

Enrollment for 2023-24: Parent Information

Shade Canyon is a school of choice, and we ask that families make the choice to enroll with full understanding of the values and practices of our school.



School Verse:

This is our School. Let peace dwell here. Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here: love of one another, love of humankind, and love of life itself.

Let us remember that as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.

Enrollment and Lottery: OPEN APPLICATION WINDOW: February 3 - April 11, 2023 at 12 pm
LOTTERY DATE: April 12, 2023

Kindergarten Age Requirements: Shade Canyon offers two kindergarten programs; applicants will be entered into the lottery for the kindergarten program that corresponds with their date of birth.

Kindergarten Programs

2-year Kindergarten, including TK

1-year Kindergarten

Date of Birth

June 2, 2018 - April 2, 2019

June 2, 2017 - June 1, 2018

Schedules and Attendance: View the 2023-24 school calendar here: shadecanyon.org/calendar

Please plan family vacations around our school breaks; each day a student is absent, our funding is reduced.

Daily Schedule:	TK/Kindergarten	8:20 - 12:40 (Mon.-Fri.)
	Grades 1-2	8:20 - 3:00 (Mon.-Thurs.)
	Fridays & Minimum Days	8:20 - 12:40 (EVERY Fri. & Min. Days)

Parking, Arrivals, and Departures: Families are welcome to play at the park before school starts and walk through the back gate to school. Do not walk on Sular Lane, as there is no sidewalk and the road is narrow. Please carpool to school whenever possible.

Lunch and Snacks: Please make sure your child has an adequate breakfast at home to provide energy for the morning. Snacks and lunch should be nutritious and well-balanced, avoiding gum, candy, and sugary foods. Shade Canyon is planning to contract with KVUSD for a food program.

After School Program: There is no guarantee that Shade Canyon will be able to provide After School Care at this time. We will take steps to pursue this option, but in the meantime, please make plans as though there will be no aftercare.

Hiring: Job openings will be posted soon for all Shade Canyon positions. Hiring will be handled by the Shade Canyon Board of Directors at this time.

Vaccinations: Shade Canyon must follow required vaccinations as determined by the California Department of Public Health. For more information go to the Shots for School website.

Dress Code: The purpose of the Dress Code Policy is to support our commitment to providing an educational environment that is safe, age-appropriate, and conducive to active learning.

- All clothing must be free of written messages, which include all forms of commercial advertising, logos, sports teams and cartoon characters.
 - Two Finger Rule: If the brand name can be completely covered up by two fingers (created by the middle and index fingers), it is allowed.
- Make-up, nail polish, hair dye, and temporary body art is not permitted in grades K-6.

Media Policy: Children are deeply affected by everything in their environment. Waldorf education has always encouraged minimal-to-no screen time for children before the age of 11, and in recent years, a number of studies have demonstrated the detrimental effects of too much screen time on children's language and social skills development, as well as attention, sleep, obesity, behavior, and violence. Shade Canyon wants to partner with parents in protecting childhood's greatest gifts. We urge families to use extreme caution with television, videos, video games, and computer use, and to instead give their children an abundance of screen-free time and space to develop an imagination, solve problems, and invent creative play. Your family's media choices affect not only your child but their classmates as well, as media exposure influences the play of the students.

Cell Phones: We recognize that some students may need cell phones in order to communicate with parents or summon help in an emergency. If it is absolutely necessary for a student to bring a cell phone to school, the following conditions apply: Cell phones must be turned off while on campus. Cell phones must be stored in the designated area while in class. After regular school hours, cell phones may be used outside of the immediate school grounds in designated area. This policy applies to adults on campus, as well.

Homework: At Shade Canyon, little or no homework is given until fourth grade, when parents join the teacher at a meeting where they can give input on how much homework will be assigned, as well as help form class culture surrounding homework.

CAASPP Testing: Each year in the Spring, a state-mandated test is administered to grades 3-8. Shade Canyon does not "teach to the test," nor do we view the test as an accurate or complete reflection of student achievement. Historically, Waldorf students perform below grade level on the test in the early grades because of the non-academic kindergarten curriculum and the pacing of curriculum, with our developmental approach to learning. As Waldorf students move into the upper grades, their test scores rise dramatically and typically surpass the scores of conventional schools. For this reason, we recommend that families commit to Waldorf education through at least fifth grade.

Parent Involvement: The success of our students is aided by active family participation in the child's education and the life of our school. Joining in school activities is also the best way to understand the school community and grow friendships. Studies have proven that parent involvement is associated with higher student achievement.

There are many ways to be an active participant at Shade Canyon, including: attend school events, join a committee, volunteer to support school activities or in the classroom, help with field trips, participate in classroom or campus clean-up. Some of these volunteer opportunities will require fingerprinting and TB clearance.