Explore. Wonder. Imagine.

Public Waldorf Education







Imagine...a public school where children raise chickens and sheep, hike along wooded paths, climb trees, plant gardens and pick apples - all as part of the curriculum and all while learning their primary subjects: reading, mathematics, science and social studies...

Imagine...a public school where music, art, movement, critical thinking, collaboration and boundless inquiry are encouraged, where a child's head, heart and hands become coordinated learning tools, and where "joyful" is the word most used to describe teachers, students and staff...

Imagine...a public school where the hallways and classrooms are filled with the sound of children singing and the aroma of baking bread...

This public school is not Imaginary it is...

COS
CIRCLE OF SEASONS

8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, Pa 18051 | 610.285.6267 | www.circleofseasons.org



At COS, we think differently...

"Think Outside the Test Bubble"

Circle of Seasons (COS) Charter School, located in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, is the only public school on the East Coast that is guided by the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education. There are many private schools that offer a Waldorf Education all over the world but they require parents to spend thousands of dollars to pay for their child's education.

We believe that happiness, inspiration, creativity and fun are compatible with public education and should not be limited to those who can afford a private school experience. Our school is free and open to all students, no matter their background or financial circumstance. At a time when many students, parents and elected officials are increasingly disillusioned with the state of American public education and its focus on testing and test preparation, COS offers all families an opportunity to "think outside the test bubble."

Circle of Seasons opened in September 2013, with 110 Kindergarten, first- and second-graders. Two years later, we more than doubled in growth: enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year totaled 228 students in grades Kindergarten through fourth-grade. We add one grade per year and our campus will support enrollment up to eighth grade.

COS has a unique Public School approach...



"Before Kindergarten started I did a lot of research into the schools in our area. I looked at both public and private schools and was very concerned about finding a place that would give my son a great start. Specifically I want him to have a love of learning, a curiosity about the world and the drive to want to find solutions to problems. Every day my son comes home bubbling about his day. He is delighted with the nature walks, the bread making and the mud. Every story and every song reaffirms that I have found the perfect place for him."

– Amanda Kaiser
First-Grade Parent

- ***The COS curriculum emphasizes the arts; drawing, painting, music and drama enhance traditional subject matter. Recorders are introduced in first grade. Fourth-graders learn a stringed instrument, and fifth-graders participate in chorus.***
- ***Fiber arts, woodworking and other types of handwork are offered to teach children patience, concentration and fine motor skills.***
- ***COS teachers "loop" – they stay with one class through several grades. This allows them to develop a comprehensive understanding of their students' strengths and challenges.***
- ***COS offers and encourages service-oriented projects within our school and local communities.***
- ***A critical understanding of technology is taught before its use is implemented.***
- ***Students engage in outdoor instruction and play for a substantial portion of each day, regardless the weather. Nature study, gardening and animal care are integrated with the curriculum.***
- ***Students create their own text-books, demonstrating their own progress throughout the year in meticulous detail.***
- ***Homework is project-based and limited to meaningful assignments that enrich subject matter.***



How we think differently...Public Waldorf

Circle of Seasons takes a "whole-child" and arts-integrated approach to learning and provides the kind of educational experience that leading experts have consistently promoted for years. Schools obviously need to teach the core subjects: language arts, math, science, social studies and foreign language. But without the arts, physical activity and outdoor exploration – without play – where is the joy in learning?

Our approach may seem non-traditional, but it's hardly new. Waldorf Education was created nearly 100 years ago. COS offers a Public Waldorf Education, viewed as cutting-edge in today's world because its principles, grounded in child development, are different from the methods most public schools employ:

- *We recognize the strengths and challenges of each student and implement strategies to develop the child's unique qualities as tools for self-directed learning.*
- *We teach children through hands-on experience, rather than test preparation and rote memorization.*
- *We provide a rigorous curriculum designed to help children formulate and articulate their own answers to the bigger questions at the heart of each subject.*
- *We give our teachers the freedom to enhance the curriculum based on the needs of their class.*
- *We offer diverse activities designed to engage, motivate and inspire.*
- *We develop a child's internal motivation, rather than relying on external rewards and punishment to influence behavior.*
- *We cultivate a sense of beauty, wonder and deep respect for the natural world.*
- *We impart an appreciation for different cultures and encourage cooperation, collaboration and healthy competition.*

We use the 4 C's...

Communication
Collaboration
Critical Thinking
Creativity

According to Forbes, these are the very competencies that support the top five skills that employers want in college graduates:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to communicate verbally with people inside and outside an organization
4. Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information



"Education is not the filling of the pail, but the lighting of the fire".
–Plutarch



Why we think differently...Charter Schools

The role of charter schools, as directed by the Commonwealth, is to "serve as laboratories of innovation on behalf of all of Pennsylvania's schools" (Act 22 of 1997). Charter schools provide the only opportunity, outside of private education, for students and parents to experience innovative curricula.

At COS, we believe that if we teach children how to think critically and creatively, how to make connections and how to communicate and collaborate, we will help them achieve academically, develop new answers to global issues and prepare them to take on jobs that do not yet exist. At a time when elected officials nationwide are in a stalemate over accountability standards, COS offers families a fresh perspective on what's possible in public education.

Circle of Seasons is leading the way to change!

When a charter school thrives, opportunities for advancement in education are more readily available for all public school children. We believe Circle of Seasons uniquely fulfills the Commonwealth's legislation for Pennsylvania charter schools:

1) Improve pupil learning: *The COS curriculum is child development-based. At COS, students "live" what they learn. Content is integrated in all subjects.*

2) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils: *COS incorporates art, music, foreign language, physical activity and outdoor play into the curriculum. At many public schools, these "specials" often have been eliminated due to budget cuts.*

3) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site: *As a model of shared governance, Circle of Seasons teachers are encouraged to contribute to the curriculum.*

4) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods: *Our teachers are highly attuned to the needs of their class and shape their teaching methods accordingly.*

5) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system: *COS serves students in nearly 30 different urban, suburban and rural school districts.*

6) Meet measurable academic standards; provide the school with a method to establish accountability systems: *COS teachers prepare for the PSSAs by fully engaging students in core academic subjects through the integration of the arts, movement and imagination.*







Think Differently...

We invite you to learn more about Circle of Seasons Charter School and to vist our extraordinary school.
For more information, please contact us: 610-285-6267 | info@circleofseasons.org | www.circleofseasons.org