

2026 Summer PD



2026 Professional Development for Public Waldorf Educators & Supporters

Week 1: July 7th-9th | Fundamentals: The Foundations and Essential Characteristics of Public Waldorf Education

Week One of the Alliance's Summer Professional Development is designed to provide an orientation and foundation for those new or fairly new to our work – teachers, school leaders, Board members, parent leaders, classroom assistants, and others. Over three days, we will provide essential information including an overview of the history and global development of Waldorf education, an exploration of the Core Principles of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, an introduction to child development and curriculum, and an examination of how Waldorf education meets the needs of the students of today. Participants will understand the importance of the role of the educator and the responsibilities that come with that, the principle of ongoing self-development, and the central role of the arts. Week One will also provide practical orientation to commonly used terms, the structure of the school day, and school organization.

Week One is a prerequisite for all grades or early childhood teachers new to Public Waldorf who wish to enroll in Week #2.

Fundamentals Professional Development: 2026

Schedule (All times Pacific Daylight Time)

	Tuesday, July 7	Wednesday, July 8	Thursday, July 9
9:00-10:30 AM (PDT)	Orientation: Introduction and Overview of Waldorf Education. Exploring Public Waldorf: What Does it Mean to be a Public Waldorf School? Introduction to the Core Principles of Public Waldorf education. Examination of Core Principle #1: The Image of the Human Being	Meeting the Needs of Students Today: Overview of Child Development, the social mission of Waldorf education, and building and maintaining inclusive school communities. Core Principles # 2, 3, and 5. Putting theory into practice: what does this look like in a Public Waldorf School? How do we work to the greatest extent possible from a developmental perspective? How does our approach meet the needs of the students of today? Includes questions of diversity, curriculum, festivals, and addressing individual student needs.	Schools as Communities: The central role of Human Relationships, building Collaborative Leadership, and Schools as Learning Communities. Core Principles 4, 6, & 7. How do we build and maintain a healthy social life within our schools? Why does this matter?
10:30-11:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break
11:00- AM-12:30 PM (PDT)	Public Waldorf Perspectives: The art of school administration.	Public Waldorf Perspectives: Building inclusive schools.	Public Waldorf Perspectives: Classroom considerations.
12:30-1:30 PM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break

1:30-2:30 PM (PDT)	Essential tools of Public Waldorf education: arts, nature, story, and more.	Meeting the diverse needs of today's children.	Practical Matters: Common practices including school schedules, rhythms, and adult learning. Questions and discussion
2:30 -3:00 PM (PDT)	Reflections & Closing	Reflections & Closing	Reflections & Closing

One-Day Symposium: Friday, July 10th

Acceleration and Wisdom: Education in the Age of AI

The Symposium will include a keynote address by Ben Klocek, discussion groups, and a moderated panel discussion. Ben's talk will invite us to consider what it means to educate the human being in a time of rapid change. As technology amplifies our capacity to act, feel, and think, how do we cultivate balance, depth, and discernment? Along with us, Ben will explore how the rhythm of the school day, movement, art, and thoughtful engagement, can support the development of grounded, integrated, and wise human beings in an age of acceleration.

Ben Klocek is known to many of us: he is a web designer and teacher, and a Sacramento Waldorf School alum. He has worked in technology for more than 20 years while studying how screen use shapes our lives. For over seven years he taught technology and woodworking at a Public Waldorf charter school.

Schedule

<i>All times listed are Pacific Time (PT)</i>	Friday, July 10
9:00-9:20	Eurythmy
9:30-11:00	Keynote Presentation Speaker: Ben Klocek

	Title: <i>Acceleration and Wisdom: Education in the Age of AI</i>
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-12:15	Discussion Group
12:20-1:20	Moderated Panel Discussion

Week 2: July 13th-17th | Early Childhood | Grades | Leadership

Week Two is designed for teachers and leaders in schools working out of the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education. The schedule is intended as a professional development experience to support and prepare teachers for the upcoming school year. Instructors are all experienced in Public Waldorf education. They will share their knowledge and experience and will provide practical examples. Through these workshops, cohorts specific to each grade/area form, providing an important source of support for educators. Please expect to participate in all the courses for your grade/area, as the instructors are working together to build a complete picture. Our hope is that new friendships and networks of support will form, new insights and practical skills will be gained, and that participants will leave feeling refreshed and enthusiastic for a new school year. Week Two will also include an emphasis on school leadership and administration.

-Week Two is suitable for anyone who will be teaching or providing leadership in a Public Waldorf school.

Early Childhood Education Professional Development: 2026

Meeting the Needs of Today's Young Children ~ New Challenges and Questions

Schedule (All times Pacific day time)

	Monday 7/13/26	Tuesday 7/14/26	Wednesday 7/15/26	Thursday 7/16/26	Friday 7/17/26
8:30 - 8:50	Opening, Welcome and Intro	Optional Morning Movement	Optional Morning Movement	Optional Morning Movement	Optional Morning Movement

9:00-9:15	Welcome, Quick Write, Review & Preview	Welcome, Quick Write, Review & Preview and a SONG	Welcome, Quick Write, Review & Preview and a SONG	Welcome, Quick Write, Review & Preview and a SONG	Welcome, Quick Write, Review & Preview
9:15 - 10:00 Song & Movement	Song, Circle, and Movement	Song, Circle and Movement	Song, Circle, and Movement	Ellersiek Movement, Touch and Hand-gesture Games	Song, Circle, and Movement
10:00-10:50 Curriculum and Student Needs	Circle Movement, Song and Story	Circle Movement, Song and Story with	Language Arts & Math Development	Language Arts & Math Development	More Language Arts, Math and Movement
10:50-11:10	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:10-12:00 Understanding WE & the needs of today's children	Sensory Motor Development	Sensory Motor Development	Music and Song	Foundational/ Lower Senses in the Classroom with	Gender Inclusivity and Expression in ECE
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch and Nature Break	Lunch and Nature Break	Lunch and Nature Break	Lunch and Nature Break	Lunch and Nature Break
12:40-1:00	Ellersiek Movement, Touch and Hand-gesture Games	Ellersiek Movement, Touch and Hand-gesture Games	Ellersiek Movement, Touch and Hand-gesture Games	Social	Social
1:00-2:20 Practical Arts & Conversation	Handwork, Child Development and Inner Exploration	Handwork, Child Development and Inner Exploration	Handwork, Child Development and Inner Exploration	Handwork and Discussion	Handwork and Discussion

First through Fifth Grade Professional Development: 2026

Schedule (All times Pacific day time)

	Monday-7/13	Tuesday-7/14	Wednesday 7/15	Thursday-7/16	Friday-7/17
8:30-8:50 AM (PDT)	Opening welcome & Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy
8:50 -9:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
9:00-10:30 AM (PDT) <i>Tracks: grades 1-5 with individual cohorts for each grade</i>	Morning Session Creating Community, Developmental Stages, Math, Science, Language Arts <i>(teachers may organize as they see fit)</i>	Morning Session Structuring the Main Lesson Block Rotation for the Year <i>(teachers may organize as they see fit)</i>	Morning Session Crafting the Main Lesson: Rhythm and Breathing <i>(teachers may organize as they see fit)</i>	Morning Session Storytelling and Archetypes <i>(teachers may organize as they see fit)</i>	Morning Session Testing & Assessments: How to Infuse Measurement with Understanding and Artistry <i>(teachers may organize as they see fit)</i>
10:30-11:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00-12:30 PM (PDT) <i>Tracks Grades 1-5 with individual cohorts for each grade</i>	Afternoon Session Topics continue	Afternoon Session Topics continue	Afternoon Session Topics continue	Afternoon Session Topics continue	Afternoon Session Topics continue
12:30-1:15PM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break

1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 1-2</i>	Watercolor	Art of Speech	Drawing	Form Drawing	Handwork
1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 3-4</i>	Drawing	Handwork	Watercolor	Pedagogical Speech	Form Drawing
1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 5-6</i>	Pedagogical Speech	Drawing	Handwork	Watercolor	Geometric Drawing

Middle School Sixth through Eighth Grade: Professional Development: 2026

Schedule (All times Pacific day time)

	Monday-7/13	Tuesday-7/14	Wednesday 7/15	Thursday-7/16	Friday-7/17
8:30-8:50 AM (PDT)	Opening welcome & Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy
8:50 -9:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
9:00-10:30 AM (PDT) <i>Tracks Grades 6-8 with individual cohorts for each grade</i>	Session 1 Middle School Overview Grades 6-8 (All together)	Session 1 Meeting the Developmental Needs of the Main Lesson through the Curriculum	Session 1 Meeting the Developmental Needs of the Main Lesson through the Curriculum	Session 1 Meeting the Developmental Needs of the Main Lesson through the Curriculum	Session 1 Meeting the Developmental Needs of the Middle School Student: Experiential, Social Emotional Development & Projects

		Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8
10:30-11:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00-12:30 PM (PDT)	Session 2	Session 2	Session 2	Session 2	Session 2
<i>Tracks Grades 6-8</i>	Middle School Child Development & Program	Topics continue/ Humanities <i>*subject to change to best meet the needs of participants</i>	Topics continue/ Science <i>*subject to change to best meet the needs of participants</i>	Topics continue/Global Education focus <i>*subject to change to best meet the needs of participants</i>	Main Lesson Block Planning and Development <i>*subject to change to best meet the needs of participants</i>
6th Grade Cohort					
7th Grade Cohort					
8th Grade Cohort	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Cohort sessions: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8
12:30-1:15PM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
1:15 -2:45 PM (PDT)	Pedagogical Speech	Drawing	Handwork	Watercolor	Geometric Drawing
<i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 5-6</i>					
1:15 -2:45 PM (PDT)	Perspective Drawing	Watercolor	Handwork	Art of Speech	Drawing
<i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 7-8</i>					

Leadership Professional Development: 2026

Schedule (All times Pacific day time)

	Monday-7/13	Tuesday-7/14	Wednesday 7/15	Thursday-7/16	Friday-7/17
8:30-8:50 AM (PDT)	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy	Eurythmy
8:50 -9:00 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
9:00 - 10:20 AM (PDT)	The joys and challenges of leadership in a Public Waldorf school	Building Inclusive Schools: navigating diversity, equity, and inclusion	Maintaining a healthy school: matching HR policies, procedures, and practices with school development	Teacher Recruitment and Retention: mentoring and professional development	The Student of Today: meeting Individual Student needs
10:20-10:40 AM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:40 AM-12:10 PM (PDT)	Board and Administrative Partnerships.	Enrollment & Outreach	Budgets, Financing, etc.	Balancing a Waldorf approach with standards based assessment	Managing healthy relationships in a tense world
12:10–12:30 PM (PDT)	Questions and requests	Questions and requests	Questions and requests	Questions and requests	Closing plenum, Q&A and next steps
12:30–1:15PM (PDT)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
<i>Optional arts in the grades 1:15-2:45 PM daily</i>					
1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 1-2</i>	Watercolor	Art of Speech	Drawing	Form Drawing	Handwork
1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 3-4</i>	Drawing	Handwork	Watercolor	Pedagogical Speech	Form Drawing

1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 5-6</i>	Pedagogical Speech	Drawing	Handwork	Watercolor	Geometric Drawing
1:15 –2:45 PM (PDT) <i>Art Skills for the classroom in Grades 7-8</i>	Perspective Drawing	Watercolor	Handwork	Art of Speech	Drawing