



Austin Waldorf School Camp Handbook 2024

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The information in this handbook was the best available at press time. The school reserves the right to correct, adjust or add any additional information as may be appropriate throughout the year. Any changes in information or additions will be noted as such, from the original date of publication on the website with the date of change. The Austin Waldorf School Camp Handbook on the website will be the official document record.

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Our Mission (Our Purpose)

Nurture, inspire, engage: enlightening the journey toward a more humane, just, and sustainable future.

Introduction

Waldorf Education intentionally sees itself as a force of personal, social, and cultural renewal that reaches beyond our immediate time and into future generations of humanity. Within each child lives a future that we invite to unfold, beginning with the planting of a seed, protected and nourished in nutrient-rich soil, and gently nurtured to root and grow, eventually branching out, and standing strong in the world, like a live oak tree. Every child is asking to be seen; every child wants to find his or her way into the world. Every Austin Waldorf child is like a live oak. The year 2020 marked the beginning of the second century of Waldorf Education and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Austin Waldorf School. The first Waldorf school, founded in 1919 Stuttgart, Germany, was conceived in large measure as a response to a world imposing great trauma on its children and childhood. Arguably, 2020 marked a new age of trauma on the child and childhood, and therefore a renewed mission for The Austin Waldorf School. While there is something very different about the world in this second century of Waldorf Education – the pace and scope of change, for instance – Waldorf Education remains incredibly vital and relevant. Students who join the Waldorf journey develop self-confidence, an ability to adapt to change, and the flexibility to learn something new. They learn how to make space for themselves and for others; they learn how to care for each other and for their world.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

It is the policy of the Austin Waldorf School (“Austin Waldorf” or the “School”) to administer all its educational programs including admission and tuition assistance, without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, gender (including gender identity and expression (sexual orientation, disability, medical condition, ancestry, genetic information, national or ethnic origin or any other category protected by federal, state, or local law.

WHERE TO GO WITH QUESTIONS

Questions concerning school policy, procedures, regulations, and concerns beyond the parent/camp staff relationship:

Jessica Fisher, Director of Auxiliary Services, x 106, jfisher@austinwaldorf.org

Questions concerning physical health:

Kathleen Gutzwiller, Nurse, x 101, healthroom@austinwaldorf.org

Questions concerning HR and financial matters:

Suzanne Charioui, Interim Chief Financial Officer, x 102, scharioui@austinwaldorf.org

For all other questions:

The main office at (512) 288-5942 to be directed to the appropriate person.

OUR HISTORY

About the Founders

The Austin Waldorf School exists because two women, Helen Steele and Eileen Bristol, devoted their personal resources to what they saw as their mission—to create a Waldorf school that would serve the children of Austin, Texas. The dedication and passion of these two women and many who have followed them has allowed this school to flourish. The Helen Steele Memorial Garden may be found between the kindergarten and grade school, while the flow form fountain near the lower grades playground is dedicated to Eileen's family. We hope you will take time to enjoy them both and remember their work.

About our School

The Austin Waldorf School opened its doors in 1980 as a small elementary Waldorf school in downtown Austin on the shores of Town Lake. Over the next several years it grew and moved to its current location. At the time of purchase, this campus was an approximately 11-acre property with two houses, a barn, and a goat pasture. Over the summer of 1986, parents, teachers, and hired workers built the current grade school classrooms and transformed an existing home into two kindergartens. At the start of that school year the eurythmy lessons were conducted on the dirt floor of the barn, and the children played on the old goat pasture. More construction followed, and in the first weeks of that year, bathrooms were added, two playgrounds were created, and further modifications were made to existing buildings. In 1997, the school expanded to include a high school program.

Programmatically, the Austin Waldorf School grew from kindergarten through the 8th grade in a somewhat unique progression. Starting with a 1st grade, kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade were added in the second year, followed by a second kindergarten and a 5th grade in the third year. From then on we added grade levels as each year passed and graduated a number of eighth grades. However, in 1992 we decided to cut back and offer only up to sixth grade in an effort to strengthen and focus on the middle school program. With an eye toward building enrollment for the future, we added a third kindergarten in 1996. A few years later the middle school program expanded back through the eighth grade and that particular class of students and parents continued on to be our first high school class, graduating in 2001.

This period marked a significant phase in the school's development as a capital campaign and support from the Rudolf Steiner Foundation supported a new performing arts center and gymnasium. The school also became accredited by both the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest. The main entrance of the school is named "Kirsten's Way" in honor of the beloved and strong-willed Kirsten Sotebier who single-handedly ran the business office and administrative functions of the school from its infancy until her death in 2001. In 2008, we entered another period of organizational reflection and development and in 2009 produced a strategic plan to map the way forward. In 2013 another period of change brought a new system of governance and a three-fold organizational structure: Pedagogy, Administration, and Community and Resource Development (CaRD).

GENERAL CAMP GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Austin Waldorf School! Our purpose is to support the healthy intellectual, artistic, social, and moral development of the students. A shared understanding of the school's policies and procedures is a foundation of a healthy school community, and the aim of this handbook is to make those policies and procedures clear for campers, parents, and staff.

Fundamental to our work as a school is the expectation that all members of our community—campers, parents, and staff alike—will treat one another with respect and consideration. Campers are expected to be courteous and considerate in both their speech and behavior toward all other campers, staff, parents, and campus guests. Adults in the community model this behavior for the students.

The Austin Waldorf School reserves the right to make changes and addendums to this Handbook.

AUSTIN WALDORF SCHOOL CAMP PROGRAMS POLICIES AND RULES

CLOTHING:

Campers should attend the camp in clothing that is appropriate for the weather and sneakers to be prepared for most camp activities. Swim gear and specific clothes may be needed on specific days. Preferred: Solid colors (not neon), stripes, calico, gingham, repeating prints, nature scenes and plaids. Moderation is encouraged in style and length of dresses. Shoes should either be lace up athletic shoes or sandals with back straps. During most activities lace up athletic shoes will be required.

Unacceptable: Flip-flops, T-shirts with prominent advertising (not including small manufacturer's labels), writing, pictures of musical groups or cartoon like characters, sports jerseys, neon colors, camouflage, bare midriffs, sport-cut tank tops, low-cut necklines, electro-magnetic wirings (lights or sounds) or mechanical devices on any clothing including shoes. Note: Unacceptably attired children may not be allowed to participate in all camp activities.

FOOD:

Lunch is to be brought in a small cooler. Please do not send lunch coolers decorated with media/commercial characters. Please send wholesome, nutritious lunches. Junk food, candy or gum, and caffeinated beverages are not to be brought to the camp.

Camp will provide a light snack each day. Snacks are vegan, gluten-free, and free from common allergens including nuts and dairy. If your camper would like a larger snack, please send it with them daily.

MEDIA:

AWS Camp Programs seek to provide your child with a real experience of nature, the arts and physical activity separate and apart from current media images. Therefore, we ask that you limit your child's media exposure during the camp in order to create a place for this experience for your child. Electronic communication and entertainment devices are not permitted at camp. Media is not to be discussed or promoted at camp and camp counselors will ask campers to refrain from discussing it while at the camp.

TOYS / GAMES / ACCESSORIES:

All personal toys need to remain at home. Little toys are lost easily and handheld video games and electric toys are strictly prohibited. We ask that you leave jewelry, watches, purses, etc., at home.

DISCIPLINE:**Basic Behavior Norms**

- Respect for camp counselors and staff
- No vulgar language
- No gum
- All materials and furnishings need to be handled with care
- Snacks and lunches must be cleaned up prior to the next activity

Serious Misbehaviors Warranting Dismissal from Camp

- Obscene or abusive language
- Gossiping, teasing, or harassing other campers
- Stealing
- Showing disrespect, lying to, or deceiving a camp counselor or staff member
- Leaving the grounds without consent
- Fighting
- Defacing property
- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any intoxicating or controlled substance
- Possession of firearms, knives, or other weapons
- Possession of sexually explicit subject matter
- Persistent misbehavior and disrespect for camp rules

If any of these policies or rules are disregarded or broken the Austin Waldorf School Camp Programs reserves the right to dismiss the camper (after appropriate discussion with parents and camper). Fees and future deposits will be forfeited.

ARRIVAL AND PICK UP

This section contains information that is relevant to the entire camp in regards to arrival and pick up. Specific details are outlined in the welcome email you will receive the week prior to your registration.

Drop Off

- Regular drop off is between 8:30 and 9:00
- Camp Roadrunner regular drop off is on the Lower Grades playground
- Summer Garden regular drop off is at the Kindergarten playground

Pick Up

- Regular pick up is between 3:30 and 4:00 (times may vary for seasonal camps)
- Camp Roadrunner pickup is on the Lower Grades playground
- Summer Garden pickup is on the Kindergarten playground

Half Day (For Kindergarten)

- Pickup will be at the Kindergarten classroom at Noon
- If you know you will be arriving late (after 12 p.m.), please arrange for another parent to pick up your child. We strongly recommend a nap or rest time after lunch. Please note that the lower grades playground is not available for picnic lunches, however, there are picnic tables located between the main office and the school store.

Please adhere to the 5 m.p.h. speed limit.

Cell phone use (including hands-free) while driving on campus is strictly prohibited.

Routes of Travel:

Summer Garden: Turn right into the kindergarten entrance and continue straight. Park on the loop and walk behind the Kindergarten buildings to the Kindergarten playground.

Camp Roadrunner: Enter at the main entrance (at *Kirsten's Way*) and turn left into the area near the main office. There will be brown signs pointing you to the Main Office. Park next to the PAC or High School, then walk between the office and woodworking studio to the Lower Grades playground.

Communicating Changes to Pick-up

If there are any changes regarding who will be picking up your child at any time (e.g., going home with a friend, leaving early, etc.) please send an email no later than 2:00 p.m. to

auxiliaryprograms@austinwaldorf.org, or send a message to the camp phone at 512-767-5707.

CAMPUS

General Information

The Austin Waldorf School campus has two entries and three exits. The kindergarten entrance is located at the southern end of the campus. The main entrance is centralized, and the playing-field parking lot exit is closest to Hwy. 290W. Note this is exit only.

Cars

No vehicles are to be left on the campus overnight without permission from the main office.

Parking

Parking is available along the playing field and across from the main office. Spaces marked "Faculty/Staff" are reserved Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. The kindergarten parking area is designated for kindergarten parents and staff only. Do not leave children unattended in parked cars. Cars parked in fire lanes, on our neighbors' properties, and other un-designated areas MAY BE TOWED at the vehicle owner's expense.

The service road and parking areas behind the handwork room are reserved for faculty vehicles and are not to be used during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up. If no parking is available on campus, you are welcome to park completely off the blacktop on our side (west side) of South View Road. Please do not park on the east side of South View Road.

Bicycles and other wheeled devices (unicycles, scooters, etc.)

Camper riding a bicycle (or other wheeled transportation) to camp may ride on campus only to designated locations with bicycle racks. The bicycle will remain parked in the rack until the camper leaves campus.

- PAC location--between the gym and PAC. Students may ride through the main entrance and to the bicycle rack. Riding is prohibited in the central traffic circle between the PAC and main office.
- Kindergarten location--between the Stargarden and the parking lot. Students may ride through the kindergarten entrance to the bicycle rack.
- Middle school location-- between Grades 7 and 8.
- High school location--courtyard

Riding a bicycle elsewhere on campus is prohibited during camp hours. Bicycles must be walked on footpaths and sidewalks. Store bicycles at your own risk; a lock is recommended.

Walking/Cycling Home

Students walking or riding bicycles to and from camp must have written permission from a parent on file in the main office and may not wait at the pick-up area.

Crisis Management/Emergency Drills

Austin Waldorf School has a Critical Incident Plan in place in the event of any emergency. There will be frequent emergency drills. Evacuation routes are posted in each room. Students shall move to and from designated areas quickly and in silence. Children will not be released to a parent during an active drill.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Austin Waldorf School utilizes multiple forms of communication. Every effort is made to provide clear, accurate, and timely notification of upcoming events, news, and emergencies. It is the responsibility of each parent, faculty member, staff member, and stakeholder to read and respond appropriately to communication requests, concerns, or inquiries in a timely manner.

Staying Informed - A Shared Responsibility

The school communicates with parents in the following ways:

- Email
- Online database (CampBrain)
- Phone
- Website and Social Media

We try to make it easy for parents to stay informed and up-to-date on the events and opportunities happening at the school. It is each parent's responsibility to check CampBrain, and read any notifications that are sent.

REGISTRATION

Resolution/Dismissal Process

The Austin Waldorf School Waivers & Agreements and Camper Authorization Forms on CampBrain represents a cooperative agreement with joint responsibilities of parents and the school. When issues arise, which may include disciplinary, or learning challenges, every effort will be made to resolve them. While there are certain serious situations in which a camper may be immediately dismissed from camp, there are other situations in which the school may determine that it cannot appropriately serve a camper and decide to dismiss a camper after a formal review process.

Dismissal of a camper by the school may only be made with the approval of the Director of Auxiliary Services after a good faith investigation of the recommendation to dismiss and consistent application of school policies and processes. The review process will be led by the Director of Auxiliary Services. A preliminary decision will be made and communicated to parents by the Director of Auxiliary Services:

1. that the issues have been resolved,
2. that continued or additional support is required, or
3. that dismissal is being considered.

EXTENDED CARE

Registration is required for participation in the Extended Day program through CampBrain. The Extended Day program provides after camp care to our currently enrolled campers.

Extended Day

All campers remaining on campus after 4:00 p.m. must be in a supervised location. Extended Day begins at 4:00 and ends promptly at 6:00 p.m. Extended Day is available only for campers enrolled in camp programs. Extended Day may not be offered for all of our camp programs. Please reach out to our camp office if you are interested in this service or check online in our camp registration CampBrain.

The drop in rate will be charged for any camper in Extended Day at 4:00.

Extended Day will be held on the lower grades playground in good weather and the grades 1 or 2 classroom in inclement weather. Signs will be posted at the lower grades playground announcing if Extended Day is being held in a place other than the lower grades playground.

- All campers must be signed out with an AWS staff member to be released from Extended Day.
- If you have a message for a child in Extended Day, please call the Extended Day/Camp cell phone at (512) 767-5707.

Cost

Camp Extended Day is \$125 per week or \$25 per day for drop ins. Campers can be signed up for Extended Day through CampBrain.

HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Harassment/Bullying (repeated, unwanted, and disrespectful attention) takes many forms, all of which are serious personal and social offenses. All campers are expected to refrain from any comments, taunting, attention, expressed attitudes, or physical touching that are unwanted by or upsetting to another person. It is of the utmost importance that students develop and practice a respectful sensitivity for the physical and emotional boundaries and well-being of the other people in the school community.

Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated, including unwanted touching, leering, sexually explicit remarks, or jokes about body parts or personal behavior (spoken, written, or gestured).

A camper in a situation involving harassment/bullying should immediately seek guidance from a trusted adult, a class advisor, parent, teacher, or counselor. Similarly, a camper who witnesses a situation involving harassment/bullying has an obligation to report it to a parent, teacher, or school employee so that the harassment/bullying can be immediately stopped. The adult should report the incident to the Director of Auxiliary Services. Any report or rumor of harassment/bullying will be thoroughly investigated by the faculty and reported to the parents of the students involved.

A student who is harassing/bullying another student will be expected to stop such behavior immediately upon its identification and may be suspended. Refusal or inability to stop this bullying behavior may result in the dismissal from camp.

HEALTH

Accident Reports

As the safety of our students is of the utmost importance, all accidents on campus that involve serious injuries are recorded on an accident report form signed by the supervising teacher or staff member. Parents sign the original in the main office and receive a copy of the form.

Illness

If your child is ill, they should stay at home. Please notify the camp when your camper will be absent and include the nature of the illness.

Do not send your child to camp if they have exhibited any of the following signs or symptoms within the last 24 hours:

- Fever- an elevated temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Yellow or green nasal discharge
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of taste or smell
- Unusual fatigue
- Persistent headache
- Persistent earache

- Deep or persistent cough
- Rash or other contagious skin condition
- Lice

Children must be free of the following conditions without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to camp:

- fever (100.0 degrees and above)
- Vomiting
- Pinworms

A camper with any serious infectious condition including, but not limited to, pneumonia, mononucleosis, pertussis, etc., must have a doctor's note before returning to camp.

If a camper is sent home with fever, vomiting, or pinworms they must stay home the following day for observation.

Campers too sick for outside play or participation in camp are not ready to return to camp. The school has a first aid room in the main office for the treatment of minor illness and injury and the comfort of campers waiting to go home for medical reasons. If a camper becomes ill during the day with a condition that appears to be outlined in the illness policy above, or cannot return to class within 15 minutes of treatment for any condition (regardless of whether they have a fever or are vomiting), a parent or guardian will be contacted and the camper must be picked up promptly. The school does not have the facilities to care for campers who are too ill to return to camp. Therefore, having current contact information on file is essential.

Lice

The Austin Waldorf School recommends WEEKLY head lice checks at home. If your child has lice, you must be aware of the potential for infestation of your family, your child's classmates, and siblings in other classes. Notify the main office and your teacher at the first sign of infestation. If lice are found in a student's hair while at camp, the student will be sent home. Your child may return to camp once they are lice free.

Medication

Your child may have an illness or injury that does not prevent them from attending school, but which requires medication for relief or cure. When possible, such medication should be scheduled to be taken at home. However, according to Texas law and Austin Waldorf School policy, a medication may be dispensed to a student by school personnel. The following requirements must be met by the parent or legal guardian requesting this service.

- All prescription drugs and sample drugs dispensed through a physician's office must be in their original pharmacy container or packaging and labeled by the pharmacist or physician. The label must include: student's name, physician's name, name and strength of the drug, amount of drug to be given, frequency of administration, date the prescription was filled, reason drug is to be given.
- All nonprescription drugs must be in their original container.

- All prescription and non-prescription drugs to be administered at school must be accompanied by a properly filled out Authorization to Administer Medication form, signed and dated by a parent or legal guardian. It must include the following information: full name of student, name of drug, amount of drug to be given, scheduled hour when the drug is to be given, reason drug is to be given. This form can be picked up in the main office.
- Medications prescribed or requested to be given three (3) times a day or less are not to be given at school unless a specific time during school is prescribed by a physician or it is determined that a special need exists for an individual camper.
- There will be no more than one medication per properly labeled container.
- All medications will be stored and dispensed in the appropriate school office. Exceptions must be approved by appropriate school authorities in advance.
- Campers may not be in possession of prescription or non-prescription medications during school hours or at school-related activities, on or off campus. Exceptions must be approved by appropriate school authorities in advance.
- Asthma medications may be kept with the student with approval from the main office. A duplicate inhaler should be kept in the main office or high school office in case of emergencies.

Homeopathic Remedies are available at the main office and high school office. Parents must sign on the campers Authorization form, giving the school authorization to administer homeopathic remedies to their child.

If your child has a serious medical condition such as asthma, life-threatening allergies, diabetes, or seizures, a Student Health Plan will be developed and kept on file in the main office. The plan will be developed in cooperation with the child's parents and health care provider(s).

LOST AND FOUND

Please label all belongings with your child's name. A small-item lost and found (for keys, jewelry, small toys, cell phones, etc.) is kept in the main office. Other items are collected on the lower grades playground, gym (delivered weekly to the lower grades playground lost and found) and high school and are donated to a charity at the end of each month if unclaimed. Please understand that the Austin Waldorf School is not responsible for damages to or theft of personal property left on school grounds.

MEDIA POLICY

We believe that early and/or inappropriate experiences of electronic media are detrimental to healthy child development. We support students' direct and frequent contact with nature and healthy connections to people of all ages.

In kindergarten through grade five, children are protected from electronic media in their daily lives. The family completely restricts media exposure or is actively working to eliminate it.

In Grades 6, 7, and 8 students are beginning a transition to responsible and appropriate use of electronic media and technology. Electronic media is not used during the camp week and there is limited exposure

on weekends and vacations. Students may not have devices on campus at any time. Exceptions may be made by the Director of Auxiliary Services for special circumstances. Examples of special circumstances are medical reasons and student support accommodations.

Middle school students do not have personal email, social media, or online gaming accounts.

“Electronic media” includes television, computers, cell phones, movies, video games, tablets, or any other devices with a screen or electronic audio, including smart watches. Electronic devices used without permission during the camp day will be confiscated and held in the school office for a parent to retrieve.

For non-emergency use, the main office telephone may be used with permission of the student’s counselor, pick-up personnel, or Extended Day Supervisor and the main office staff.

Adult Use Guidelines

In order to support a learning environment that values healthy human interaction, we ask that use of devices on campus be kept to a minimum and restricted to designated areas. Designated areas include the picnic tables between the office and the school store as well as your parked car or other private location. Please do not walk or drive on campus while using a device.

Protecting Reputation

The reputation of our school is important to all of us. It affects how we are viewed in the Austin area as campers, teachers, staff and as a school. Whether we realize it or not, all members of the school community are always representatives of the school, even when we are not on campus. Things we say or do, in public or online, that reflect back on the school are the responsibility of all of us. Campers should be aware that anything they say in public or post on the Internet is their responsibility, even when it is said or posted off campus and outside of school time or in a semi-private forum. Campers may be subject to disciplinary action for statements or postings that reflect poorly on fellow campers, the faculty and staff, or the school. The school reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary measures as deemed necessary for any violations of this policy, whether it occurs on or off school grounds.

PARENT GUIDELINES FOR RESOLVING GRIEVANCES

Parent complaints will be addressed in a timely and consistent fashion. Disagreements should be solved whenever possible among the people most closely involved while preserving positive relationships. Therefore, when parents have complaints or disagreements with any parties at AWS, they should observe the following guidelines:

- If the complaint involves a situation in the classroom, parents should seek to resolve the issue with the classroom teacher or counselor as appropriate.
- If a resolution with the classroom teacher or counselor is not possible, parents should request a meeting with the Director of Auxiliary Services.
- If a resolution with the Director of Auxiliary Services is not possible, parents should request a meeting with the Chief Financial Officer.
- If a matter taken to the CFO is not resolved satisfactorily, or if the complaint is with a school-wide policy, procedure or program/administrative area, the parent should seek to resolve the issue with the Head of School.

- If resolution is not possible with any of the parties above, parents may submit complaints in writing to address the Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled meeting. When addressing a complaint to the Board of Trustees: Complaints should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Board, who will share the written complaint with the full Board of Trustees. This allows all parties involved to work from a consistent body of information. This is true even if the parent chooses to verbally address the Board at a meeting.
- If the complaint concerns actions taken by the Head of School that may constitute violation of any law or school policy (this may include a failure to address behavior of an employee that violates either the law or school policy), then the parent should not attempt to resolve the issue with the Head of School. The complaint should be made in writing directly to the Secretary of the Board. The Secretary will facilitate setting up a discussion in executive session before the full Board where both sides may be heard. Care should be taken that Board members are not contacted by either side in the dispute prior to the executive session meeting.

The Board of Trustees, in general, will not address a complaint:

- Based on hearsay or made on behalf of another parent or family.
- If resolution with the appropriate individuals above has not yet been attempted in good faith.
- That is made anonymously.
- About the performance of any individual school employee other than the Head of School.
- Brought in the open mic section at a public meeting.

This Grievance Policy is not designed to supersede or supplant federal law and parent rights under The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as amended, 1996.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

While the school supports modest physical affection between campers, such as the holding of hands between friends or embracing after a good shot in a ball game, romantic physical displays of affection are not permitted on campus. Teachers will ask campers to refrain from public displays of affection that, in the teacher's judgment, are distracting or disturbing to other campers. The school reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary measures as deemed necessary for any violations of this policy.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

By law, all employees are required to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect to:

Texas Department of Child Protective Services

Local Licensing Office 512-834-3195

PRS Child Abuse Hotline:

1-800-252-5400

www.tdprs.state.tx.us

SOCIAL HEALTH—COMMUNITY STAR CODE

Social health involves the ability to form satisfying interpersonal relationships with others. It also relates to the ability to respond and adapt to different social situations, to transform and to act appropriately in a variety of settings.

Relationships among faculty, parents, and campers should include strong communication skills, empathy for others, and a sense of accountability. These relationships are based on an underlying trust and understanding that we share the intention to serve each other and the school to be our best.

Each classroom and meeting space on campus displays and applies the Austin Waldorf School's Community Star Code:

Respect - for People and Property

Kindness – to Self and Others

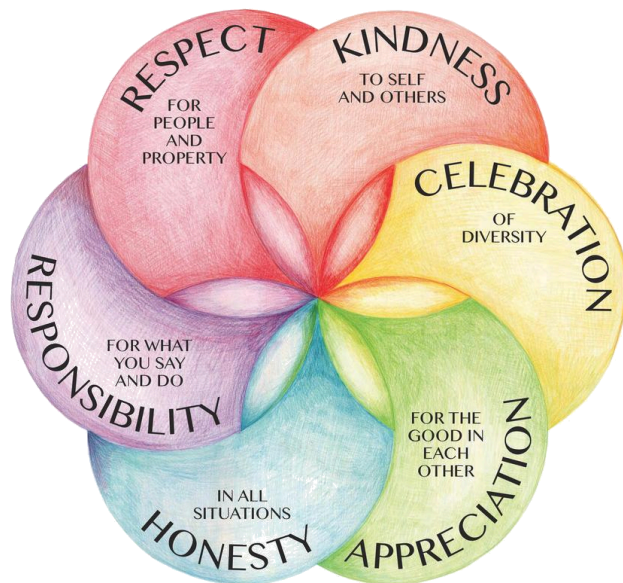
Celebration – of Diversity

Appreciation – for the Good in Each Other

Honesty – in All Situations

Responsibility – for What I Say and Do

COMMUNITY STAR CODE



SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

The Austin Waldorf School campus is tobacco (including vaping), drug, and alcohol free for everyone at all times. Exceptions to this, such as adult gala events, must be authorized by the Head of School. The use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping inhibits and destroys healthy adolescent development, as well as our ability to work with the true being of the young person. For adolescents especially, these substances are physically debilitating, socially destructive, and cognitively damaging, undermining the subtle development of accurate perception, sound judgment, and independent, objective thought. We expect each camper to make an inner commitment to abstain from drug and alcohol use, and that parents will support this effort.

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is taken very seriously. All rumors of substance abuse, regardless of where the alleged abuse took place, will be investigated, including the questioning of the campers involved, and the reporting of the allegation and findings to the parents.

TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NONCONFORMING STUDENTS

The Austin Waldorf School has a comprehensive policy and set of guidelines to address the needs and concerns of transgender and gender nonconforming students. We welcome students and families of any religion, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and national or ethnic origin.

The needs of each transgender or gender nonconforming student are assessed on a case-by-case basis. These may include the school's ability to provide particular support or accommodation, and balancing a variety of different and competing considerations. In general, our goal is to ensure the safety, comfort, and healthy development of students who are transgender or gender nonconforming, and to maximize their social integration. The complete policy addresses confidentiality and disclosure, harassment and bullying, participation in sports, field trips, and restroom accessibility. Please check with the main office for more information.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

The Austin Waldorf School is a closed campus. This means that, while we welcome genuine inquiries about our school, we are closed to public access to our campers and our campus. We require all visitors to sign in and sign out at either the main office or the high school office. We escort visitors at all times.

If a teacher or staff member is expecting a visitor, they must arrange to meet the visitor at the main office or high school office and escort them to any other location. Visitors will be given a name tag identifying them as a visitor. We encourage our employees and parents to be proactive in politely approaching people they do not recognize to inquire if the person is a visitor.

Sometimes, former students wish to visit the campus. This may be allowed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the class teachers, the High School Director, Pedagogical Administrator, or Head of School.

To maintain an academic environment, we do not allow campers' friends or family to "drop-in" at any time during the school day. Guests of a currently enrolled camper who wish to attend an after school game or evening performance are expected to respect the school's culture and rules. Any violation of this expectation will result in their being asked to leave campus immediately.

Expelled students, regardless of when the expulsion took place, are not permitted on campus unless they have requested and received written permission from the High School Director, Pedagogical Administrator, or Head of School.

Visitors in violation of the above guidelines will be asked to leave the campus immediately. Visitors who fail to comply or ignore and abuse these guidelines will be regarded as trespassing, and law enforcement authorities will be contacted.

Campus tours need to be scheduled in advance with the Enrollment Office.

WEAPONS

The Austin Waldorf School is a weapons-free campus. The possession of firearms or any other weapon is prohibited on campus or at any school event. Any person(s) possessing a weapon including, but not limited to guns, knives (with the exception of approved pocket knives on camping trips), martial arts paraphernalia, etc. will wait in the main office until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

It is to be understood that individuals who have a legal right to carry a concealed weapon, (with the exception of law-enforcement officers,) will, without objection or dispute, abide by our no weapons policy while they are on our campus.

Any student found in possession of a weapon risks the most severe disciplinary response, and the school will call law enforcement authorities for assistance as deemed appropriate. Any innuendo regarding the possession or use of a weapon will be thoroughly investigated and reported to the student's parents.

If weapons are historical or cultural artifacts to be used as part of a curricular presentation, they may be brought on campus only with permission of both the teacher in whose course they will be used and the Head of School.

SUMMERGARDEN GUIDELINES

Picking Up Early

To ensure the safety and security of our students, please notify the main office of an early pick up, or an alternate pick up by someone other than the parent (this individual must be listed on the authorized pickup list in CampBrain).

Nap Supplies

Full-day children bring a small pillow with a pillowcase and two large solid color towels or baby blankets (3'x5'). Please label all items. We cannot accommodate large pillows or bulky blankets, as our storage space is limited.

Kindergarten Playground Rules

Our primary concerns are for the safety of our students and their courtesy and kindness to one another. All children and adults are expected to respect and abide by any directives given by the playground supervisors. For questions about the rules, please contact a counselor, one of the recess supervisors, or the Director of Auxiliary Services.

- Children remain on the playground until picked up by an authorized adult.
- Play materials are used only for the purpose they are designed for and remain on the ground level.
- Sand stays in the sandboxes.
- Dig only in the sandbox and designated areas.
- Shoes or rain boots must stay on.

Refrain From

- Unkind words or inappropriate language

- Running with sticks, buckets, shovels, etc
- Pointing sticks or weapons play
- Fighting, pretend fighting, rough play, martial arts moves
- Eating on the playground
- Running on concrete, up in the loft, or up and down steps
- Picking flowers, leaves, bark, buds, twigs, etc., off of living plants on campus
- Standing or sitting on picnic table tops
- Twisting swing chains, standing on swings, or swinging side to side
- Running around or through swings
- Climbing on castle walls other than rock wall
- Climbing on the fence
- Throwing rocks, sticks, sand, dirt, buckets, scoops, articles of clothing, and shovels
- Going behind the storage shed or behind the retaining wall in the swing area During

Drop Off

- The area in front of the central picnic tables is a walking or skipping zone only.
- Class items from the cubby porch, such as jump ropes and walking blocks, are not used.
- Items from the shed are not used.
- No water play.

School Property Rules

- Do not remove bark from trees or pick leaves or flowers from any plants on campus.
- In general, respect for all school property will be expected and upheld

CAMP ROADRUNNER GUIDELINES

DISCIPLINE

Basic Behavior Norms

- Respect for camp counselors
- No vulgar language
- No gum
- All materials and furnishings need to be handled with care
- Snacks and lunches must be cleaned up prior to the next activity

Serious Misbehaviors Warranting Dismissal from Camp

- Obscene or abusive language
- Gossiping, teasing, or harassing other campers
- Stealing
- Showing disrespect, lying to, or deceiving a camp counselor
- Leaving the grounds without consent
- Fighting
- Defacing property
- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any intoxicating or controlled substance

- Possession of firearms, knives, or other weapons
- Possession of sexually explicit subject matter
- Persistent misbehavior and disrespect for camp rules

If any of these policies or rules are disregarded or broken the Austin Waldorf School Summer Programs reserves the right to dismiss the camper (after appropriate discussion with parents and camper). Fees and future deposits will be forfeited.

Lower Grades Playground Rules

Our primary concerns are for the safety of our students and their courtesy and kindness to one another. All children and adults are expected to respect and abide by any directives given by the playground supervisors. For questions about the rules, please contact a counselor, one of the recess supervisors, or the Director of Auxiliary Services.

General Playground Rules

- Students may enter the playground only when a supervisor is on duty.
- Students must be within the supervised boundaries at all times, unless they have permission from the supervisor to be elsewhere.
- Only respectful language is permitted at school.
- All equipment must be put away at the end of recess.
- Students must wear shoes on campus.
- Climbing trees with yellow rings around the branches are designated for climbing. Students must keep feet below the yellow ring.
- Students must be prepared for the weather when on the playground (raincoats, umbrellas, rain proof hoods, rain boots etc.)
- Students must sit at a table or in other designated areas when eating on the playground.
- No...
 - Running with sticks
 - Throwing of rocks or gravel
 - Sand, water, or rocks in the loft
 - Sitting on fence railings and the railings of the boardwalk
 - Climbing over the fence to retrieve balls
 - Rough play

Respect for School Property

- General respect for all school property will be expected and upheld.
- Leave the bark on the trees.
- All pea gravel and wood chips must stay in designated areas.
- No...
 - Skateboarding, rollerblading, or roller-skating are allowed on school grounds.
 - Playing or climbing on the building roofs.
 - Rough play on the boardwalk
 - Climbing, swinging, or hanging from the railing or overhead beams on the boardwalk

- Running on the boardwalk or walkways
- Bicycling on the boardwalk or walkways

Frequently Asked Questions

What is your tax ID/EIN?

74-2176835

My child doesn't attend AWS, can we still register for your camps?

Yes!

How will staff be trained and monitored?

Our counselors have experience with children and many are taking classes in child care, physical education, art, or related fields.

Staff are required to wear a name tag or staff shirt and project a professional image. Conditions of employment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- First Aid/CPR
- Background Checks/Screening Process
- Training in Safety and emergency procedures
- Proof of education, college course, and/or experience.

All staff are required to receive on the job training, and are required to attend staff meetings on a regular basis. Topics include, but are not limited to: Child care knowledge, group work skills, behavior management, emergency procedures, and program content.

How many weeks should I sign up for?

Some of our campers choose to register for one week, all 8 weeks, or any number of weeks in between that work for their family.

What is your camp refund policy?

Need to change or update your registration? Please email auxiliaryprograms@austinwaldorf.org

Canceling Your Camp Registration

- 15 Days Notice Prior to the Start of Your Camp - If for any reason you need to cancel your camp registration, you will receive a refund for any fees you have paid not including the weekly camp deposit of \$100 (camp deposit is non-refundable, non-transferable) if you cancel at least 15 days prior to the first day of the camp session for which you are registered. Please email auxiliaryprograms@austinwaldorf.org to make this request.
- Less than 15 Days Prior to the Start of Your Camp - If for any reason, you need to cancel your camp registration within the 15 days immediately prior to the start of your child's camp, refunds will not be given, per our current policy.
- No Show - If you are registered for a camp session and do not attend for any reason and/or do not notify us that you will not be attending at least 15 days prior to the start of the session, refunds will not be issued.

Refunds for Illness or Quarantine:

- In the event that your child is sick and unable to attend the full week of camp, a refund may be awarded with the appropriate doctors note emailed to auxiliaryprograms@austinwaldorf.org
- Unless otherwise specified, all camps are offered Monday-Friday. If you are not able to attend a portion of the camp week no prorated fees, credits or refunds will be provided.

Questions or enrollment changes should be directed to our summer camp team at auxiliaryprograms@austinwaldorf.org

What age does your camp serve?

Camp Summer Garden serves ages 3-5 and Camp Roadrunner is available for children ages 6-12.

What does a typical camp day look like?

Summer Garden: Our full day camp schedule is as follows. We begin the day on the playground with drop off followed by a nature walk on our beautiful 30+ acre campus. After our nature walk we have circle time with good morning and seasonal songs and stories. Next we will sit down for a snack before some inside free play and crafts. Lunch and nap follow in the afternoon and we end our day on the playground again for pick up. Half-Day will be the same schedule except picked up at 12:00 before lunch begins.

Camp Roadrunner: is divided into four groups by age. Each group will go to an art class, gym class, specialty class, and free period each day. Time for snack, lunch, and recess is planned as well as special activities during the free period on certain days.

What do you do about the summer heat?

During the heat of summer, we have water refill stations set up around campus. We encourage campers to take frequent water breaks and refill water bottles when needed. We also have well shaded playgrounds with misters and sprinklers to help us beat the heat and follow our campus guidelines for extreme weather.

What weeks does your camp run?

Our summer camp programs run for 8 weeks during the summer. For the current summer dates please visit the page for the camp you are interested in attending. These pages are listed above this FAQ section or by selecting Programs > Auxiliary Programs > Summer Camps on the website menu.

Seasonal camps are offered during school breaks, please check our community camps page for details on current offerings.

What is the difference between Camp Summer Garden and Camp Roadrunner?

Camp Summer Garden provides children ages three to five with a nurturing environment, allowing the imagination to unfold. Our camp is led by experienced teachers who are enthusiastic for all the fun that summer may bring. Our natural hill country setting is the ideal place for children to experience a Texas summer and the majority of our day is spent outside on a well shaded playground. Activities include swimming, crafts, circle games, cooking, and story time. Within the rhythm of our day, time for snack, lunch, and nap is also included.

Camp Roadrunner, designed for grade school aged six to ten, has been consistently recognized by several local organizations as an outstanding camp. Activities vary each week and may include circus arts, obstacle courses, cooking, hand crafts, and more. Camp Roadrunner is a wonderful

opportunity for children from all backgrounds and each week encourages self-expression and creativity in a friendly and fun environment.

What are the hours of camp?

Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and camp begins at 9:00 a.m. Our camp day ends at 3:30 p.m. and pick-up is held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is an additional charge for Aftercare offered from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

What should my child wear?

Camp dress code is listed in our handbook that can be found on our website [here](#).

Do you provide lunch?

No. We will provide a light morning snack around 10:30 a.m. We try to avoid main allergens including nuts, gluten, and dairy but we cannot guarantee to have a snack available for all dietary restrictions. Please contact our camp director or speak with your child's counselor if you have any concerns.

What should I pack with my child?

Children should bring a hearty lunch, well labeled water bottle, sun hat, sunscreen and insect repellent, and a towel and swimsuit on water days.

What is the ratio of campers to counselors?

In our Summer Garden groups the ratio is 8:1

In our Roadrunner groups the ratio is 10:1

Do you offer any discounts?

There is a \$30 discount per camper for currently enrolled AWS families when applying the discount during registration. Discount codes cannot be applied after registration.

Other discounts may be available depending on the site you are registering from.

Do you offer financial aid?

Currently enrolled AWS families may contact our camp office for information on financial aid.

What group will my child be in? Can you put them with their best friend who is also coming to camp?

Our summer camp groups are divided by age/grade and your child will be placed automatically into their group during registration. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate special requests to place campers together at this time unless they naturally fall into the same age group.

How much is camp?

Our summer camp costs may vary per camp. For the current summer costs please visit the page for the camp you are interested in attending. Costs for the current summer will be posted early in the year along with current dates for registration. These pages are listed above this FAQ section or by selecting Programs > Auxiliary Programs > Summer Camps on the website menu.

Do you go on field trips?

No. At this time we have many fun and exciting activities planned on our campus for each week of camp.

You didn't answer my question.

So sorry about that! Feel free to [contact us](#) and we'd be happy to answer any additional questions!