

# WELLSPRING SCHOOL PLEDGE INFORMATION

## 2011-2012

The Pledge System: Wellspring School acknowledges that education is a gift given to the children by this school community and is not a service to be purchased by an individual family. In this way the pledge system is a radical departure from common economic thought where getting the “best deal” for the least amount of money is the goal. Instead of trying to find a bargain each parent is asked to pledge money and work so that the gift of a Waldorf education can be offered to as many children in our community as possible. The belief behind the pledge system is that our trust of one another is crucial to the success of the school. Individual families are asked to pledge, as generously as possible, tuition and work that supports the entire school community. Your pledge provides for your own child’s education and helps make this education possible for every child who attends. The entire parent community gives a heartwarming and huge amount of financial and volunteer support for Wellspring. Let us share and express the appreciation we feel for one another’s contributions throughout the year, as we all carry the school and its students in our hearts and into the future.

The Value of Waldorf Education: How important is a Waldorf education and Wellspring School to you? Wellspring offers something unique in this area. If you were to list the most important things for your child’s well-being and development, where would Waldorf education be on the list?

Financial commitment and determining your monetary and work pledges: Fees for the 2011-12 tuition and materials are on a separate page. The school community must commit to raising funds outside of tuition in order to support financial assistance to families.

Pledge Work: Families are asked to make a pledge of work that will help offset school operating costs and help make special events happen. A list of jobs is included in this pledge packet. The faculty and administration approve work and committee assignments. Families are held accountable for their contracted work by committee chairs, faculty, and administrative personnel.

The pledge process is as follows:

1. All families return a pledge form, which details their tuition and work pledges. Divorced families can either pledge together or separately. If they pledge separately, each is responsible for 50% of the tuition,

- unless they agree to split the cost differently. Each will then have their own pledge form and meeting.
2. This year all families will be asked to attend a meeting where their tuition pledge, payment schedule, committee and other work interests are discussed in greater detail.
  3. The faculty and administration review all pledged work assignments before contracts are issued.
  4. Following spring pledging, tuition and work contracts are sent out to parents. These must be returned by July 1, along with a minimum payment of ten percent of the family's pledge. You are officially enrolled once the contract and payment is received.
  5. Final Decisions: the Board of Trustees may ask parents to increase pledges if tuition goals cannot be met during the spring pledge season.

All pledge forms and meetings are confidential. Tuition information is shared only with the pledge committee members at your meeting, and with the administrator who creates contracts and bills tuition.

For families entering after June 1 the Pledge Contract must be returned along with the first payment prior to enrollment.