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## Grade 1-8 Skill Goals for English and Mathematics

### Introduction

*"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives." — Rudolf Steiner*

This document presents a set of skill goals, or benchmarks, in language arts and mathematics for grades one through eight at Ashwood Waldorf School. The details of this document were discussed, refined, and mutually agreed on over the course of several years by Ashwood's teaching faculty.

**We offer this document as a statement of what a *majority* of a given class may be expected to master within a given timeframe.** At the same time, we wish to make clear our belief that it is the birthright of every child to travel a unique path to literacy and numeracy, and that it is our deepest wish—and a foundational tenant of Waldorf education—to observe, understand, and honor this developmental path in each child. **Put simply, children will move through these academic benchmarks at their own pace.**

As teachers, we cannot help but be passionate about the mastery of such skills such as proper punctuation and long division. These and other so-called "hard" skills often build one upon the other, preparing students to tackle new, exciting, and more challenging tasks. And, achieving any new skill can give a student a sense of personal mastery as well as a new way of knowing and understanding his or her world.

In making this document available to parents, we hope to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding. We also hope, through this document, to strengthen the circle of caring adults that surrounds each child in our community as we all work toward creating the best possible learning experience for each child.

We welcome your questions and feedback on any aspect of the curriculum. Your thoughts and questions may be brought to your child's class teacher or any member of the faculty. Questions about your child are best brought in one-on-one meetings with your child's teachers, either informally or during parent-teacher conferences.

# Ashwood Waldorf School English Skill Goals

## ENGLISH SKILLS GOALS, CLASS 1

- Recognizes and can print upper case letters
- Knows vowel sounds
- Knows sounds of consonants
- Expresses ideas clearly in speech
- Can retell parts of stories heard
- Can retell stories in own words
- Can imitate pronunciation
- Can ask questions for clarification
- Follows one- and two-part directions
- Can verbally describe things and events
- Can read and write own first name

## ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 2

- Recognizes and can write upper and lower case letters in print
- Able to identify consonant sounds at beginning, middle and end of words
- Knows hard and soft sounds (g, c, y)
- Recognizes some of the following:
  - digraphs (ch, sh, th, etc.)
  - consonant blends (br, fl, str, etc.)
  - vowel digraphs (ea, ie, oa, etc.)
  - vowel blends (au, ao, ou, etc.)
- Recognizes many word families (e.g., lock/dock/sock, bold/sold/fold)
- Sounds out short unfamiliar words and letter patterns logically
- Recognizes a range of sight words (e.g., the, and, to)
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Expresses ideas clearly in speech
- Beginning to read printed words

## ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 3

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - rhymes
  - cursive writing
  - words with same meaning (e.g. dirt, soil), opposite meaning (e.g. light, dark), and same sound but different meaning (e.g. led, lead)
  - main parts of speech (called naming words, doing words, etc.): nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions
  - capitalizations and end punctuation
  - simple spelling rules and letter patterns

- poetic rhythms (by pattern, not by name)
- Takes simple dictation
- Sounds out unfamiliar words
- Invents logical spelling for unfamiliar words
- Recognizes and self-corrects errors in oral reading
- Reads for meaning
- Can paraphrase verbally
- Has established a sight vocabulary of key words (the, and, of, for, from, we, us, them, they, he, she, I, me, do, will, can, fly, walk, sit, sat, etc.)
- Reads from printed text
- Knows common words with unusual letter combinations (...ght, sch..., etc.)
- Expresses ideas clearly in writing (sentence length)
- Can alphabetize by first letter

#### **ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 4**

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - basic punctuation and capitalization (period, comma, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, capital letters)
  - proper and common nouns
  - simple tenses
  - contractions
  - syllabification and hyphenation
  - basic spelling rules (doubled consonants, dropping silent e, silent letters, etc.)
  - letter form (salutation, address, envelope, etc.)
  - alliterations
  - rhymes
  - synonyms, antonyms, homonyms (homophones), homographs
- Has a basic understanding of the principle parts of speech
- Reads for meaning and with appropriate level of expression (smoothly, with attention to punctuation)
- Can paraphrase verbally (oral book reports, etc.)
- Can use helping verbs, and verb phrases appropriately in speaking and writing
- Uses complete sentences in speaking
- Speaks with appropriate expression
- Can define words from context
- Takes dictation
- Maintains understanding and continuity in reading
- Can make simple inferences about material read (e.g. How would you feel if this happened to you? How do you think the character would feel?)
- Has basic dictionary skills (find word, read definition)

## ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 5

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - parts of speech
  - complete sentences
  - prepositions and prepositional phrases
  - nouns and pronouns as subject and object
  - possessives
  - pronoun reference
  - paragraph structure (main idea, topic sentence)
  - spelling and usage rules
  - basic punctuation (period, comma, apostrophe, exclamation point, question mark, capitalization, quotation marks), helping verbs
- Alphabetizes by second and third letters
- Expresses ideas independently in speech and writing
- Reads for meaning and with expression
- Distinguishes between narrative and dialogue in reading
- Recognizes plot
- Organizes information into provided paragraph/essay structure (e.g. written reports)
- Takes dictation
- Can discuss material read, making inferences and drawing conclusions

## ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 6

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - first person, second person, third person
  - rhyming schemes, simile, metaphor
  - narrative, expository and descriptive writing
  - prepositional phrase functions (adjective, adverb)
  - noun functions (subject, direct and indirect object, object of preposition)
  - transitive and intransitive verbs
  - conjunctions
  - complete sentences
  - basic punctuation (period, comma, apostrophe, exclamation point, question mark, capitalization, quotation marks, semicolon)
  - all parts of speech
  - state of being verbs
- Recognizes and corrects many errors in grammar, usage, spelling and mechanics
- Recognizes run-ons and fragments
- Recognizes and uses consistency in verb tense
- Reads for information
- Reads for meaning and with expression
- Expresses ideas clearly in speech and writing

- Can paraphrase verbally and in writing
- Reads for information
- Takes notes from text
- Takes extensive dictation
- Uses simple report format (cover, report, biblio)
- Can write reports using a provided structure
- Can read and follow an outline
- Understands subplot
- Can cite evidence from the text supporting a given conclusion
- Can make logical plot inferences on the basis of plot/ character analysis
- Can discuss basic elements of style (e.g. Why did the author choose this wording? Why might this description be more/less detailed than another?)
- Can understand and complete simple word analogies

### **ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 7**

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - subjunctive mood
  - active and passive voice
  - coordinating conjunctions (“FANBOY”), correlative conjunctions (either, or), and subordinating conjunctions (because)
  - subject/ verb agreement
  - clauses and phrases
  - all basic punctuation and capitalization introduced through grade 6
  - sentence and paragraph structure
  - essay form ( main idea, thesis statement, concluding paragraph)
  - complete sentences
  - poetic rhythms, meter
  - nouns and pronouns and their main functions (subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition)
  - prepositional phrases and their functions (adjective and adverb)
- Independently recognizes and corrects errors in grammar, usage, spelling and mechanics
- Recognizes and corrects run-ons and fragments
- Able to do rudimentary sentence diagramming
- Uses writing to express feeling, moods and aspirations
- Reads for meaning and with expression
- Expresses ideas clearly in speech and writing
- Recognizes plot and theme
- Can distinguish between fact and opinion
- Can cite examples from text to support own ideas and conclusions regarding material read
- Can understand and complete word analogies of intermediate difficulty

## ENGLISH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 8

- Recognizes and correctly uses:
  - infinitives
  - predicate noun, predicate adjective
  - appositives
  - all punctuation and capitalization
  - homophones (e.g., their, they're, there), homographs, etc.
  - metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and other figures of speech
  - active and passive voice
  - direct and indirect speech
- Able to diagram complex sentences
- Reads for meaning and information
- Can interpret and paraphrase verbally and in writing
- Can infer author's point of view from contextual clues
- Can recognize and distinguish between plot and theme
- Can recognize and discuss the use of stylistic devices: simile and metaphor, foreshadowing, personification, etc.
- Familiar with life and work of Shakespeare
- Recognizes literary genres:
  - drama: comedy, tragedy, tragicomedy, history
  - fiction, non-fiction, history, biography
  - short story, novel
  - poetic forms: sonnet, haiku, etc.
  - primary and secondary sources
- Can recognize and complete complex word analogies
- Can take notes while listening
- Can write and use a simple outline
- Can research and write reports
- Uses the the five-paragraph essay form
- Can do teacher guided editing and revising
- Can write simple footnotes or cite sources in text
- In writing, can appropriately use: dependent clauses, complex sentences, perfect tenses, participle phrases, simple similes and metaphors, personification

# Ashwood Waldorf School Mathematics Skill Goals

*Each year includes the topics of the all the previous year's topics.*

## **MATH THEMES AND AREAS OF STUDY, CLASS 1**

- Number qualities
- Counting
- Four Processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division

## **MATH THEMES AND AREAS OF STUDY, CLASS 2**

- Time
- Continued work with all four processes
- Multiplication table practice
- Introduction of place value

## **MATH THEMES AND AREAS OF STUDY, CLASS 3**

- Measurement (standard system): linear, volume, weight, time, money
- Vertical addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Carrying and borrowing in addition and subtraction
- Multiplication table practice

## **MATH THEMES AND AREAS OF STUDY, CLASS 4**

- Multiplication with carrying
- Introduction to fractions
- Introduction to long division
- Times tables mastered
- Factors
- Multiples

## **MATH THEMES AND AREAS OF STUDY, CLASS 5**

- Short division
- Decimals
- Prime factorization
- Reciprocals
- Dividing fractions
- Simple ratios
- Square numbers
- Prime numbers
- Averaging

## **MATH SKILL GOALS, CLASS 6**

- Business Math – Interest, Tax, Discounts,
- Rate
- Ratios
- Graphing
- Percents
- Fraction to Decimal to Percent Conversions
- Metric System

## **GEOMETRY SKILL GOALS, CLASS 6**

- Area and Perimeter
- Use of compass and straight edge
- Circles, Division of circles, Triangles, Polygons
- Triangles
- Polygons

## **ALGEBRA SKILL GOALS, CLASS 7**

- Positive and negative integers
- Powers and exponents
- Order of operations
- Combining like terms
- Variable expressions
- Simple scientific notation
- Graphing
- Irrational numbers

## **GEOMETRY SKILLS, CLASS 7**

- Properties of lines
- Nature, classes and construction of triangles, quadrilaterals
- Pythagorean theorem
- Area and perimeter of quadrilaterals
- Sum of angles
- Golden Mean
- Fibonacci numbers

## **ALGEBRA SKILL GOALS, CLASS 8**

- Algebra I topics
- Simplifying expressions and solving equations o o Function rule  
Functions



- Polynomials
- Graphing
- Powers and exponents
- Radicals, square and cube roots (optional)

### **GEOMETRY SKILL GOALS, CLASS 8**

- Methods for determining Pi
  - Finding area and circumference of circles
- Solid Geometry
  - Surface area and volume