

## Enrollment for 2024-25: 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.*

**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, 2019 - April 2, 2020

June 2, 2018 - June 1, 2019

**Schedules and Attendance:** View the 2024-25 school calendar here: [shadecanyon.org/calendar](http://shadecanyon.org/calendar)  
Please plan family vacations around our school breaks; each day a student is absent, our funding is reduced.

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

**STUDENTS MAY BE DROPPED OFF NO EARLIER THAN 8:10AM**

**Parking, Arrivals, and Departures:** Do not walk on Sylar Lane, as there is no sidewalk and the road is narrow. Please carpool to school whenever possible.

There is a **one-way traffic flow** through the school from Sylar Lane: Enter at the far driveway (eastern) and drive to the back of the property so that you are circling the parking strip divider with the plum trees in it. Let your student out at the corner of the building and exit at the near driveway (western) to State Street. Please carpool to school whenever possible.

We had considered changing the flow of traffic in the parking lot for the 24/25 school year, but it will be remaining the same due to a future design plan that would make it dangerous to enter from the other direction.

**Lunch and Snacks:** Please make sure your child has an adequate breakfast at home including protein and little to no sugar to provide energy for the morning. Snacks and lunch should be nutritious and well-balanced, avoiding gum, candy, and sugary foods. We will provide a simple and nutritious breakfast and lunch option for any child who requests it. We ask that families consider donating \$5 per week if their child takes advantage of this service, but it is not required. WE WILL ALWAYS FEED A CHILD WHO REQUESTS A MEAL.

DONATIONS TO THE PROGRAM CAN BE MADE VIA PAYPAL:



Peanut and Tree-Nut-Free School: Due to the potentially fatal allergic reaction experienced by many people to peanuts and tree nuts, Shade Canyon is a peanut and tree-nut-free school. We appreciate your consideration of others and understand that this can be a challenge to lovers of PB & J sandwiches. A popular and safe alternative is Sun Butter, made from sunflower seeds. Use this link to discover other delicious and nutritious alternatives: [The 7 Most Mouthwatering Nut Butter Alternatives, According to Nutritionists \(marthastewart.com\)](#)

**School Supplies:** Another of the major differences between a Waldorf school and a traditional school, is the materials the children use in their schoolwork. All are carefully chosen for their high quality and because they are made from natural materials. For this reason, the school will supply many of the materials used by your children in each classroom. Some exceptions may apply in the higher grades, each teacher will supply classroom materials lists if needed.

To support the child's full day of imaginative learning, including the very important outdoor learning that we will pursue in all weather, we ask that you supply the following:

- A full set of waterproof clothing: coat, pants, and boots
  - The school can help with this, as needed. Please see Miss Birdie
- A complete change of clothes stored inside a standard, cotton pillowcase: short and long-sleeved shirts, pants, underwear, socks, and a sweater or light jacket.

**After School Program:** Shade Canyon is not offering an after school program.

**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. **Please see the Parent Handbook for a complete list of dress code guidelines.**

- 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. **Please see the Media Policy in the Parent Handbook.**

**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.

**PLEASE REFERENCE THE PARENT HANDBOOK FOR COMPLETE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**