

SAN FRANCISCO WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL

Dear 12th Grade Students and Parents,

The first week of school (Monday, August 20-Friday, August 24) is devoted to orienting you to the possibilities and expectations of the senior year at SFWHS. It is also meant to be an awakening to your unique ways of engaging with and making meaning of the world around you and serves as an introduction of what is traditionally the capstone main lesson block of the Waldorf senior year, Symptomatology with Dr. Calderera. This study, combined with a new way of thinking about service work and service in the world, will be the foundation of what promises to be a busy and fulfilling week. You will also be given a jumpstart on your college application process, under the guidance of Ms. Wuerthner and Mr. Hanlon.

After you delve into some preparatory work towards completion of your college applications on Tuesday, we will take a full day on Wednesday to work together on how we want the senior year to develop for ourselves. What does it mean to be a senior, anyway? What do you personally want to contribute to your class and the school to make the most of this final year when you will be the "leaders of the school"? To begin to organize the year, we will head off-campus together to spend the day in a natural setting so that we can relax and focus on each other and the questions at hand.

We are pleased to have guests working with us for the subsequent two mornings, sharing the fruits of their own particular expertise and interest. Thursday will bring an investigation of your personal ways of understanding the world around you and your individual methods of processing information through a connection with your feeling life, as we practice "walking meditation" in Stern Grove and awaken to the wonders in our own backyard. That afternoon, we will see how what we have experienced might be echoed in The Book of Joy as we read excerpts by two of the world's great leaders, the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, who will act as guides as we begin to discover how we can serve in the community this year. We will close the week with a Kindness Circle of guests who will present us with ways to bring goodness into the world. By the end, you will have prepared brief personal statements to share with your classmates in an effort to help you take responsibility for fulfilling your intentions of serving the world this coming year.

Please remember that Monday, August 20 is photo day (please arrive at 8:50 am), beginning with an all school convocation assembly and a brief class meeting. After lunch break, the class will have an important presentation and conversation about Senior Project and Senior Play. We will begin our class work on Tuesday in Herbst Hall, where we will start every day. I am looking forward to beginning the year with you.

Joan Calderera
Humanities
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PRACTICALITIES:

1. Dress in layers and sturdy shoes and layers on Wednesday and Thursday as we will be outside.
2. Lunch will be provided on Tuesday and Friday. Please pack lunch on the other days.
3. If you own a laptop, please bring it for the work on Tuesday.
4. On Tuesday, we will have lunch and an "advice circle" with the 9th grade.
5. Wednesday is an all-day "off-site retreat" at Candlestick Point. We will travel together in the school vans, leaving school at 8:45.
6. End times will vary, but never go beyond 4:00. You are expected to remain every day for the full day.