

WELLSPRING SCHOOL PLEDGE INFORMATION

2009-2010

The Pledge System: Wellspring School acknowledges that education is a gift given to the children by this school community and is not a service to be purchased by an individual family. In this way the pledge system is a radical departure from common economic thought where getting the “best deal” for the least amount of money is the goal. Instead of trying to find a bargain each parent is asked to pledge money and work so that the gift of a Waldorf education can be offered to as many children in our community as possible. The belief behind the pledge system is that our trust of one another is crucial to the success of the school. Individual families are asked to pledge, as generously as possible, tuition and work that supports the entire school community. Your pledge provides for your own child’s education and helps makes this education possible for every child who attends.

The Value of Waldorf Education: How important is a Waldorf education and Wellspring School to you? Wellspring offers something unique in this area. If you were to list the most important things for your child’s well-being and development, where would Waldorf education be on the list?

THE 09-10 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET is based on 85 students.

FACULTY / TAXES / PROFESSIONAL DEV.	\$269,992
SPECIAL SUBJECT TEACHERS / ASSISTANTS / TAXES	\$ 72,447
CLASSROOM MATERIALS / PROGRAMS / FESTIVALS / SKI / STRINGS	\$ 20,450
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL /OFFICE mat./ OUTREACH / ADS / BOOK-KEEPER	\$ 74,253
FUNDRAISING COSTS	\$ 8,100
BUILDING AND GROUNDS/ Telephone & Internet	\$ 28,050
INSURANCE	\$ 7,150
BANK / DEBT SERVICE /	\$ 17,000
CONTINGENCY	\$ 6,750
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TOTAL	\$504,192

If you would like to see a more detailed budget, please ask the administrator.

Financial commitment and determining your monetary and work pledges:

Fees for the 2009-10 tuition and materials are on a separate page. The school community must commit to raising funds outside of tuition in order to support financial assistance to families.

Pledge Work: Families are asked to make pledge of work that will help offset school operating costs and help make special events happen. A list of jobs is included in this pledge packet. The faculty and administration approve work and committee assignments. Families are held accountable for their contracted work by committee chairs, faculty, and administrative personnel.

The pledge process is as follows:

1. All families return a pledge form, which details their tuition and work pledges.
2. Some families will be asked to attend a meeting where their tuition pledge, payment schedule, committee and other work interests are discussed in greater detail.
3. The faculty and administration review all pledged work assignments before contracts are issued.
4. Following spring pledging, tuition and work contracts are sent out to parents. These must be returned by July 1, along with a minimum payment of ten percent of the family's pledge.
5. Final Decisions: the Board of Trustees may ask parents to increase pledges if tuition goals cannot be met during the spring pledge season. If budget goals cannot be met following the pledge season, budget cuts may result.

All pledge forms and meetings are confidential. Tuition information is shared only with the pledge committee members at your meeting, and with the administrator who creates contracts and bills tuition.

For families entering after June 1 the Pledge Contract must be returned along with the first payment prior to enrollment.

Parent Participation: We recognize that not every parent is able to assist the school with regular committee work. We hope that you will remain open to the possibility of volunteering for tasks where help is needed. During the pledge process parents, regardless of whether they are paying full tuition or not, are asked to pledge hours towards committee work, fundraising events and other essential tasks. Your gifts of energy, talent and time are highly valued and greatly appreciated. The Parent Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to discuss your participation. Participation is needed for the following functions:

- ❖ Fundraising events
- ❖ Development work to solicit gifts and grants
- ❖ Outreach and Enrollment support
- ❖ Festivals & Holiday Fair
- ❖ Administrative support
- ❖ Buildings and Grounds
- ❖ Classroom assistance
- ❖ Ski programs

Pledging Your Heart: The entire parent community gives a heartwarming and huge amount of financial and volunteer support for Wellspring. There have always been many dedicated individuals who amaze the community (and themselves!) with what they do. A final pledge we can all make is to share and express the gratitude we feel for one another's contributions throughout the year, as we all carry the school and its students in our hearts and into the future.