

2021-22 Family Tip Sheet

Welcome!

The start of school will be here before you know it! Here are a few tips pulled from our Parent Handbooks, as well as current COVID-19 protocols, to help the start of the school year go smoothly for your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us. We are excited to start the year!

Mission

To provide a lasting education that cultivates resilient and creative human beings who are capable of free thinking, confident action, and deep connections with others and the world.

Contact Information

Main Office

203-364-1113, office@waldorfct.org

Christina Dixcy, Office Manager and Communications Director, COVID-Coordinator x103,
cdixcy@waldorfct.org

Sara Wiley, HR and Office Assistant, Title IX Coordinator, x101, swiley@waldorfct.org

Enrollment

Therese Lederer, Enrollment Director, x102, tlederer@waldorfct.org

Leadership Council

Alex Exley, Therese Lederer, Leslie Lew, and Charlotte Bergmans, leadership@waldorfct.org

College Chair

Leslie Lew, llew@waldorfct.org

Business Office

Alex Exley, Business Manager, x104, aexley@waldorfct.org

Calendar

The school calendar is available on the website: www.waldorfct.org/calendar.

Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line at 203-364-1113 x600 or e-mail office@waldorfct.org. We ask that you please make every effort to notify the school before 8:00 am so the office can notify your child's teacher. If you need to leave a message, please indicate the reason for your child's absence. We are serious about attendance for security reasons as well as health and wellness. If your child is sick, we need to know!

School and COVID-19

All families must be able to answer "No" to all questions listed on the **Daily Attestation of Health** before sending their child to school each day. The Daily Attestation of Health is available on the Current Parents page of our website (below). If a student or staff member exhibits one primary COVID-19 symptom or multiple secondary symptoms, the school may require a negative COVID-19 PCR test result before the individual may return to school.

Visitors to campus must have an appointment and submit a visitor form prior to their appointment time. <https://forms.gle/W5K7ZAQCiCyKDWmA6>

Disposable or multi-layer cloth **masks are currently required on campus when inside** for all individuals older than two. Masks are not currently required when outdoors. Face shields are not a sufficient replacement for masks. Masks should be clean and well-fitting and must cover both nose and mouth. All students should have an extra mask at school along with their extra set of clothing.

We will continue to hold many classes outside so all students should be appropriately clothed for the weather.

We will continue to follow guidance from Connecticut's State Department of Public Health, State Department of Education, and Office of Early Childhood and will share any changes related to our COVID-19 planning on our website and via email.

www.waldorfct.org/covid-19

www.waldorfct.org/current-parents

School Communication

Website

The school website, <https://www.waldorfct.org>, is our primary tool for school news. It houses the school calendar, directory, and parent handbook, as well as news postings, updates from the office, and information about special events. We make every effort to keep the information on the website up to date.

Parent Portal

Parents may self-generate a login for the parent portal at <https://www.waldorfct.org/parent-portal> using the email address on file with the school and clicking, "Create New Account."

Newsletters

The Friday Flyer is a bullet-point e-reminder of important upcoming events, distributed on most Fridays. This newsletter goes to the current school community only; therefore, updates to personal contact information for the School Directory will also be published in the Friday Flyer.

News, Notes & Updates is a longer-form community newsletter. It is distributed via email once or twice monthly to our wider Waldorf community.

Community Connections is a service to our parent community which allows community members to advertise services available, items for sale, items and services wanted, local classes or workshops, etc... Community Connections is emailed once a month. Submissions to Community Connections are accepted on a rolling basis and will be published in the subsequent month's issue.

E-mail all newsletter submissions to Christina Dixcy (cdixcy@waldorfct.org).

Event-specific flyers: Certain festivals and school events may have "stand-alone" flyers that are sent via email, but our goal is to cut down on the overall number of emails you receive from the school, and to encourage you to read the ones you do receive.

Social Media

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and join our parent Facebook group. You can be part of increasing our school's visibility by liking our posts, commenting on our posts, and sharing our posts to your own accounts. HVWS accounts are to be used for educational and informational purposes to introduce and promote the school to a wider audience and friends of the HVWS community. Please do not share your own photos of other school community members on social media without their permission.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HousatonicValleyWaldorfSchool>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/waldorfct/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HVWS1>

Parent Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1499367887013339/>

Food

Allergies

To ensure the health and safety of all students, restrictions due to allergies may be placed on foods in a classroom, within a building, or schoolwide at any time.

Snack and Lunch

Early Childhood students prepare and eat a healthy snack each day as part of their program. Each family shops once or twice a semester for a small list of groceries for the class.

If your child is remaining in Extended Care, please pack your child a healthy, balanced lunch, and refrain from including sweet, sugary snacks and drinks, especially soda and candy, as they can hinder your child's ability to concentrate and participate fully in class.

No food is prepared in the Grade School. Please pack your child healthy, balanced snacks and lunches, and refrain from including sweet, sugary snacks and drinks, especially soda and candy, as they can hinder your child's ability to concentrate and participate fully in class. The lead class may offer hot lunches as a class trip fundraiser. Parents will be notified about such offerings via email.

Parking and Visitors on Campus

We that parents drive through drop-off and pick-up rather than parking and walking. As outlined above, visitors will not be allowed on the playgrounds or in classrooms without an appointment and submitted visitor form, but this does not apply to drop-off and pick-up.

When needed, parking is available in the following locations:

- Taunton Hill parking lot (entrance on Taunton Hill Rd, just North of Rt 302)
- Early Childhood/North Campus horseshoe (40 Dodgingtown Rd.)
- Grade School/South Campus parking lot (1 Jacklin Rd.)
- Dodgingtown Firehouse (please never park against the building in the rear or in any way that blocks the fire bay doors)

Never leave unattended children younger than 12 years of age in a parked car.

Pet Policy

We love animals! However, the HVWS campus is a dog/pet-free campus for health and safety reasons, with exceptions made only for approved classroom projects. Please do not bring any pets to campus. Thank you for showing your consideration to others, and for not putting us in the position of turning away your adorable furry friends.

Dismissal to Authorized Parties

The school will only dismiss your child to parents and guardians on record or to those on your authorized pickup list. If your child will be collected by someone not already in their file, even if another family at the school, please notify the office in advance.

Grade School Drop-Off and Pick-Up

For the Grade School the first day of school is always the Wednesday after Labor Day and is an early dismissal (12:35 pm) day.

- Dismissal is at 12:35 pm for 1st and 2nd Grade students every Thursday.

Morning Drop-Off

All grade school students should be brought to the South (Grades) Campus playground between 8:00 am and 8:15 am. Please enter the South Campus driveway, noting the one-way traffic flow. Remain in your car and pull forward as the line moves up. Please remain in one line. When you get to the playground gate your child will get out of the car where they will be met by faculty members. Please do not get out of your car or congregate at the drop-off area.

Late Arrival – If you arrive after 8:20 am, please call the Administration Cottage 203-364-1113 so a staff member can come and greet you and will walk your child to their classroom.

Afternoon Pick-Up

Regular dismissal is at 3:00 pm

- Dismissal is at 12:35 pm for 1st and 2nd Grade students every Thursday.
- Whenever we have a school-wide early dismissal day, dismissal would be at 12:35 pm.

Please follow the same procedure as drop-off. Stay in your car and form a line in the South Campus driveway, moving up when the car ahead of you leaves. Please do not get out of your car or congregate at the pick-up area. Please do not pass other cars in line unless expressly asked to do so by a staff member on duty.

Late Pick-up –Late pick-ups may be billed for Extended Care through FACTS.

Early Childhood Drop-Off and Pick-Up

The Rose and Sunflower Classes are in the Rose Garden building. The Dandelion Class is in the Star Meadow building. Both buildings are located at 40 Dodgingtown Rd.

Drop off times:

Rose and **Sunflower** classes will be 8:10 – 8:30am in the circular drive.

Dandelion class will be 8:20-8:40am in the parking area.

Late Arrival – If you arrive after 8:40 am, please park and walk your child to your class’s cubby door.

Pick up times:

Rose and **Sunflower** will be 12:30pm in the circular drive.

Dandelion will be 12:40pm in the parking area.

Late Pickup – Late pickups may be billed for Extended Care through FACTS.

Extended Care

If you wish to sign up for the contracted Extended Care rate, please do so here:

<https://forms.gle/zKZVYmob68kHhvdU6>

Early Childhood

- 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm or 4:30 pm, M-F

Grades 1-2

- 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, M-W and F
- 12:35 pm to 3:00 pm or 4:30 pm, Th

Grades 3-8

- 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, M-F

Late Pickup – Late pickups may be billed \$1/minute through FACTS.

Dress Code and Personal Property

Philosophy

The purpose of the HVWS Dress Code is to provide guidelines for dress and appearance so that students in all grades and programs can learn in comfortable clothes without distractions. We appreciate your support, as your care in this matter helps our school. In the event that a student is in violation of the dress code, they may be asked to turn clothing inside out to hide images or text, they may be asked to change into their spare set of clothing, or they may be sent home.

Guidelines

Children should be dressed in clean, neat, comfortable clothes. Your child should be able to join in all of our activities without feeling self-conscious about getting dirty; activities may include gardening and gym.

Required Clothing

1. A change of clothing appropriate for the season of the year must be kept at school for each child for each school day, regardless of grade or program.
2. Rainwear is required in inclement weather. Waterproof raincoat, waterproof head covering and waterproof footwear are required without exception in order for children to participate in recess or other outdoor activities during rainy days.
3. Classroom footwear: Each child needs a pair of indoor shoes to change into at school. Open-backed sandals or sneakers, Crocs, clogs and flip-flops, light up shoes and heeled shoes are not acceptable.
4. Painting smocks are normally required for all students at HVWS, subject to teacher discretion.
5. Gym: All children need a pair of sneakers. If a student does not have the appropriate footwear for this class they may be asked to sit out for safety reasons. No jewelry is permitted in gym class.

Unacceptable Clothing and Property

1. Sunglasses, hats and hoods may not be worn in class, however baseball caps with logos are allowed outside the classroom.
2. Clothing: Shirts should be long enough so that when arms are raised, belly buttons are not visible. Halter tops, see through or torn clothing are not permitted. Shorts and skirts should be of a style and length that allows students comfort and ease during all school-related activities. Undergarments may not be exposed. Shorts, short skirts, and sandals may be worn through the second Friday in October and after Spring Break.
3. Logos & lettering: It is very distracting for students to be dressed as walking signboards or advertisements. Students should be dressed in clothing without any lettering, insignia, logos, or images larger than one inch.
4. Makeup, dyed hair, nail polish, tattoos, perfume, and piercings other than ears are not permitted.
5. Cell phones, iPods, video games and other electronic devices (including wearable electronic devices such as FitBits and Apple watches) are not permitted during school, on field trips, or during assemblies and performances.
6. Chewing gum is not permitted.
7. No toys, dolls, stuffed animals or pets are permitted at school, although a given class may hold designated "pet days."

8. Field trips: The Dress Code is in effect for field trips.
9. Costumes may only be worn in the classroom at the teachers' discretion. Witch hats, Santa Claus hats, leprechaun hats, etc. are considered costumes.
10. Watches may not be worn to school before Grade 3, when time is studied. Only analog watches with clear numbers are permitted, because unlike digital watches they actually require time-telling skills.

Early Childhood Program

The Early Childhood classes are active environments. Natural fibers allow the child's body to breathe properly and keep it warm. Every morning up to an hour is spent outside; it is important that your child be dressed appropriately. Please dress your child in loose-fitting, practical, and comfortable clothing to withstand play and work. Please label all your child's clothing clearly! Every year we donate many unclaimed, perfectly serviceable clothes to Goodwill.

When considering your child's wardrobe, remember that much of what is sold today is trendy and not suitable for a child's healthy development. Because of their potential influence on play and attentiveness in group settings, we ask that children not wear clothing with pictures, graphics or writing of ANY KIND. Sequins and glitter are also distracting to the children, as are shoes and boots that light up. We ask that these not be worn to school. Shirts may be turned inside-out at the discretion of the teacher if they are found to be distracting to the class. Please do not send children to school wearing jewelry or watches. Special circumstances may be discussed with the teacher on an individual basis (medical bracelets, etc.).

Early Childhood Back-to-School List

Please label all clothing and shoes with your child's name or initials. We will provide a canvas bag that your child will bring back and forth daily. PLEASE do not send your child with a backpack as they take up too much cubby space. We do not require a uniform but our dress code policy, on the following page, prohibits clothing bearing words, media logos, images, as well as sequined shirts. It also prohibits light up shoes (both indoor and out), and we ask that children leave key chains, jewelry, and toys at home. Adhering to these guidelines provides fewer distractions for the children. Thank you for your support.

Items to be Left at School

Indoor shoes:

- flexible rubber soled indoor shoes with laces

Extra clothing:

- 1 long pants, 1 pair shorts
- 1 long and 1 short sleeved shirt,
- 2 pairs of socks,
- 2 pairs of underwear.

Outdoor Clothing

We spend a lot of time outdoors in the play yard. Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing for various weather conditions, so they can participate in all activities.

During inclement weather, we require all children to wear:

- raincoat,
- rubber boots,
- rain pants.

During cold weather, we require all children to wear:

- warm coat,
- snow pants,
- mittens (both knit and waterproof),
- warm hat (preferably one that covers ears and neck),
- snow boots
- a warm under layer (we strongly suggest wool or silk).

Our school store often places a group order in the Fall for woolen and silk underlayers. More information to follow if we place an order this year. Some sources for children's outdoor clothing: Oakiwear (great 1-piece rain suits); Patagonia; L.L. Bean; Land's End; Campmor; Boggs; and Mucks.