMATICS	DRAWING	PAINTING	HANDWORK	WOODWORK	MODELING	MUSIC	EURYTHMY	PHYSICAL ED	NOTES				
1	Fairy tales: Grimm, Asbjørnsen, and Moe The revelation of human archetypal biography is given through the fairy tale, as well as examples of the creative power and guidance existing within the universe Poems with strong rhythms		Drawings and paintings give birth to the letters Vowels come from feelings Capital letters Simple words Speech exercises	Two languages taught by ear through imitation of songs, games, poems, and plays Languages taught include German, French, Russian, and Spanish • Some schools teach Japanese, Chinese, Hebrew, and other languages	The wonder of nature through observation	Nature studies based on stories presented in an imaginative and alive manner Conscious stimulation: the twelve senses; exercises in the observation and sensory experience of Nature Cooking	Whole numbers 4 rules (0-3-9) Counting (1-144) Rhythms Mental arithmetic Roman numerals Working from whole to the part Attention is based on willing	Curves Lines Patterns Letters of the alphabet Use block crayons	Wet painting using water colors and the three primary colors Cultivate a sense for form and colors Paint models; not detail	Knitting; using two needles and natural materials with strong true colors to make a scarf, hat, or flute bag This activity develops small motor skills, a sense for form and color. It stimulates "inner math" and counting skills,	Haybale and stick housebuilding	Beeswax; scenes from fairy tales: Let the light penetrate the wax	Pentatonic recorder All songs in pentatonic scale Beat rhythms Seasonal songs Strong rhyming songs Singing and action games	Movements copying human actions The pentatonic scale The vowels Clapping simple meters Forms and rhythms Dramatize fairy tales Tone eurythmy	Circle games Singing games	The change of teeth is taking place.				
2	Fables: Aesop's and Celtic Legends of saints Local folklore American Indian stories <i>The King of Ireland's Son</i> by Padraic Colum		Begin reading from children's own written main lesson books, then on to their first reading book Plays and speech work Simple sentences Rhyming words	Names of animals, family members, parts of the body, foods, etc. The seasons	The environment through observation	Counting Names of animals, family members, parts of the body, foods, etc. The seasons	Whole numbers Times tables Number patterns Columns adding Situation problems Time Working with money Attention is based on willing	Symmetry; mirror drawing, form drawing Use block and stick crayons	Introduce three secondary colors Allow animal forms to emerge from the colors	Crochet work; using simple stitching to make pot holders, mats, and the like	Lean-to's and small tort-line structures	Beeswax; scenes from legends, fables, etc.	Pentatonic recorder: songs to accompany fables Art songs, folk songs	Rhythms The consonants Social exercises Tone eurythmy	Jump rope, hop scotch, rhythmic games	The "social being" of the class must be carefully nurtured.				
3	Biblical stories as part of ancient history American Indian tales and fables	Old Testament: Son of Cain, and Journey to the Promised Land by Jakob Streat Poetry from main lesson Reading from main lesson	Grammar: structure of a sentence Doing words (verbs) - Name words (nouns) Color words (adjectives) - Punctuation - Dictation Simple sentences and paragraphs Spelling: Begin rules and simple familiar words Writing: write simple descriptions of what children have seen, heard, and read - Plays and speech work	Practical studies: housebuilding, farming, and clothing	From Cain in his cave to the nomads, tent dwellers, cliff dwellers, lake dwellers, to our modern house—social implications Practical work: brick wall, wooden, or stone house • Soils, farm life, grains, root, leaf and stem vegetables - Cycles of the year - Practical work in a class garden	Whole numbers Times tables Number patterns Measurement Building Carrying and borrowing Prime numbers Problems in time Attention is based on willing	Form drawing Use stick crayons Introduce pencils	Luster colors Paint from main lesson work Interaction of color is important	Crochet work; making larger objects, such as purses and animals	Forest walks and stories about trees and forests Housebuilding: build a small structure as a class Build a small brick wall using a variety of brick joints	Beeswax: scenes from main lesson work	Tonality through octave in song and recorder Psalms set to music Hymns Begin music notation Recorder playing in parts Begin instrumental music	Rod exercises Contrast exercises Geometric forms The octave Scale of C major Tone eurythmy Rhythms	Ring games Line games Work games and songs Ball-tossing games	The transition from play to work is undertaken. The child's growth accelerates. The age of dream is passing.					
4	Local history through geography Why the early settlers chose your particular geographic area to live in and how they developed the natural resources there	Norse sagas Poetry Alliteration Children should learn to appreciate the inner beauty of a poem	Verb tenses Prepositions Abbreviations Personal pronouns Adverbs Memorize grammatical rules - Plays and speech work Writing: compositions with emphasis on story - Letter writing - Form and content - Oral book reports Spelling: rules and ten words per week	Plurals Abbreviations Adverbs First dictations Begin transition from choral speaking to more individual expression	Making children aware of their own geography, home surroundings Map making: classroom, bedroom, route to school, county, state, region	Zoology: Human and animal Threefoldness of humankind Head, trunk, and limb animals Descriptive study of animals and their relationship to human beings	Review arithmetic operations Times tables Word problems Averages Long division Factoring Proofs	Geometric drawing (treehands) Form drawing Interlocking (Nordic) forms Dynamic drawing Introduce ink pens	Put the form first, then pour light over it Painting becomes more expressive and defined	Cross stitch and other embroidery; making pincushions and handwork bags	Forest walks and tree identification throughout the seasons of the year	Clay modeling, animals, geometric shapes, etc. Work from a whole lump of clay	Chorus and orchestra Time values Harmony The major and minor third Rounds and canons Read music from notation	The grammatical element Concrete and abstract forms Simple major and minor melodies, sharps and flats Apollonian forms Alliterative meter with a deep quality of will Tone eurythmy	Running, jumping, and throwing games Square and folk dancing	Transition: the child becomes more inward and independent. The heartbeat slows to a 4:1 ratio with the breathing, which is the same as an adult.				
5	First historical concepts Ancient India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece: up to Alexander the Great <i>The lives of Manu, Rama, Buddha, Zarathustra, Gilgamesh, Khufu, and Orpheus</i>	Greek mythology Scenes from ancient history Biographies of great men and women	Active and passive verbs Use of capitals Antonyms Parts of speech Punctuation Writing: composition with emphasis on descriptions, book reports—oral and written- Letter writing Spelling: rules and ten words per week - Introduce the dictionary and its use	Subject and predicate Synonyms Homonyms Syntax	Simple text Syntax Short talk and descriptions Learn Sanskrit poems Learn Greek phrases	Geography of the United States	Zoology: lesser known animals such as bat, dinosaur, etc. - The adaptation of the animal to its environment Botany: study of the plant in relation to the Earth - The concept of the archetypal plant	Decimals Fractions Mixed numbers Reciprocals Metric system	Free geometric drawing, dynamic drawing Draw first in rigid Egyptian and Babylonian style - Borders in block books Books can be designed using Greek and Egyptian forms	Work from stark darkness into light	Knitting; using four needles to make socks, mittens, and hats	Work with Sloyd knife to carve an egg and then a simple toy The aim is to consciously awaken the hand Study of complex shapes	Greek vases in clay Clay tablets Greek columns High and low relief	Three-part singing The major and minor scales Playing above the octave Rounds and canons in major and minor	Limb control exercises Movement to simple poems Major scales Simple melodies Hexamer Harmonious rhythms Tone eurythmy	Rhythmic exercises: tumbling and building of human pyramids Greek sports: javelin, discus, shot put, high jump, long jump, etc. Kickball and softball	The child's self-consciousness becomes stronger. At this age the child is in harmony with himself or herself and in his or her surroundings!			
6	The fall of Troy to the founding of Rome through the monarchy, republic, and empire The life of Christ, the Crusades The life of Muhammad and the Islamic people Medieval society: the cloister, the castle, and the city	Tales of chivalry: Men of Iron by Pyle Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain Poetry, ballads Scenes from medieval history	Subjunctive mood, conditional sentences, transitive and intransitive verbs - Possessive and objective nouns, adjectives, usage, phrases and clauses, comparative adverbs, sentence diagramming - Review eight parts of speech Writing: composition with emphasis on exposition - Paragraphs - Narration, descriptive, expository - Contracts - Outlining can be introduced in science block - Business letters Spelling: up to fifteen words per week with rules - Active	Simple reading texts, humorous stories, etc. Free translation Learn Latin sayings, proverbs, etc.	Geography of Canada, Latin America and South America World geography: The Earth's configuration and contrasts	Physics sound, heat, light, magnetism, static electricity Geology: minerals and crystals of the Earth and their individual qualities, especially granite Botany: continued from above Introduction to horticulture	Mathematical exercises Interest, profit and loss Percentage Ratio Proportion Exchange Estimation Introduce equations	Exact geometric drawings Geometric string designs Mosaic pictures Black and white drawing Shadows	Landscapes Color Contrasts Spectrum	Sewing: stuffed animals, work aprons, etc.	Begin using saws, rasps, and gouges to shape an animal, a spoon, etc. The aim is to develop skill Study of concave shapes	Bas-relief in Roman style	Two- and three-part choruses Songs of minstrels Songs of the Middle Ages Dances, alfo, and tenor recorders Roman music	Rod exercises Grammatical forms Tone eurythmy Simple introductions to musical forms Threefold walking Alliteration Geometrical forms and transformations	Greek sports: decathlon, pentathlon Team sports: kickball, softball, kings, etc.	The commencement of puberty and all its challenges. The child's forces enter into the skeleton Grace is temporarily lost. The children can be awkward!				
7	1400-1700 The Age of Exploration The Age of Discovery The Reformation The Renaissance Many biographies are experienced	Ambitious legends, heroic novels, heroic stories - Tales of adventure and discovery - Ballads Poems, ballads Scenes from Renaissance Stories about tribal life	Review all grammar Try to develop a plasticity of the language based on the theme of Wish, Wonder, and Surprise Writing: all blocks have original writing Research paper: Write and produce a puppet show Poetry: learned forms of poetry Spelling: up to twenty words per week and rules	Reading and conversation Grammar and structures Drills Classical languages: Latin and Greek - Myths, poetry, quotations, and word study	Geography of Africa and Europe World geography: tides, map reading, weather, geographical terminology, leading into astronomy	Chemistry: combustion, chemical transformation, O_2 , H_2 , acids, bases, salts, time cycle Physiology: the nine systems, nutrition, and first aid Physics: light, magnetism, static and current electricity, mechanics Astronomy: study of the galaxy	Business mathematics Graphing Perimeters Areas Roots Formulae	Exact geometrical drawing: two-dimensional, to theorem of Pythagoras Areas of squares, triangles Perspective drawing Platonic solids Black and white drawing	Wet and dry paper Transparent colors	Sewing and embroidery: hand puppets, slippers, etc.	Use mallets, gouges, chisels to create totem pole, movable toys, primitive bowls from tree trunks	The human hand, foot, bones, etc., in clay Black fired pottery: Raku	Masks Madrigals Ballads Opera and oratorio Recorder continuo Renaissance music	Contrasting moods The minor scales Melodies of the old masters The inner characteristics of poems Poems of wish, wonder, and surprise Tone eurythmy Ballads with quick dramatic movement, humor and tragedy	Exercises concerned with contrasting heaviness and lightness Tumbling and tree gymnastics Team games and sports Circus	The children are charged with emotional vitality. They question everything and seek to overthrow authority!				
8	1700 to the present The Industrial Revolution to the Modern day: Shakespeare, Napoleon, Ford, Edison, Jefferson, Lincoln, etc. American history	Shakespeare Poetry: epic and dramatic Stories about different peoples of the world, their folklore and poetry	Review all grammar Writing: all block books have original writing Newspaper reporting Businesslike and practical writing Write a skit or short play Spelling: up to twenty-five words per week	Continuation of above with emphasis on vocabulary-building and directed dialogues Classical languages: Latin and Greek - Life in Greek and Roman times Grammar and syntax - Word study - Vocabulary	Geography of Asia, Australia, and Antarctica World geography: contrasts	Chemistry: metals, gases, solids Physiology: bones and muscles, the eye, body chemistry, etc. Physics: sound, heat, current, electricity, hydraulics, aerodynamics, and meteorology	Practical mathematics Percent Signed numbers Equations Measuring Number bases Set concepts	Exact geometric drawing: three-dimensional Theorems, volumes of solids, laws of logic Solid geometry Black-and-white drawing with charcoal	Discover space in color	Sewing: garments, such as simple tunics and shirts	Continue above Utilize mechanics to make simple moveable toys, a stool, carved boxes, etc.	The human head in clay	Elizabethan songs African-American spirituals Symphonic form American music	Poems with tension and relief, contraction and expansion Tone eurythmy Modification from major to minor Poems with strong contrasting soul moods	Greek wrestling Gymnastics with equipment Team games and sports Rhythmic exercises Circus	The commencement of adolescence. Intellectual powers are now awakening!				
	END OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS WITH THE CLASS TEACHER • BEGINNING OF THE HIGH SCHOOL • SPECIALIST TEACHERS GIVE THE MAIN LESSON																			
9	Modern history with emphasis on the political, social, and industrial revolutions from the late eighteenth century to the present: the great inventions	Comedy and tragedy as expressed in drama and the short story Shakespeare through the Romantics Longer essays on themes from eighth grade history can be given Introduction to shorthand Biography Mythology Grammar review Poetry: ballads	German, French, Russian, Spanish, Greek, Latin, etc.	Structure of the Earth's mountains MeteoroLOGY Mineralogy Plate tectonics - the new geology	Chemistry: organic Physiology: homeostasis, immunology - Where does the egg reside in the human being? Physics: principles of power, energy, electricity, magnetism, Doppler effect Earth sciences: weather, climate, erosion, and mineralogy	Algebra I: combinations, permutations, variations, algebraic equations, binomial theorem, quadratic equations Systems of exchange Euclidean geometry Beginning on a computer keyboard	Euclidian geometry, charcoal drawing and descriptive geometry with drawing board and set squares Black-and-white drawing and construction Calligraphy	Colors on objects, the interplay of light and mood in landscape	Sewing, spinning, embroidery Designing book covers Basketry Pottery Gardening Copperwork	Gouging a bowl from hardwood Develop practical building skills Measuring, sawing, planing Simple furniture construction	Sculpture using clay, wood, and stone, continuing through tenth grade Head from coil pot, working from the inside and leaving the back open	Mixed choir and orchestra Recorder: individual and group Musical literature of past and present	Eurythmy is presented from a new point of view Students enter into the inner being of sound Tone eurythmy Main chords Longer poems Beat, rhythm, and pitch of a musical composition is practiced	Gymnastics with apparatus: horse, parallel bars, ropes, high bar, and rings Circus: juggling, balancing, tumbling	Everything in the world is important. The ninth grader feels the world is his, or hers. They jump into activity and then think about it later. The main question is "What?" Our task is to place their feet firmly on the ground in the modern world.					
10	Ancient history: the earliest Indian, Persian, and Egyptian history up to the decline of the freedom of the Greco-Roman states under Alexander the Great	Dramatic literature: the novel - Edda, Gilgamesh, Beowulf, Nibelungenlied, and Gudrun sagas - Alliterative endings and sequels Creative writing - Task in writing: comparisons - Short story writing - Essays dealing with literature Research paper on a pre-Christian theme History of language Speech exercises Poetry: epic poetry Study of meter and poetic diction	Poetical literature and style	Earth should be described structurally and physically as a whole	Chemistry: properties of metals, chemical reactions Physiology: embryology, organs and their functions Physics: mechanics Earth sciences: oceanography, ecology, crystallography, limestone cycle	Algebra II: logarithms, exponential equations, practical problems, spherical trigonometry Projective geometry, including moiré, astrometry, and optical illusions Computer math - Programming Logic boards - Boolean algebra Logic tables - Build small computers using bread-boards	Complementary colors Wet and dry paper Still life Law of complementary and discordant colors	Metallurgy Weaving, dyeing, textiles Basketry Enamel work Pottery Stained glass work Gardening	Joinery: boxes, drawers, more independent work in wood sculpting and gonging	Human physiognomy: transformation of face from infant to teenage to adult to old age to ga-goye.	Human physiognomy: transformation of face from infant to teenage to adult to old age to ga-goye.	Poems and meters from main lesson Tone eurythmy Thinking, feeling, and willing as expressed through movements in space Dionysian forms	Circus Bother: Gymnastics, tumbling Experience the vertical Learn how to fall Consciousness of height: handstands, cartwheels, rolls, flips	The children should learn that thinking embraces the entire world. The main question for this age is "How?" There is a quick movement between the life of feeling and the life of thought!						
11	Roman, medieval, and Renaissance history	Contrast is the theme of the year - Outline/categorize; compare/contrast Dante and Chaucer Medieval romance Story writing Essay writing from reading Poetry: dramatic poetry	Dramatic readings Scenes from plays Classical drama Prose readings	Mercator projections and land surveying World geography	Chemistry: atomic theory Physiology: comparative, between plants and animals - What is the common denominator of life? Physics: electricity and magnetism Botany: structure of cells to monocotyledons and dicotyledons	Algebra III: logarithms, exponential equations, practical problems, spherical trigonometry Projective geometry, including moiré, astrometry, and optical illusions Computer math - Programming Logic boards - Boolean algebra Logic tables - Build small computers using bread-boards	The human form Landscape Projective geometry	Copy the masters in various media	Batik, sewing, weaving, spinning, dyeing Bookbinding: boxes or simple books Blacksmithing Basketry Pottery Copperwork Gardening Photography	Practical carpentry and joinery, continued	Animal forms	History of music Understanding the aesthetics of music: keys, intervals, etc.	Toho eurythmy: work with several parts and simple musical compositions Make students aware of the difference between the Apollonian and Dionysian elements through eurythmical motion	Circus Sports: track, volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, etc.	The teacher is not with questions: Where are we going? What really matters? What is the point of everything? The main question is "Who?" The maturity of thought begins to become visible. They can experience their own thinking!					
12	Modern and world history survey Look at history from our present perspective Look at communism, fascism, the threefold social order, etc.	The Transcendentalists: Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Whitman Modern European literature: Goethe's Faust, Ibsen, Nietzsche or Hesse Russian literature Long research essay Poetry: lyric poetry	Survey of speech and cultural development of language Modern literature	Survey of speech and cultural development of language Modern literature	Chemistry: the chemical process in humans Biochemistry, industrial chemistry, medical chemistry Physics: optics, photoelectricity, mirrors, light, color polarization, etc. Zoology: threat all the realms of nature together	Algebra and Geometry are taught together: analytical geometry, statistics, probability, Gamma theory, gradient vectors, computer mathematics, and differential and integral calculus Programming: logic Building complex computers	Descriptive geometry as applied to practical problems in architecture	Individual creation	Batik, weaving, spinning, dyeing Bookbinding: gilding and marbling books Leatherwork: wallets, shoes, etc. Blacksmithing: jewelry making Pottery Basketry Gardening	House construction, advanced furniture making Sculpture	The full human form		Harmonic finale Longer poetic works and musical compositions	Circus: help teach skills to younger children Drivers' education for students sixteen years and older	The child should be prepared to initiate new possibilities in life and develop a new starting point. The main question for this age is "Who?" Students are concerned with questions of destiny, judgment, and discretion—which are exercised more independently.					