

Backgrounder



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The Village School was first created out of concern that parents were upset with the strict methodology of Waldorf schools. Sally and Matthew Bigongiari first conceived the Village School in the fall of 1997 as a school that is based off of Waldorf methodology but excluding the religious aspect of the Waldorf movement.

They were first turned down when approaching the 4J school district with their hopes of starting an alternative public school with Steiner methodology. By February 1998, Sally's "Chalk Talk" article in the Register Guard, resulted in over 100 people expressing interest which lead to the approval and finalization of the Village School's charter.

The charter was passed in May of 1999 and the doors opened in the fall of 2000 enrolling students in Kindergarten, First, Second and Third grade. Currently, it shares its building with Ridgeline Montessori School and enrolls students in all grades from Kindergarten to Eighth.

The school's mission is to "create a holistic, developmentally appropriate, arts-integrated school with a systematic and comprehensive curricula." The program fully integrates the arts within an academic curriculum, educating the whole child; their head, heart and hands. Unlike most schools that have specialized classes or teachers for arts, the Village School integrates arts

into every classroom and daily learning. Movement, handiwork, music and Spanish language classes are an integral part of the educational experience for each student.

The teachers are primarily TSPC certified public school teachers, with affinity with the Waldorf approach, but only some part-time summer Waldorf training and no connection with Anthroposophy. Today, the Village School remains a unique school by being publicly funded and incorporating many aspects of traditional Waldorf schools without having any official ties to the Associated Waldorf Schools of North America.