

What is a Waldorf Charter School?

A public Waldorf Charter school is a public school that is funded using state funds and subject to state and federal laws, but locally controlled allowing for greater freedom in curriculum, methods, and approach to teaching.

	Juniper Ridge Community School	Private Waldorf Schools	Traditional Public Schools
Access	<p>Tuition-free, publicly funded</p> <p>All abilities, backgrounds, and demographics welcome and accepted through the lottery</p> <p>Parents chose to send children to charter school</p>	<p>Charge for tuition</p> <p>Selective admissions</p> <p>Parents chose to send children to private school</p>	<p>Tuition-free</p> <p>Accepts all students within geographic area</p>
Content	Cover all state required core standards, Waldorf curriculum, plus specialty classes	Cover traditional Waldorf curriculum plus specialty classes	Cover state required core standards
Curriculum	<p>Matches content with child's development</p> <p>Includes global stories, arts, culture, traditions, and myths</p> <p>Learning is approached in an imaginative and artistic manner</p>	<p>Matches content with child's development</p> <p>Includes global stories, arts, culture, traditions, and myths</p> <p>Learning is approached in an imaginative and artistic manner</p>	Early academics
Methods	<p>Hands-on</p> <p>Integrated, arts rich approach to academics</p> <p>Students create their own texts</p> <p>Nature-based</p> <p>Slow tech</p>	<p>Hands-on</p> <p>Integrated, arts rich approach to academics</p> <p>Students create their own texts</p> <p>Nature-based</p> <p>Slow tech</p>	<p>Subjects taught individually</p> <p>Workbooks and worksheets, drills</p> <p>Computers used for instruction</p>
Assessment	<p>Students tracked on holistic learning goals</p> <p>Portfolios and narrative reports document learning</p> <p>Students complete State-mandated testing</p>	<p>Students tracked on holistic learning goals</p> <p>Portfolios and narrative reports document learning</p>	<p>Students are assigned letter grades</p> <p>Students are tracked primarily for academic learning goals</p> <p>Students complete State-mandated testing</p>
Community	<p>Cooperative and nurturing</p> <p>Classes stay together with teacher for numerous years</p> <p>Significant family involvement</p>	<p>Cooperative and nurturing</p> <p>Classes stay together with teacher for numerous years</p> <p>Significant family involvement</p>	<p>Comparative and competitive</p> <p>New teacher and class each year</p>
Teachers	<p>State certified, high qualified teachers in every class</p> <p>Waldorf certified teachers (or teachers in training) in every class</p> <p>Craft artistic lessons based on student needs</p>	<p>Waldorf certified teachers (or teachers in training) in every class</p> <p>Craft artistic lessons based on student needs</p>	<p>State certified, high qualified teachers in every class</p> <p>Teach pre-set curriculum as required by districts</p>