



**Asheville Waldorf School
Parent Handbook Addendum
2020-2021**

Our Mission Statement

Asheville Waldorf School is dedicated to protecting the sanctity of childhood, igniting a lifelong love of learning, and instilling the strength to feel with compassion and act with moral purpose in the world.

In all that we do, we take into account our school values:

- Protect the sanctity of childhood
- Honor the distinct inner purpose of each child
- In Early Childhood, build a strong foundation for later academic success by providing an environment rich with social and sensory experiences, to promote healthy neurological and physical development
- Offer learning to children in grades 1-8 through a proven and rigorous classical, academic curriculum, taught through the arts, movement and storytelling
- Meet children's needs at each stage of their physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development
- Challenge children to discover the full range of their abilities
- Nurture the child's natural curiosity, joy and sense of wonder essential to learning
- Instill respect and reverence for humanity and the Earth
- Promote world peace and the renewal of human society
- Produce creative thinkers and problem solvers
- Foster deep, mutually supportive relationships between teachers and parents

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OVERVIEW

We have created this plan based on the following:

- Parent feedback provided through the June parent survey
- Faculty feedback on remote learning
- Health and safety requirements from BCHHS and the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education

The main questions that we worked to answer in creating this planning are “What will the return to school be like for our students?”, and “How can we continue to offer a Waldorf education while keeping our community healthy?” This plan is designed to help faculty, parents, staff and students begin to collectively imagine the answer. We have made the following plan with these key ideas at the forefront:

- We are committed to offering full days, and full weeks of school instruction on and off campus, whenever it is possible.
- We are working to ensure that our students will be the least affected by the changes we need to make. This means that adults will carry the extra work and care as much as possible, so that students will have the opportunity to learn, play, socialize, and enjoy their childhood.

As you read through these plans, please remember that they may be amended at any point during the school year as current events shift and change. We are working as a coordinated group of faculty, staff and Board to be ready for whatever is needed to operate the school safely and warmly this fall.

Requirements for school health and safety are still evolving and will likely continue to evolve throughout the school year. We are preparing to adapt to a changing situation and plan to:

- Follow the State of North Carolina requirements and the guidelines from the CDC for reopening schools, and meet their expectations in the way best suited to teaching our students in-person.
- Spend time outside to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 and to counter the effects of the statewide stay-at-home order this past spring.
- Provide a remote learning option for students with health concerns or for those that may need to isolate or quarantine, even when school is open for other students.

Questions and concerns should be directed to our Interim Administrative Chair, Anne Asplin.

828-575-2557, a.asplin@ashevillewaldorf.org

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

In preparation for the coming school year we have imagined multiple possible “modes of operation” for instruction. We may have to move between these modes throughout the year as the State’s level of COVID-19 rises and falls. These modes are:

Plan A - On Campus Learning

We will be in this mode when the state indicates it is safe to be in Plan A. During this mode of operation all classes will meet on-campus and stagger times spent on the playgrounds so that the number of children in one area together is minimized.

We are planning to do this to avoid split weeks, staggered days, etc. In this mode, we would limit the number of teachers in contact with each class, and no community members or parents would be able to gather with students.

Plan B - On Campus and Off-Site Learning

This is the mode in which we will aim to have the campus at 50% capacity. All Early Childhood classes will remain on campus, but the grades classes will rotate between gathering on campus or at their off-site classroom location.

Plan C - Off-Site Learning

In this mode all grades students will participate in off-site learning in outdoor classrooms, along with project-based learning to provide a more creative and healthier approach to distancing learning protocols.

Our Early Childhood program will remain on campus and will make their own plans for how to best adapt their curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of the children and their families.

Morning Shuttle to Off-site Classrooms

The school will offer a morning shuttle with the school van from the Magnolia campus to the off-site classrooms. Due to Covid-19 protocols, we will be able to seat a total of 8 students to allow for physical distancing. All passengers must wear a mask while in the van and windows will be left open during the ride to allow for the flow of fresh air. Priority will be given to families whose parents/guardians must be at work in the morning and would not be able to arrive on time due to the extended commute as we are not offering Morning Care this year. Any remaining seats will be assigned by lottery. The van will leave the Magnolia campus each morning promptly at 8:30am.

Educational Support in All Phases

The Educational Support Team (EST) will continue to provide Extra Lesson, Therapeutic Eurythmy, Remedial Reading and Remedial Math, and will also continue to coordinate support provided through

the Asheville City Schools district. EST teachers have identified students who will need additional support before going into the school year and will have Support Plans in place.

Vulnerable Families and Students

We are also concerned with protecting those vulnerable individuals in our community. Therefore, even though we will be offering in-person classes, for grades students who are unable to physically attend class due to health restrictions, we will provide a distance-learning curriculum.

Families who choose to utilize distance-learning options will be asked to commit financially to this platform for a semester (how many months?) at a time. This aids the teachers in creating and delivering an effective and meaningful curriculum.

These families should contact the school office to notify the school of their intention to utilize this service.

School Office: 828-575-2557, office@ashevillewaldorf.org

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protecting Our Students, Families, Faculty and Staff

Hygiene

The school will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, paper towels, tissues, and hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol for safe use by staff and older children). Staff and children will be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue, and to avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Teachers will teach and reinforce hand hygiene guidance for adults and children such as washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (about as long as it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice). Teachers will incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity. Hand sanitizing products with 60 percent alcohol may be used in lieu of handwashing when outdoors if hands are washed upon returning indoors. Hand sanitizer should be stored out of reach of children when not in use. Cannot be used for diapering or eating, preparing, or serving food.

In addition to usual handwashing, everyone should wash hands:

- Upon arrival in the classroom in the morning
- Before and after eating meals and snacks
- After blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing or when in contact with body fluids
- After toileting or changing diapers

Physical Distancing

Staff will mark the floor, marking 6 foot spacings in hallways, by bathrooms, and where appropriate in certain classrooms. Children attending Rest Nest will rest on cots spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart, and head-to-toe. Grades teachers will encourage social distancing in class and in vehicles. Grades students will work in small cohort groups as much as possible and large gatherings will be limited. In the event of Plan B, there will be no greater than 50% occupancy of the school building, and this will be addressed through outdoor classrooms, and off-site learning in creative and varying modalities.

Face Coverings/Masks

- Students will not be required to wear masks to school, but any family who wishes to send their child to school with a mask is welcome to do so.
- If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, ***only those who will easily tolerate and understand*** a face covering will be asked to wear a mask while waiting to go home.
- Face coverings will be worn by faculty and staff while entering the building, walking the hallways, and in the bathrooms. Teachers may remove their masks once in the classroom if they wish.
- Faculty will wear face masks when gathering indoors for faculty meetings.

Ventilation

Windows will be kept open and fans running to keep air fresh and moving as much as possible. During inclement weather, they will be opened at regular intervals. The HVAC system will remain off during the school day as much as possible.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and after children go home, using proven non toxic disinfectants. Staff will routinely check and refill/replace hand sanitizer at entries, soap, and paper towels in bathrooms. The school will allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.

Linens will be washed after each use using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dried completely. Hampers will be cleaned and disinfected according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces. Staff will clean and disinfect shared tools, supplies, and equipment. The school will minimize use of shared supplies and label individual supplies and items. Student's personal items will be kept separate and in individually labeled cubbies, boxes, or lockers.

Arrival and Dismissal Protocols

Plan A and B:

Early Childhood and 1st Grade will drop children off and pick them up in the playground following designated methods for each class.

Grades Morning Drop Off: Parents will drive through the carport and drop children off by the back door between 8:25 and 9am. A faculty or staff member will be there to greet families and another faculty or staff member will walk each child to their classroom.

Grades Afternoon Pick-up: By 3:30 pm, parents will drive through the carport and wait in their cars in line. As a car reaches the back doors, their child will be brought outside. Faculty and staff will work together to gather children from their classrooms as their parents arrive.

If a parent is running late for afternoon pick-up the student will wait by the front office. They will not be sent to aftercare. The parent should come to the front door to pick up their child.

Plan C:

Early Childhood will drop children off and pick them up in the playground following designated methods for each class.

Grades: please refer to morning drop off and afternoon pick up procedures from your class teacher. Children in Afterschool Care will be picked up by a school staff member with the school van and be driven to the Magnolia Campus when the school day is done.

Campus Closures

AWS will close our campus for in-person learning for Grades students if the governor calls for schools to move to Plan C. All Grades classes will move to off-site classrooms. Early Childhood (kindergarten and nursery) classes will remain on campus.

Visitors

For the safety of our students, faculty, and staff, we will not be able to welcome visitors, including parents, to our campus during the 2020-21 school year. Professionals who support children with health or developmental needs, working in compliance with their agency protocols, are allowed to be in the classroom once screened.

Monitoring of COVID-19 Symptoms

Faculty and Staff will complete a health screening before or upon arrival at school each day that will include completion of a symptom checklist and temperature check.

Each household is required to administer a symptom check, including temperature taking, prior to departure for school for each student and keep any symptomatic students home. The symptom check may be reported by:

- Completing a short health screening on ParentSquare (PS)
- Printing out the health screening on PS and bringing to morning drop-off
- Ask staff to perform quick symptom and temperature check upon arrival

Families are required to report to the school if their child has:

- knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100°F, in the past 14 days; and/or
- has returned from travel from a state on the North Carolina State Travel Advisory or the CDC Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated and sent home with details to follow.

Students Who Show Symptoms While at School

Teachers will monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day. If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms, the teacher will contact the Front Office and the parents will be called to pick up the student. A designated COVID-19 Monitor will come to the classroom and escort the student to the predetermined, comfortable, but isolated location. The student will be cared for by the Monitor while he or she waits for their parent or guardian to pick them up. Students *who will easily tolerate and understand* a face covering will be asked to wear a mask while waiting.

Students Who Show Symptoms While at an Off-site Classroom

Teachers will monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day. If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms, the teacher will contact the Front Office and the parents will be called to pick up the student. An adult will take the student to the designated pick up area and wait with the student for the parent or guardian to arrive. Students *who will easily tolerate and understand* a face covering will be asked to wear a mask while waiting.

Protocols for a Positive Case of COVID-19

In the unfortunate event that a member of our community tests positive for COVID-19, the following measures will be required:

- If a student, faculty, or staff member thinks or knows that they have COVID-19, and they exhibit symptoms, they may return to school when:
 - They have experienced 3 consecutive days with no fever, **and**
 - Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), **and**
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- If a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms, they may return to school after 10 days have passed since the test.
- If any student, faculty or staff member discovers that they have been around a person who has COVID-19, they will be required to stay home for 14 days after exposure.

Families are required to report if their child has:

- knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.4°F, in the past 14 days; and/or
- has returned from travel from a state on the North Carolina State Travel Advisory or the CDC Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

The school will notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff (as required by [NCGS § 130A-136](#)).

Social and Emotional Health

Early Childhood

We recognize that during the Stay at Home Order this past spring our students had many different experiences and may have grown accustomed to being at home. This situation may have caused emotional trauma and possibly an increase in children's difficulty with separating from caregivers and parents. We anticipate this and are working on developing ways to help children connect with the school and their teachers. We will be outdoors a great deal to take advantage of the fresh air and sunlight. We are enriching our nature and seasonal curriculum and will work together with the children to create beautiful and active outdoor play areas on our school grounds.

Grades 1-8

The social and emotional health of our children is of paramount importance. We recognize that during the Stay at Home Order all students have had different experiences and not everyone in the school will be in the same place. We expect that some students are disappointed, some had fun, some are grieving, some are exhausted from additional responsibilities at home, some have experienced trauma, and some preferred remote learning and are reluctant to return. We also recognize that children may have had an increase in screen usage and communication methods that are new and strange to them. Our goal is to welcome the students back into our warm, safe and positive environment. We are committed to:

- Re-establishing the healthy rhythm of the school day to which the children are accustomed, bringing security and predictability after this period of uncertainty and isolation.
- Using morning activities to build social and emotional health within the class community.
- Expanding our classroom lessons and activities to the outdoors.
- Working to support warmth and a sense of belonging and community both on campus and off-site.
- Incorporating healthy movement in the beginning of each day and continuing to include opportunities for movement regularly throughout the day.

MORNING CARE

We will not be able to provide Morning Care to our families this school year.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE

This year's program is being offered by friend of the school, Linda Stallard, in the Magnolia Campus playground. Aftercare will be offered through pre-registration only at a flat rate of \$20 a day from the end of the school day until 6pm. Only children ages 5 and older may attend Afterschool Care.

During Plan A and B, all pre-registered students will be walked to the playground for aftercare by a member of faculty or staff. During Plan C, students will be transported from their off-site classroom to the Magnolia Campus by a staff member using the school van.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Field trips will be dependent on location, travel limitations, and which of the governor's phases the state of North Carolina is under.

The current situation is providing an opportunity for us to take a fresh look at our festivals. Though the means may differ according to whatever situation we are in, rest assured that we will do what we can to keep our festivals alive. Part of our approach will be to enable everyone's participation in some way, even if, at times, we cannot all be physically present in the same place at the same time.