



Summerfield

WALDORF SCHOOL & FARM

May Faire Festival

2025: Friday, May 3; 2024: Friday, May 2

Waldorf education celebrates May Faire (or May Day) as a way to honor spring, nature, and the rhythms of the Earth. The aim is to instill a sense of gratitude for the beauty of nature, the joy of community, and the cycles of life. This festival is rooted in ancient European traditions, which marked the arrival of spring with celebrations of renewal, fertility, and the blossoming of life. Waldorf schools integrate this festival into their curriculum as part of their focus on connecting children with the natural world and seasonal cycles.

At Summerfield Waldorf, the Preschool and Kindergarten teachers host May Day celebrations in their play yards each year, complete with festive Maypoles and flower crowns for each child. For the larger Lower School May Faire event, it is supported by both teachers and parents as a celebration of spring and the beauty it brings to our campus and our lives, in moving through the cycle of the seasons. The event includes maypole dancing, flower garland making, a procession with a May Queen and her court, a meal, strawberry shortcake and games. It takes place in the morning of a regular school day.

May Faire Themes:

Community and Celebration: celebrate school community—students, teachers, and families come together to create shared joyful experiences.

Creativity and Joy: activities include dancing around the Maypole, singing, storytelling, and crafting flower crowns, games, crafts, seasonal foods. These activities encourage creativity, artistic expression, and a sense of wonder.

Historical and Cultural Tradition: draws on European May Day traditions, which often celebrated the arrival of spring with flowers, music, and dancing.

Symbolism of Renewal and Growth: symbolizes renewal and growth, mirroring the natural world as it bursts into bloom. This theme of transformation resonates with the developmental focus in Waldorf education on nurturing the growth of the whole child—body, mind, and spirit.

Central Activities:

Maypole Dancing: A decorated Maypole is the centerpiece of the event, symbolizing spring's vitality and life. Students and sometimes parents or teachers weave colorful ribbons around the pole in choreographed dances.

Music: Accompanied by live music, the dances often include traditional folk songs.

Flower Crowns and Decorations: Children and families create crowns/garlands using fresh flowers and greenery. This activity encourages creativity and connects participants with nature.

Decorating Spaces: Flowers and other natural elements are used to decorate the celebration campus.

Storytelling or Skits: Stories or plays inspired by springtime themes, often from folklore or mythology, are performed.

Nature-Inspired Crafts: craft stations allow participants to create items like friendship bracelets, face painting, flower wands/garlands

Games: Sack races, Tug-of-war, corn hole, bean bag toss, dump bucket

Blessings or Gratitude Ceremonies: honor the Earth, express gratitude for the beauty and abundance of spring.

Meal Fundraiser: The HS grades (specific grade varies per year) typically host a paid meal and strawberry shortcake as a fundraiser.