

Tuition & Policy Package

2024/2025



The Waldorf School
of Tampa Bay



PRESCHOOL

3 YRS BY MAY 31ST

4 Day Program Monday - Thursday

8am - 12pm

KINDERGARTEN

4,5 & 6 YEARS (4 YRS BY MAY 31ST)

5 Day Program Monday - Friday

8am - 1pm

Early Childhood Program Details

- **PreSchool:** Children age 3 have a slower, gentler start alongside their peers in this four-day program with dismissal at 12pm. Children enjoy a robust communal snack together, and most have lunch and rest at home.
- **Mixed-age Kindergarten:** Children age 4, 5 and 6 enjoy more advanced physical movement, games, circle time, stories, crafting and more, with snack and lunch together, and dismissal at 1pm.
- **Forest Meadow Kindergarten:** Forest Meadow is very similar to the other mixed-K programs, but the children spend 70-80% of their time outside. Children must be 5 by September 1st to be considered for this program. You can learn more [here](#).
- **Afternoon Care (pmC):** Children rest with their teacher after lunch and are dismissed at 3pm. 3 and 4 yo are encouraged to rest at home whenever possible. pmC has an additional charge, and children requested to participate by their parents **must be approved by faculty**.

GRADES 1 - 8

ROBUST ACADEMICS, HANDS-ON LEARNING, ART, MUSIC & MOVEMENT

8am - 3pm

Grades Program Details

- **Combined Class Model:** Our students thrive academically and socially with combined grades while maintaining approximately 18 students per class. Combining classes allows for diversification in curriculum and appropriate social and emotional growth.
- **Block Learning & Specialty Classes:** Students receive their core academic learning in the first two hours of the day, learning in "blocks" -- e.g., an intensive Arithmetic block for four weeks, then switching over to a Language Arts block for several weeks. The rest of the day is filled with World Languages, music, handwork, movement, and art.

TUITION & FEE SCHEDULE



The Waldorf School
of Tampa Bay

2024 - 2025

Tuition

PreSchool

Monday - Thursday , 12pm dismissal	8,800
pmC (Afternoon Care) 12pm - 3pm	2,640

Mixed-age Kindergarten

Mon - Fri , 1pm dismissal	12,200
pmC (Afternoon Care) 1pm - 3pm	2,200

Grades

Lower Grades: 1st - 3rd	14,310
Upper Grades: 4th-5th	14,520
Middle School: 6th - 8th	15,050

See Payment Plans below for information on discounts for Pay in Full and Semi-Annual Payments.

In addition to tuition and fees listed here, you may incur additional costs, including but not limited to activity fees, instrument rental or purchase, etc. The amount of these fees will vary and will be announced as they occur. When necessary the School may, at the parent or guardian's expense, recommend and expect tutoring, external consultations, or special services which the School does not provide.



Payment Plans

- **One Payment/Pay In Full - 9% discount off the tuition amount paid.** One payment made on April 1 (or at the time of enrollment).
- **Two Payments/Semi-Annual - 5% discount off the tuition amount paid.** Two Payments on April 1 (or time of enrollment) and December 1.
- **Monthly Payments:** Eleven payments made on the 1st of the month, May 1 through April 1, (or the month of Enrollment through April 1, 2025.)
- Payment may be made by automatic bank withdrawal (ACH) or credit card (processing fees will be applied for credit card payments) in FACTS, our Tuition Management System.

FACTS Fees

- **FACTS payment plan fee is** a one-time processing fee of \$25 for pay-in-full (1 payment) or semi-annual plans (2 payments) and \$55 for monthly plans (more than 2 payments).
- Because scholarships are paid out in more than 2 payments, **all families with scholarship awards will automatically be signed up for the monthly plan.**
- **Late Payment Fees:** Any payment(s) not received within 15 days of the due date (1st of the month) will be subject to a \$50 late fee from the school. **Additionally,** FACTS charges a fee for any payments that don't process (for example, insufficient funds). The school is not able to waive any of the FACTS fees.
- *These fees are set by FACTS and are subject to change.*

Supply Fee Deposit

- \$650. This is a **non-refundable financial commitment** to hold your child's place for the school year. The supply fee rate is never prorated for rolling enrollments.
- The non-refundable supply fee will be billed through your FACTS account starting the **first week of March**, for returning students, or at the time of enrollment for new.
- This fee covers supplies purchased for use by the children, most of which are purchased prior to the start of the school year.
- All families must enroll in AutoPay in FACTS, per your Tuition Contract.

New Student Fee - School Advancement Fund

- For new families, or if there is a break in your continued enrollment.
- This is a **non-refundable**, one-time fee of \$2,000 per student, or a \$5,000 cap per family, **at any time of enrollment** at WSTB.
- This is not an annual fee. This fee goes towards the School's Advancement Fund and supports the additional growth of the school as new students and programs are added. Due at the time of Enrollment with Supply & Enrollment Fee.



Step Up for Students Scholarship Information

- The Waldorf School of Tampa Bay accepts both the [Educational Options](#) and [Unique Abilities](#) Scholarships from the Florida Department of Education, as administered by Step Up for Students. You can find more information on Step Up at stepupforstudents.org.
- Enrolled families with additional questions about how scholarship awards are processed and applied to their tuition account may visit our [Scholarship FAQ](#) on the [Parent Corner](#).

Field Trip Deposit and Costs

- **Major Milestone Field Trips - Class Three - Eight \$400 deposit due June 1st.**
 - The Waldorf Curriculum includes major field trips that are brought to the students based on their curriculum as well as their age and development.
 - These trips include the **Farm Trip (3rd or 4th)**, the **Pentathlon (5th or 6th)**, and **Middle School Adventure and Geography Trips (7th and 8th)**.
 - Students in these grades will pay a field trip deposit to hold their spots on these trips. May of the trips need to be paid for in advance of the school year to hold reservations for our students with vendors/camps.
 - Based on the Farm (Farm Trip) and hosting school's (Pentathlon) location, the cost of these trips will vary from year to year. On average, these trips cost between \$400 and \$600. Once the details of the trips are confirmed, parents will be notified of the amount owed if the cost is more than the deposit, or a refund will be given if the cost is less than the deposit already paid.
 - **Field Trip deposits are due in June.**
 - *Any family that would like to pay this fee monthly can request to do so with 7 payments from June to December of \$58/month but will be required to enroll in a FACTS Monthly payment plan (if not already on a monthly plan).*
- **Local and/or Additional Field Trips:**
 - Additionally, field trips may be planned throughout the year for Classes One through Eight; those field trips will be communicated to parents, and the cost for the additional trips will be billed separately via FACTS. Class One and Two may do local day trips at a nominal cost.



Parent Engagement

Annual Campaign & Participation Hours

Waldorf schools traditionally operate with generous contributions of volunteer hours, talents, and donations from their families. This responsibility not only enhances the operation and growth of the school but also strengthens the diversity and fabric of our school community.

Families are expected to participate in our Annual Giving Campaign, usually running from December - January. **A minimum gift of \$500** -- donated, raised or a combination of both -- is asked of every family. Donations may be tax deductible.

Additionally, the School asks for a **minimum of 30 parent participation hours** per family, per year. These hours can be fulfilled with a wide range of activities both on and off campus. Some examples include: attending parent council meetings, community meetings, and conferences, school event planning and execution, committee work, maintenance projects, clerical work, or grounds care. Engagement hours not completed will be billed at the rate of \$25.00 per hour to be paid in full prior to the end of the school year.

Mindful Media

Waldorf education strives to nurture and protect the development of the imagination, which is the vehicle for learning and growth. In general, **Waldorf schools strongly discourage your children from screen time and all media**, including television viewing, using video games, watching videos, and using computers, tablets, and hand-held devices. This type of media contain images and interactions that affect children deeply, and they carry these images and gestures into their play and social interactions with other children.

Families who eliminate or minimize media are quickly rewarded with the positive behavioral and emotional changes that come when children are left to explore their own imaginations. Families who are newly exploring this issue should be aware that many of our families choose Waldorf education precisely because their values closely match the school's philosophy regarding elimination of media influences, and they seek an environment and community that expressly shares these values. In other words, **our school and parent community indeed depend on the cooperation of all families regarding this issue**. Upon enrollment, all families agree to and sign a Mindful Media Agreement.



This Calendar gives a look at the major dates for the next school year. The dates listed below are the major holidays, as well as the start and end dates.

A more detailed calendar will be released over the summer that includes Parent/Teacher Conferences, Teacher Development days, Festivals and Parent Council events.

Start Date	Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Thanksgiving Break	Monday, November 25 - Friday, November 29, 2024
Winter Break	Monday, December 23, 2024 - Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Spring Break	Monday, March 10 - Friday, March 14, 2025
Last Day of School	Thursday, May 29, 2025

Although best effort is given to put forward confirmed dates, the school does reserve the right to make any required changes as necessary.



Continuous Enrollment

Aligning with other progressive colleges and independent schools nationwide, The Waldorf School of Tampa Bay uses Continuous Enrollment as a convenient, common-sense approach for our families to re-enroll from year to year. Once your children are enrolled, and subject to the school's approval, they are continuously enrolled until graduation from WSTB, or until the family follows the opt-out process.

Details:

- If it is your family's intention to continue with WSTB for the following school year, **no action whatsoever is needed.**
- If your family will not be joining us for the following school year, it is your responsibility to **inform us by February 15th.**
- All EC children enrolled in pmC will automatically continue their enrollment with pmC for the next school year.
- If you wish to make a change in your child's pmC status, simply email info@waldorftampabay.org as soon as possible. There is limited space in these programs and prompt communication may ensure your child's place.

Continued Enrollment Review

All families who intend to return to school the following year are subject to a review by the faculty and administration. The review will include consideration of the totality of the circumstances, including review of specific criteria relevant to whether re-enrollment is in the best interests of all involved. The criteria considered are:

1. **School Fit** -- The School is adequately meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of the Student.
2. **Classroom Fit** - The Student is academically, socially, emotionally, and physically at grade level, and/or the family is working collaboratively with the school to provide the support the Student needs (either with adjustments in the home and/or out-of-school support).
3. **Family Fit** - The Family contributes to School Life in a positive way with good faith efforts and to the best of their ability, including, but not limited to:
 - Fulfilling their 30 Parent Participation Hours,
 - Supporting the Annual Campaign toward the goal of \$500 raised/donated per Family,
 - Participating regularly in Parent Education opportunities,
 - Pursuing any out-of-school support for their Student recommended by the School.
4. **Community Fit** - The Family positively contributes to the Community, upholds our shared School Values, demonstrates support for the School in general, and adheres to all School Policy (as outlined in the Family Handbook and Policy Packages), including, but not limited to:
 - Mindful Media Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Adult Communication Guidelines & Conflict Resolution Policy
 - Pick-up/Drop-off, Absence and Tardy policy
 - Dress Code policy

In situations where faculty and administration determine that these criteria are not being met, the school will communicate with families in an attempt to collaboratively work towards alignment. If alignment can not be achieved, then the student may not be re-enrolled. The School retains the authority to make the final decision regarding eligibility for re-enrollment.



Summer Package

Closer to the start of the school year additional details will be finalized and communicated to all families. This set of policies, agreements, documents, and actions items are referred to as the Summer Package of Information. The Summer Package may include, but is not limited to:

- Tuition & Policy Package
- New Family Handbook
- Release of Liability Agreement
- COVID-19 Liability Release and Health & Safety Plan
- Nature Walks and Outdoor Learning Consent
- Time Share and Court Paperwork for dual-household families
- Full Calendar
- Annual Medical Release (emergency permission to treat)
- State and County required Medical and Health-Related forms.
- Demographics and Emergency Contacts must be updated in the FACTS Parent Portal

All paperwork must be signed or completed prior to your student starting the first day of school. Incomplete paperwork may delay a student's start date.

Failure to complete the Summer Package paperwork, regardless of the reason, will not excuse you from your commitment to your enrollment contract. Families who feel that it is a priority to review the final versions of these documents before making a re-enrollment decision may want to consider opting out.

Enrollment Withdrawals

The Waldorf School of Tampa Bay (WSTB) operates as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit independent school. The school's primary source of revenue is tuition. Every family **enters into a legally binding enrollment contract** each year. The school relies on these enrollment contracts to determine the following school year's operating budget for planning purposes. The school cannot fulfill its contractual obligations to others if families do not first uphold theirs.

WSTB Tuition Refund Policy applies to **all terminations for any reason**, by either party, including family decision, course or program cancellation, or school closure.

Tuition Refund/Owed Schedule

Withdrawal Date	% of Tuition Owed
March 1 - March 15	0%
March 15 - March 31	10%
April 1 - May 31	60%
June 1 - July 31	75%
August 1 - End of School Year	100%

- A \$150 withdrawal fee will apply to ALL withdrawals.
- All withdrawal requests must be submitted in writing, and the withdrawal date can not be before the date of the written submission.
- Refunds will be processed within 45 days of acknowledging the Withdrawal Settlement Statement. Monies owed to the school must be paid within 30 days of withdrawal.
- The non-refundable Supply Fee, Enrollment Fee, School Advancement Fee, and FACTS-related fees are never refundable.
- Thirty days or more of unexcused absences will be considered a withdrawal, and the standard Tuition Refund/Owed Schedule will apply the same as any other withdrawal. Written notice is not required.