



# Wayfinders Primary Class

*A mixed-age, nature-based learning community for ages 7–11*

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## A Developmentally-Aligned Learning Journey

The Wayfinders Primary Class is a mixed-age, nature-based learning community inspired by Waldorf education and forest school principles. Designed for children approximately ages 7–11, the program follows a gentle, purposeful rhythm that weaves together:

- Nature connection
  - Practical skill-building
  - Fine arts & handwork
  - Opportunities to develop and demonstrate core competencies
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## Transitioning from Early Childhood

This class is the natural step up from the Waldorf kindergarten, where learning is rooted in imitation, play, movement, and sensory exploration. Kindergarten children engage in storytelling, seasonal songs, imaginative play, and practical tasks like baking, gardening, and crafts—laying the foundation for lifelong learning through rhythm and warm adult presence.

Around age seven, a significant developmental shift occurs. Children begin to move from imitation toward imagination, memory, and conscious learning. They become ready to internalize stories, form images, and build foundational academic skills.

This marks the beginning of the second seven-year cycle (ages 7–14) in Waldorf philosophy—a phase where children thrive through pictorial, experiential learning, rich in story, movement, beauty, and meaningful connection to the natural world.

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## A Rhythm That Supports Growth














































- Children are divided into younger and older cohorts for bookwork and select afternoon projects
- Mornings are spent as a unified group, fostering community and collaboration



- Each day begins and ends with circle time, creating rhythm and togetherness
- Meals and playtime are shared outdoors, strengthening peer relationships
- Clean-up is collaborative, and students help make and care for the tools and materials they use

July  
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## Weekly Schedule

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:00	 Morning Circle	 Morning Circle	 Morning Circle
9:15	 Nature Studies	 Nature Studies	 Nature Studies
10:15	 Snack,  Out on the Land	 Snack,  Outdoor Classroom	 Snack,  Out on the Land
10:30	 Outdoor Free Play	 Outdoor Free Play	 Outdoor Free Play
10:45	 Nature Studies	 Art	 Nature Studies
12:00	 Lunch @ the Yurt	 Lunch @ the Yurt	 Lunch @ the Yurt
12:15	 Outdoor Free Play	 Outdoor Free Play	 Outdoor Free Play
12:30	 Wildcrafting /  Bookwork (Younger)	 Handwork /  Bookwork (Younger)	 Wildcrafting /  Bookwork (Younger)
1:30	 Wildcrafting /  Bookwork (Older)	 Handwork /  Bookwork (Older)	 Wildcrafting /  Bookwork (Older)
2:45	 Afternoon Circle &  Clean-Up	 Afternoon Circle &  Clean-Up	 Afternoon Circle &  Clean-Up
3:00	 Dismissal	 Dismissal	 Dismissal



## **Areas of Learning**

At Wayfinders, each subject area is approached through experiential, developmentally aligned, and land-based practices. Together, these elements offer a well-rounded and meaningful learning journey:

### **Nature Education**

Nature education is multifaceted, including storytelling, observation, games, and seasonal tasks. Children explore ecological patterns, animal tracking, plant identification, weather, land stewardship, and local geography (to name a few!), fostering a deep bond with place and a sense of belonging in the natural world.

### **Bookwork**

Bookwork is offered in age-appropriate cohorts and includes literacy, numeracy, and project-based learning. Children create a main lesson book, which is a handmade record of the content of their lessons, using writing, drawing, and other artistic expressions. Rather than emphasizing rote instruction, students build academic foundations through storytelling, art, and hands-on experience—anchored in curiosity and inner engagement.

### **Art**

Artistic activity is central to the Waldorf approach and is integrated throughout the curriculum. Students develop their capacities for drawing, painting, modeling, and form drawing, using natural materials and themes inspired by seasonal rhythms, fairy tales, myths, and the natural world.

### **Wildcrafting**

Wildcrafting is our word that encompasses all the hands-on applications of nature education. This includes but is not limited to harvesting and processing plants, making medicine, learning traditional skills such as cordage, basketry, and fire-making, STEM activities, exploring field guides, and making a nature journal.

### **Handwork**

Handwork is a core skill taught in Waldorf education and it cultivates fine motor skills, creativity, and perseverance. Students learn fiber arts such as knitting, felting, embroidery, and natural dyeing. They also participate in practical crafts and build a connection to the objects they use—learning to create, care for, and repair what they need.

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## **Learning Through Connection**

This balanced structure provides students with meaningful support, a joyful and respectful social environment, and the space to grow with confidence, creativity, and connection—all rooted in the land and in community.