

## **Seaside Community Charter School September 27, 2014**

### **What is a Waldorf-inspired public charter school?**

It is a charter school, which means parents have chosen this school for their children rather than their neighborhood school, a private school, or parochial school.

As a public charter school, the school receives funding from the state and federal government. When accepting public funding the school is held accountable for the same performance expectations and state statutes as other public schools.

A Waldorf-inspired public charter school bases its work on the essential core beliefs of Waldorf education. It blends the public school expectations with Waldorf practices. Some activities and practices that private Waldorf schools include are not practiced in a public school setting.

### **How does a Waldorf-inspired public charter school incorporate Common Core State Standards, curriculum, Waldorf practices, and resources into the classroom instruction?**

The Common Core State Standards for each grade level are what students are supposed to know and learn by the end of the year.

The curriculum is a guide that helps teachers know in what order to teach the standards, skills and content to students. It gives suggestions and examples of lessons, strategies, resources and activities a teachers could use with students. It isn't a teacher's lesson plans.

Waldorf practices are the way the standards, skills, strategies and content are presented to students, For example, whenever possible Waldorf teachers use nature as the way to teach their content to the class. Waldorf lessons are more open-ended leaving room for students to think and be creative in expressing what they have learned. Play, active learning, creativity and higher level thinking are hallmarks of Waldorf instruction.

There are no set textbooks for Waldorf schools, teachers are free to use resources and materials from a variety of sources. Common Core Standards and curriculum are the same by grade level but the methods of presentation and the resources the teachers use may vary from classroom to classroom.

### **Who makes the final decision of what is taught and how it is taught in the classroom?**

What is taught is based on Common Core Standards, how it is taught is up to the teacher. Waldorf educators work together very collaboratively. They work together to examine student work, standards, curriculum, and resources. They share ideas and discuss how what students learn in one grade effects their progress in future grades. Waldorf educators continue to study and learn and improve their practice. They are committed to not just give information and instruction but to becoming master teachers that engage students with thoughtful artistry in everything they teach.