



Application Information for the 2019-20 School Year

Enrollment in a charter school is a choice made by parents to participate in the alternative educational approach offered by that charter school. For this reason, it is essential that interested parents become knowledgeable about our approach to education so they can make an informed decision about whether it matches what they want for their child. Our application process includes the following:

January 28 – March 9, 2019: Open Application Period

Applications must be received between January 28 and noon on Saturday, March 9, 2019, to be included in our annual lottery. Order of receipt of applications during the open application period is not a factor in the application process.

For Parents of Kindergarten Applicants:

• Kindergarten Orientation, Saturday, March 9:

Kindergarten Orientation meeting: 9:00-9:45am in the library.
Grades Open House and Kinder Walk Through: 9:45-10:30am.
K-8 Orientation: 10:30-11:15am in the library.
Adults-only meeting please; call 824-2844 to sign up in advance.

• Kindergarten Experience, Thursday, February 28th:

Prospective kindergarteners and their parents may experience a sampling of the SunRidge Kindergarten program from 1:30-3:00pm. Space is limited. Call 824-2844 to sign up.

For Parents of Applicants to Grades 1-8:

• Grades Open House & Orientation, Saturday, March 9:

Grades Open House: 9:45-10:30am with an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet our teachers, and see student work.
K-8 Orientation meeting: 10:30-11:15am in the library
Adults-only meeting please; call 824-2844 to sign up in advance.

• Walk-through-the-Grades Tours:

Parents may participate in a tour of our grades while classes are in session.
Dates:
Wednesday, January 16, 9:00-10:15am
Wednesday, February 13, 9:00-10:15am
Space is limited for these tours. You must sign up in advance by calling 824-2844.

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Following the open application period, a lottery will be held for each class that has more applicants than available spaces, resulting in a lottery list showing order of enrollment for available spaces. All letters will be mailed to applicants with their number on the lottery list.

Those not offered spaces immediately following the lottery will remain on the waiting list and be notified in order if additional spaces open up either before the school year begins or during the school year.

Waiting lists remain in effect for only the year of application. Those currently on the 2018-19 waiting list must reapply for the 2019-20 school year to be included on the new list for the 2019-20 school year.

**Note: To be eligible, a child must be a resident of California at the time of application.**

Based on the Core  
Principles of Public  
Waldorf Education  
K-8 Charter  
&  
K-5 Homeschool Program

Twin Hills  
School District

7285 Hayden Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

tel (707) 824-2844  
fax (707) 824-2861

[www.sunridgeschool.org](http://www.sunridgeschool.org)

## Grade Birthdates

Students will be enrolled or considered for the lottery in each class according to the chart below. Parental concerns about potential grade placement must be submitted in writing with the student's application for the Directors consideration.

### 2019-20 Birthdates for Class Enrollment:

\*Please note: Transitional Kindergarten birth dates fall between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Children with birth dates in this date range are placed in our 2-year Kindergarten.

| Birthdate         | Grade                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 6/2/14 – 12/02/14 | 2 yr kindergarten*    |
| 6/2/13 – 6/1/14   | 1 yr kindergarten     |
| 6/2/12 – 6/1/13   | 1 <sup>st</sup> grade |
| 6/2/11 – 6/1/12   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade |
| 6/2/10 – 6/1/11   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade |
| 6/2/09 – 6/1/10   | 4 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| 6/2/08 – 6/1/09   | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| 6/2/07 – 6/1/08   | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| 6/2/06 – 6/1/07   | 7 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| 6/2/05 – 6/1/06   | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade |

## Vaccination Requirements for Enrollment:

- Students who:
  - (1) are entering Kindergarten for the first time, or
  - (2) are entering 7th Grade, or
  - (3) are transferring from out-of state, or
  - (4) who do not already have a personal belief exemption (PBE) filed with a California school prior to 2016, or
  - (5) have a medical exemption (ME)will be required to meet the CDPH Immunization Requirements for their age.
- Students who have a PBE filed with a California school prior to 2016 will have to meet the CDPH requirements by the time they are ready to enter 7th grade.
- If it is required and your child is not fully immunized prior to enrollment, CDPH regulations allow for "conditional admission." What this requires is:
  - (1) Your child receives at least the first dose of all required vaccines prior to admission;
  - (2) Your child not be currently due for any doses at the time of admission; and
  - (3) Your child completes all the remaining doses when they become due in accordance with the official "Conditional Admission Immunization Schedule for Grade K-12."
  - If a student is "conditionally admitted" and does not receive the remaining doses when due, the law states that the student may not attend school and will be dis-enrolled.
- Students may enroll in the HomeSchool (Independent Study) Program without meeting the new vaccination requirements however, they will not be allowed to participate in classes.
- Full details of the CDPH Immunization Requirements can be found at: [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org)
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## School and Parent Partnership Agreement

SunRidge emphasizes parent involvement and contribution as key elements of our charter, and our enriched curriculum is financially dependent on voluntary pledge donations from our parent body. We have attached a copy of our *School and Parent Partnership Agreement* (below), which you would need to sign if you choose to enroll your child at SunRidge. Please read it carefully now to insure our school is a good match for your child and family.

**“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, let them go forth in freedom.” –Rudolf Steiner**  
**SunRidge Charter School**

## **SCHOOL AND PARENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SAMPLE)**

**Enrollment in SunRidge Charter School is a choice to participate in a specific approach to education that requires a strong working partnership between the school and every parent. As partners, we agree to the following:**

### **THE SCHOOL WILL:**

- Provide a safe and positive Waldorf-inspired learning environment and program.
- Treat parents and students respectfully.
- Maintain regular ongoing communication with parents through a weekly bulletin.
- Inform parents of the progress and activities of the class through letters from the teacher and regular class parent meetings. Parent participation in the activities of the school will be encouraged.
- Provide opportunities for parent education throughout the year.
- Provide at least one parent/teacher conferences per child, per year.
- Provide teachers with professional development and mentoring as needed.
- Encourage open and direct communication, with opportunities for parents to provide feedback and input, and clear protocols for expressing and resolving concerns, disagreements, or conflicts.

### **THE PARENTS WILL:**

- Provide a home life for their children that supports the efforts and approach of the school, including a rhythmic daily schedule, adequate sleep, a healthy diet, restricting electronic media exposure, and minimizing stressful circumstances in daily life.
- Read the SunRidge *Electronic Media Concerns and Guidelines* and make the necessary changes to be in alignment with the school and other parents in this mutual effort.
- Read the SunRidge Parent Handbook (and Kindergarten Handbook for kindergarten parents) and follow the school’s policies, procedures, and practices.
- Read the weekly school Bulletin to stay informed and respond as needed.
- Learn about Waldorf education to understand and be able to support the approach.
- Ensure regular and punctual daily attendance by their children.
- Monitor and support their children’s adherence to the school’s dress and behavior codes.
- Attend regularly scheduled class parent meetings and individual parent/teacher conferences.
- Participate in community service (volunteer) activities for the school using a guideline of 40 hours per parent per year as the expected contribution.
- Participate in our parent pledge program to the degree they are financially able, so that the school can continue to provide a full Waldorf inspired program for all students.
- Treat teachers and staff respectfully.
- Communicate concerns or conflicts quickly and directly to the appropriate person; follow the established procedures for healthy resolution of disagreement or conflict.

Rev.4/3/14

### **School Culture**

To support our unique educational environment, SunRidge School needs parents to understand the impact of exposure to electronic media on developing children, and to be committed to providing a home environment that does not work at cross purposes to the educational environment provided at school. One of the reasons parents choose our school is because we strive to provide an environment that protects their children from

media influences. It is important that new families understand how we must work together to create this environment for all of our students. Please read the Electronic Media Concerns and Guidelines below.

## **SunRidge School Electronic Media Concerns and Guidelines**

In our society, electronic media in all its forms is an ever-growing presence and influence in our lives. As adults we face the difficult choices of deciding how to use various media wisely, and when and how various media should be introduced into the lives of our children.

It is a well-documented fact that the experience of watching television affects the development of children. Strong evidence shows that habitual TV use negatively affects IQ, attention span, reading abilities, imagination, play, language patterns, critical thinking, self-image, perception of others, and moral values. Recent studies indicate that even a single viewing of violent behavior through electronic media can increase violent behavior in children. Habitual use of electronic media affects the child physically as well, altering brain waves, reducing critical eye movements, immobilizing the body, and undermining nutrition, eating habits, and exercise. The content of most TV, video and computer games, and movies shows a glaring disregard for the sensitivity and impressionability of the developing child, and gives commercial interests direct access to a child's forming mind and character.

At SunRidge, there is a conscious intention and effort to provide an educational environment that nurtures the imagination and healthy development of every child. Because electronic media exposure tends to work at cross-purposes to this intention and effort, SunRidge teachers need the support of parents in restricting media use in the home. Similarly, parents who choose our school because they want to protect their children as much as possible from the negative affects of electronic media also need the support of the parents of their children's classmates.

For these reasons, the kindergarten and class teachers request that SunRidge parents protect their children from exposure to electronic media. In order to support the work of the kindergarten teachers to create and maintain an environment that cultivates imagination, wonder and beauty, we ask that you make the necessary changes in your household(s) to eliminate your child's exposure to electronic media. SunRidge's definition of electronic media includes all electronic screen and voice technology devices: radio, TV, videos/DVD's, movies, video games, computers, cell phones, etc.

As a guideline, our expectation is that children from kindergarten through 3rd grade not be exposed to electronic media at all. We ask that any exposure to electronic media with children in grades 4 and 5 be limited to weekends only. Attention to content is particularly important if use is allowed, keeping in mind that electronically received images, language, and meaning lodge in the child's inner being and affect their behavior and sense of well-being at home and at school.

Early adolescence (grades 6-8) marks a time of increased exploration and desire to learn about the world. It also is a time when children do not yet have the maturity to make important life-affecting decisions, and need parental guidance and clear boundaries set by the responsible adults in their lives. We ask that parents of these older students work in partnership with our teachers to limit exposure to electronic media in ways that protect them from its negative influences while also encouraging their increasing capacities for discernment, critical thinking, and self-discipline (i.e., media literacy). We strongly recommend that any TV and movie use be limited to weekends only, and that parents supervise and restrict the use of TV, movies, computer and videogames, the internet, recorded music, and radio use due to the extremely varied content that is present through these media.

We recognize that restricting electronic media use in the home requires a commitment to a family lifestyle that runs counter to our mainstream culture. We also recognize that protecting children from media exposure is especially challenging in homes where older siblings are present, and when a child lives in more than one household. A whole-hearted effort to thoughtfully protect children from media exposure can only be successful when we educate ourselves about the affects of electronic media on children, and then exercise continual

determination to go “against the grain” in order to do what we believe is most healthy for them. We ask that every parent join us in this challenging, but so very important, commitment.

Rev.1/14/11