



## Megan Gaydosh — A Teacher's Perspective

CSWS Class of 2002 • Ponderosa High Class of 2006

California State University Sacramento, BA in Child Development 2011

California State University Sacramento, Teaching Credential 2013

**A**s a current teacher at a “traditional” school, Megan has a unique perspective on Waldorf Education and her time at Cedar Springs. She attended Cedar Springs from Kindergarten through Eighth grade and described herself as a “total Waldorf child.” She continued, “I just loved [Cedar Springs]. I am very musical and learned better artistically. I loved being able to draw and sing and learn different



things.” For Megan, “the plays really stuck out. I loved performing... and becoming a better reader by learning my lines.”

“I think that I really would have struggled in a regular classroom. At Waldorf you learn at your own pace, when you are mature and ready. I didn’t feel any pressure like a lot of kids feel... I did struggle with reading and writing... but I don’t remember feeling like I had a hard time reading until I went to a public summer school... and overheard the teacher telling my parents... around 4<sup>th</sup> grade it clicked, and I remember being able to read well and loving it.

[Waldorf] really lets you grow at your own pace.”

After graduating from Cedar Springs, Megan attended Ponderosa High School and then attended Santa Barbara City College. While living in Santa Barbara, Megan worked at a Waldorf afterschool program, which is where she realized her dream to become a teacher. She

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ultimately transferred to Sacramento State University where she earned a Bachelors degree in Child Development as well as a credential in Special Education and Child Development. For two years Megan worked as a special education teacher. “I could really sympathize with the struggling readers,” she relayed. She is currently

teaching at Brentwood Academy in East Palo Alto. “I love it... I love kids... I love teaching and going to the kindergarten class and helping them, especially with reading.”

As a teacher, she continues to draw from her Waldorf experiences, “Waldorf is very different than what we are taught as teachers. The expectations [at traditional schools] are blown out of proportion. Everybody needs to calm down.” On her teaching approach she described, “instead of pencil and paper, I try my best as a teacher to put [music and art] in a curriculum. We sing a lot of songs as we are learning... as much as we can.” Megan’s students are fortunate to have her bringing the magic of Waldorf into the classroom.

-A. M. Steiner

