



Newsletter June 2020

FREE PUBLIC CHARTER!

WHOLE-CHILD EDUCATION | NATURE | ARTS-INTEGRATION



Mountain Sunrise Academy emphasizes whole child education by utilizing Waldorf principles to promote academic excellence through educational artistry and experiential learning while inspiring the spirit and imagination of each child.

SERVING GRADES K-6 IN SARATOGA SPRINGS!



**MOUNTAIN
SUNRISE
ACADEMY**

- Waldorf Education
- Permaculture Gardening
- Multi-Cultural Festivals
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Spanish • Drama • Music

ENROLL AT: MountainSunriseAcademy.org

CONTACT: Hello@MountainSunriseAcademy.org

[Letter from our Founder & Executive Director](#)



Dear Families,

"Each second we live in a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and will never be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four, and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all of the world, there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been another child like you... You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is like you, a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work—we must all work—to make this world worthy of its children." Source: Joys and Sorrows: Reflections by Pablo Casals, page 295

The above quote by Casals, is especially poignant today as we live in a current world of events that one could likely have never anticipated. The world has changed quickly over a few month's time. Teaching only "facts and figures" as referenced in the quote above isn't enough in education today. That is why our whole-child model of education, which teaches not only academics, but social and emotional development, resiliency and grit, and practical skills in self-sufficiency, is so relevant today. These valued skills give each individual capacities they can use now and the ability to thrive in whatever comes toward them out of the future.

In addition, Casal's quote about honoring a child's gifts and uniqueness, is something our whole-child model values. We care about each child in our school and the potential they each hold within. To show that care and interest, our teachers would normally be making a home visit to meet each student before school starts. Given our current situation with the pandemic, our teachers will be reaching out to you in July via email to set up a Zoom conference to meet you and your child.

We are pleased to be offering Utah County's first Charter School based on Waldorf Education! We look forward to implementing this forward-thinking educational model that promotes the 21st-century learning skills of collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity that will benefit our school children now as well as prepare them for the future as they go about doing good in the world and making it a better place. We aim to take on Casal's challenge and "make the world worthy of its children."

Likely the leading question of most parents is what will education in the fall look like at our school? Mountain Sunrise Academy is staying aware of state and health guidelines, We have a board committee, including a practicing nurse, who are making plans for different risk levels. Much of what may be required can't be determined currently as the situation is in a state of flux. Our school has not been notified yet if the state will have certain requirements or if they will leave it up to our school governing Board of Trustees to decide. We'll keep you posted when there's been a determination. If our Board of Trustees is able to make decisions on this matter then we will reach out to you as parent stakeholders for your feedback as well.

We have some exciting events planned! I hope you'll join us for our Online Parent Information Meeting this Tuesday evening. Invitations for the meeting will be sent out via email. If you are unable to join, we will be having another Information session in July. We will also be at the Lehi Farmer's Market next month. Please drop by and introduce yourself!

The material for our Sewing Project for block crayon kits will be arriving shortly so please sign up to help with this project if you are interested. There are other opportunities available to sign up with various committees on the volunteer link below. We saw a lot of participation when our first newsletter went out last month and are pleased to see your interest and involvement!

Please plan to attend our "Meet Your Teacher Picnic" in July. Due to the concerns of social gathering, we will have a time assigned according to last names for you to come meet your child's teacher rather than us all joining at the same time. More information will be disseminated via email about this fun event!

We are opening up a new private parent page on Facebook for enrolled families at Mountain Sunrise Academy. We hope you will use this place to coordinate carpools, plan events, and get to know one another! The Facebook name is [Mountain Sunrise Academy Parent Community](#). Please join!

We're excited to offer online registration! We have worked to make this a quick and easy process. There will be a number of required documents in which you'll be able to easily add your signature. Please look for registration to be open the first week in July! An email will be sent to you with a link once registration is available and it will also be announced on our Facebook page.

Thanks to all you wonderful parents! We're thrilled you have chosen

Mountain Sunrise Academy and we are excited to start school in just a few months!

Warmly,
Krystelle Rose M.A. Ed., M.B.A.

[Volunteer Here](#)

Building Progress Photos



UPCOMING!

DATES TO REMEMBER

MEET YOUR TEACHER PICNIC! Saturday, July 25

Please watch your email
for more information
about this event!

ONLINE PARENT INFORMATION MEETING, 7:00pm Tuesday, June 23

Watch for a Zoom
meeting link to be sent
out via email. If you can't
make this event we will be
having another
information session in
July!

LEHI FARMER'S MARKET July 10-11

Come visit us at the Lehi
Farmer's Market!
Friday from 5 PM-closing;
Saturday 9 AM-2 PM
South of Pioneer Crossing
on Center Watch for the
big bus & sign! 7431 N
8000 W Lehi

GRAND OPENING! Saturday, August 8

Save the Date!

SCHOOL BEGINS! Wednesday, August 12

Can't wait for the big day!

NEW PARENT COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP!

[Mountain Sunrise
Academy Parent
Community](#)

SPOTLIGHTS



6th Grade Teacher Spotlight

Susan McDonald



Board Member Spotlight

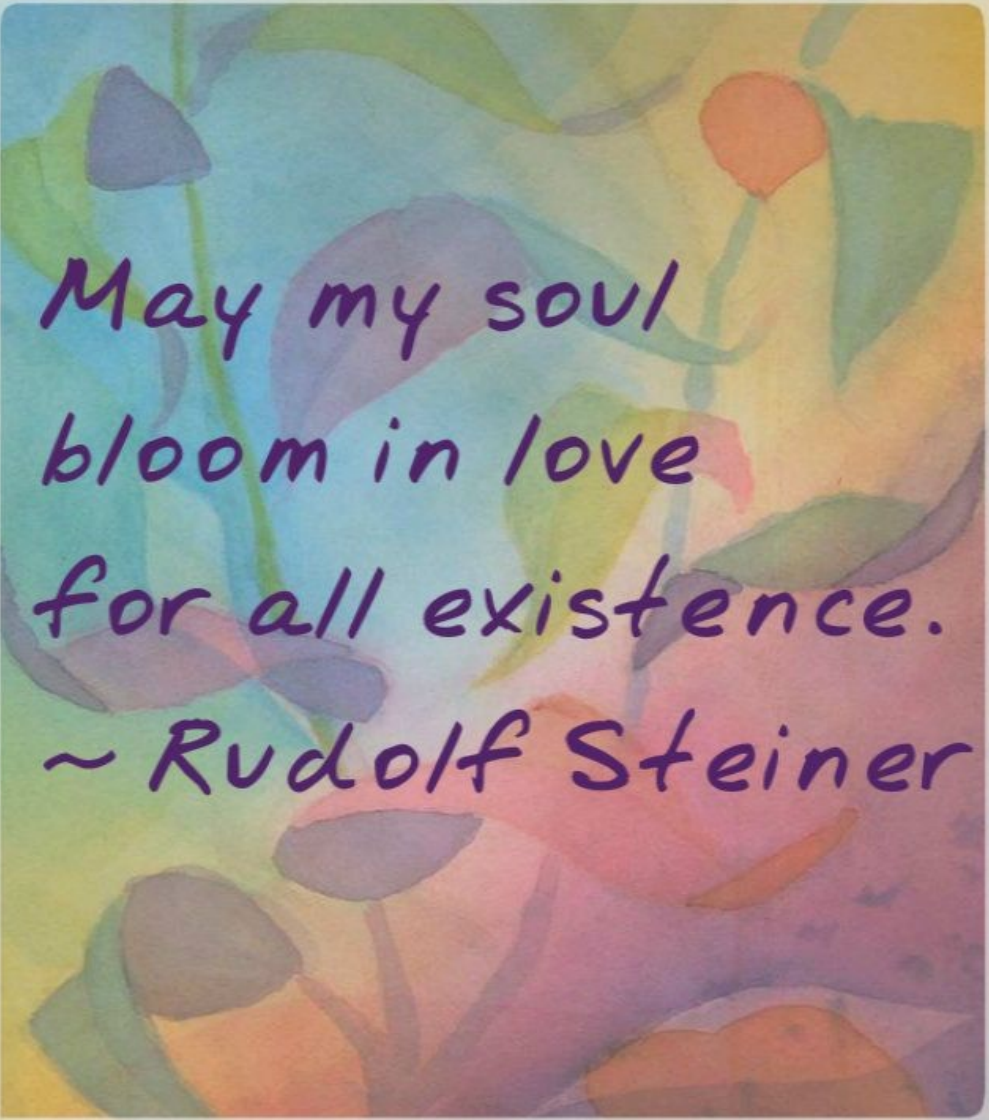
**Sienna Valadez, Board
Vice-President**

Sienna is a lover of the Arts and Education. Theater has had a major impact on her life. Her love of theater followed her through college, where she earned a BA in Theater and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Utah. She worked as a reading specialist for the Granite School District for 4 years. Later she combined her two passions in her children's theater studio where she guides elementary aged children in learning about the theater process and performing. Sienna has 3 beautiful children that keep her busy all the time. When she isn't busy with mom duties she enjoys hiking, camping and practicing yoga. She is so excited to be a part of this amazing school whose education philosophy aligns so much with her own.

I am honored to be part of Mountain Sunrise Academy. I love ancient literature, poetry, and all the fine and performing arts. My love of Waldorf education began at Brigham Young University where I read about "Agency Education" and discovered that the only schools in existence that practiced this type of education were the Waldorf schools with Rudolf Steiner's philosophical base of understanding that the child comes to us, not as a blank slate, but with an individual mission to perform in the world. One of my favorite C.S. Lewis quotes about education says: "The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."

Modern educational models have often left our children bereft of culture and story. In most school settings they have forgotten what stirs the soul and quickens the mind. I believe it is my responsibility to teach in a way that touches the head, heart, and hands of each student. Good curriculum, balanced to meet the needs of children at each stage of their growth and development is vital. The arts are vital. A connection to the natural world is vital. Community connection is vital. I see all these vital components beautifully enfolded in the Waldorf approach to education.

Here is a picture of me and my sweet husband on our Lord of the Rings Day family celebration. I always feel the need to sew costumes when I love something. I have a family that loves the theater and I always say, "They are the performers, I create the costumes and clap."



May my soul
bloom in love
for all existence.
~ Rudolf Steiner

GET INVOLVED

Sewing Project



We have a great opportunity available for sewing block crayon rolls for grades K-3, please sign up by clicking the Sign-Up Genius link below.

We will contact you with more information!

[Sign-Up Genius Link](#)

Does Your Garden Need Help?

Worm castings (aka:worm poo) are the gardener's secret weapon and nature's most perfect plant food wrapped into one. They're a natural soil supplement and the most potent organic fertilizer in the world. Worm castings contain large populations of beneficial microorganisms including active bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and nematodes; along with naturally occurring plant growth hormones. Worm castings contains minerals such as concentrated nitrates, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and phosphorus. You can either buy worm castings, or better yet, keep a worm farm! If you have room for a bucket or shoebox, then you have room for a worm bin in your home. Making a worm bin is just as easy as it sounds: combine a few simple ingredients and add some composting worms. You will then have a place to add your kitchen scraps and turn them into luscious fertilizer for anything you grow. Here are just a few of the benefits:

Plants grow faster

Soil aeration

Water retention

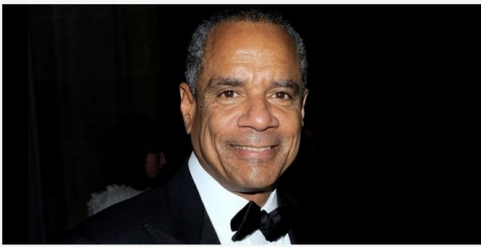
All-natural

No heavy metals

Burn-proof

Natural pesticide

Increase crop yeild



Kenneth Chenault, CEO of American Express

"I think the end result of Waldorf education is to raise our consciousness. There is a heightened consciousness of what our senses bring us from the world around us, about our feelings, about the way we relate to other people. It taught me how to think for myself, to be responsible for my decisions. Second, it made me a good listener, sensitive to the needs of others. And third, it helped to establish meaningful beliefs."

Jennifer Anniston, Actress

"I look back on my Steiner years with extreme fondness. I believe that every aspect of the educational ethos shaped me into the...confident well-balanced person I am today."



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