

Outline of Waldorf Curriculum, Grades 1-8

These course descriptions present possibilities for American Waldorf teachers to expand upon.

	Mathematics	Language Arts	Natural Sciences	Social Studies & Literature	Geography
1	geometric forms • count to 100 • rhythmic patterns • qualities of numbers • beginnings of 4 processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) • mental arithmetic • word problems • number sequences & relationships • Roman numerals • odds & evens	letter forms & sounds • letter blends • oral recitation • writing words and simple sentences • beginning reading with one's own writing as text • word families • poetry	the kingdom of nature through storytelling	fairy tales from around the world	the wonder of nature through observation
2	form drawings • number sequences & relationships • continue with 4 processes • borrowing and carrying • system of place value • multiplication tables through movement & recitation	More letter blends & word families • writing • reading • punctuation • grammar • poetry • speech	the kingdom of nature through story telling • animal stories through fables	fables from around the world • saint legends	environment through observation
3	form drawings • multiplication tables • larger numbers with 4 processes • beginning long division • time • money • weights • measurement with ruler • scale models for house building	curative writing • reading • writing • composition • spelling • grammar • poetry • speech	human activity in nature: farming, gardening, house building, grains, clothing around the world • cooking	Old Testament stories • comparative cultures in studies of houses, food, clothing • Native American legends	practical studies
4	weights and measurement • long division • fractions • number sequences & relationships • factoring • prime numbers • continued drill work	reading • writing • spelling • grammar • letters: business/friendly • poetry • speech • drama • creative writing	human beings & animal studies	Norse mythology • local natural resources • native peoples, early settlers	geography of own surroundings & state of Pennsylvania • mapmaking
5	fractions • decimals • geometric forms • averages • metric system • continued drill • work	composition • spelling • reading • grammar • poetry • speech • drama	botany	ancient mythologies & histories: India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece North American culture	North America map making
6	ratio • proportion • profit/loss • discount • interest percentage • graphs • estimation geometry • continued drill work	composition • spelling • reading • grammar • poetry • speech • drama	geology • physics: heat, light, acoustics, magnetism, static electricity • astronomy	Roman history • Medieval history	Lands & Oceans • physical geography of the world
7	algebra • geometry • graphs • positive & negative numbers • formulas • continued drill work	composition • spelling • reading • grammar • poetry • speech • drama • creative writing	Human physiology & nutrition • physics (continued) • mechanics • current electricity • chemistry: inorganic	Renaissance • Age of Exploration	Lands & oceans • physical geography of the world • economic interdependence • cultural geography (religions, traditional lifestyles, etc.)
8	algebra • geometry • practical application • continued drill work	composition • spelling • reading • grammar • poetry • speech • drama • short stories	physics (continued) plus hydraulics & aerodynamics • meteorology • human anatomy • chemistry: organic	18 th -20 th century Modern History: revolutions in politics & industry	Lands & oceans • physical geography of the world • economic interdependence • cultural geography (religions, traditional lifestyles, etc.)

	Foreign Languages Russian and Spanish	Visual Arts	Handwork & Woodwork	Music	Physical Ed
1	two languages taught by ear through imitation of songs, games, poems, and plays • learn colors, counting, numbers, body parts, etc • simple phrases & conversation • culture, legends, and poems	drawing-curves, lines, patterns, letter of the alphabet painting- wet painting using water colors • cultivate a sense for form and colors • paint moods modeling (beeswax)- scenes from fairy tales	knitting: making own needles • using two needles and natural materials with strong true colors to make a scarf or flute bag	pentatonic recorder • all songs in pentatonic scale • beat rhythms • seasonal and strong rhyming songs • singing and action games • discussion of musical instrument families	circle games and singing games
2	Expanded vocabulary with focus on pronunciation • increased conversational ability • listening to stories in language • memorization & recitation • poems, songs, legends and art	drawing- symmetry: mirror drawing, form drawing painting-introduce three secondary colors modeling (beeswax)- scenes for legends, fables, etc.	handwork- continued knitting including purling • learning to increase and decrease • making animal puppets	Pentatonic recorder songs to accompany fables • art songs • folk and seasonal songs • discussion of musical instrument families	circle games and singing games • jump rope, hop scotch, rhythmic games
3	continuation of skills listed above • alphabet and beginning reading and writing • beginning grammar : genders, possession	drawing- form drawing using pencils and crayons painting-luster colors • paint from main lesson work • interaction of color is important modeling (beeswax)-scenes from main lesson work	handwork- crochet work: making larger objects such as purses, pot holders, hats and animals woodwork- forest walks and stories about trees and forests • build a small structure and a brick wall	tonality through octave in song and recorder • hymns • folk and seasonal songs • begin music notation • recorder playing in parts • discussion of musical instrument families • begin instrumental music	circle games and singing games • ring games, line games, work games and songs, ball tossing games
4	More advanced grammar begins • written work • cursive writing • simple reading • first dictations • begin transition from choral speaking to more individual expression	drawing- freehand geometric drawing, dorm drawing, interlocking (Nordic) forms, dynamic drawing, introduce ink pens painting-painting becomes more expressive and defined modeling (clay)- animals, geometric shapes, etc.	handwork- cross stitch and other embroidery: making pincushions and handwork bags woodwork- forest walks and tree identification throughout the seasons of the year	chorus and orchestra: time values, harmony, major and minor third, rounds and canons • seasonal songs • read music from notation • musical time periods	running, jumping, and throwing games • square and folk dancing
5	simple text • syntax • short talk and descriptions • short translations • more complex conversation, asking and answering detailed questions	drawing- geometric drawing and dynamic drawing continued • draw first in rigid Egyptian and Babylonian style • books can be designed using Greek and Egyptian forms painting-work from darkness into light modeling (clay)-Greek vases, tablets, columns • high and low relief	handwork- knitting: using four needles to make socks, mittens, and hats woodwork-work with Sloyd knife to carve and egg and then a simple toy; goal is to consciously awake the hand • study of complex shapes	vocal warm-ups and basic singing technique • chorus and orchestra: three-part singing, major and minor scales, playing above the octave, rounds and canons in major and minor • seasonal songs • musical time periods	rhythmic exercises: tumbling and building of human pyramids • Greek sports: javelin, discus, shot put, high jump, long jump, etc. • kickball and softball
6	simple reading texts, humorous stories, etc. • free translation • simple compositions	drawing-exact geometric drawings, geometric string designs, mosaic pictures, black and white, shadows painting- landscapes, color, contrasts, triads, spectrum modeling-bas-relief in Roman style	handwork- sewing: stuffed animals, work aprons, etc. woodwork- begin using saws, rasps, and gouges to shape an animal, a spoon, etc. • study of concave shapes	vocal warm-ups and continuation of singing technique • chorus and orchestra: two and three part choruses, songs of minstrels, songs of the Middle Ages • seasonal songs • descant, alto, and tenor recorders	Greek sports: decathlon, pentathlon • team sports: kickball, softball, kings, etc.
7	reading and conversation • advanced grammatical concepts • grammar and structural drills • myths, poetry, quotations, and word study	drawing-exact geometrical drawing: two dimensional • black and white drawing painting-wet and dry paper • transparent colors modeling-the human hand, foot, bones, etc. in clay • black fired pottery • Raku	handwork- sewing and embroidery • felting • making slippers woodwork- use mallets, gouges, chisels to create totem pole, moveable toys, primitive bowls from tree trunks	chorus and orchestra: motets, madrigals, ballads, opera and oratorio • recorder continues • Renaissance music • seasonal songs	heaviness and lightness exercises • tumbling and free gymnastics • team games and sports • circus
8	continuation of above • vocabulary building and directed dialogues • grammar and syntax • word study • vocabulary	drawing-exact geometric drawing: three dimensional • theorems, volumes of solids, laws of logic • solid geometry • black and white drawing with charcoal painting- discover space in color modeling- the human head in clay	handwork- sewing: garments, such as simple tunics and shirts • use of sewing machine woodwork- utilize mechanics to make simple moveable toys, a stool, carved boxes, etc.	chorus and orchestra: Elizabethan songs, African-American spirituals and other American music • seasonal songs • symphonic form	Greek wrestling • gymnastics • team games and sports • rhythmic exercises • circus