



# WALDEN SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

## Walden School of Liberal Arts

Report Card 2018/19

Elementary/Middle School • 4230 N. University Avenue, Provo, Utah 84604 • 801-374-1545

High School • 4266 N. University Avenue, Provo, Utah 84604 • 801-655-5889

### *Mission Statement*

Walden is a place where social, emotional and academic growth are valued equally, a place where students see possibilities, make meaningful choices, take risks, and emerge with a stronger sense of identity, belonging and purpose. It is a place where critical thought, creativity and independence are nurtured; where empathy, cultural awareness and tolerance are valued. Our purpose is to develop capable, globally minded citizens who are dedicated to making positive contributions to society.

### *Parent Involvement*

Walden families are asked to donate 40 hours per family during the school year. In 2017-18, our families donated countless hours improving school programs, raising funds, and serving our students. Hundreds of volunteers came to our Comcast Cares Day and helped to clean, garden, build, landscape, and beautify our campus.

### *Community Involvement*

The community in which Walden is situated has contributed in numerous ways to the success of the school. We have had over a thousand guest speakers, panel members, and professional mentors in the school during our existence. Working professionals, university students, and university faculty have all contributed to making Walden a vibrant place to learn. In addition, our students have taken advantage of a variety of workshops, conferences and forums at BYU, UVU, the U of U and USU. And have participated in a wide range of internships. Businesses and individuals from the community have contributed goods and

services to our fundraising activities and continue to help promote the safety and welfare of our school.

### *Demographic Report*

Although attracting an ethnically diverse population in Utah Valley can be challenging, Walden is proud of our unique population. We consistently attract families from a wide range of cultural, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

|                           | #   | %   |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| Hispanic/Latino           | 51  | 12% |
| American Indian           | 6   | 1%  |
| Asian                     | 5   | 1%  |
| African American/Black    | 3   | 1%  |
| Pacific Islander          | 2   | .5% |
| White                     | 402 | 91% |
| Multiple Races            | 20  | 5%  |
| Special Education         | 98  | 22% |
| English Language Learners | 9   | 2%  |
| Economic Disadvantage     | 183 | 42% |
| Female                    | 216 | 49% |
| Male                      | 219 | 51% |

## *Graduation Rates and Matriculation*

Walden students, parents, teachers and counselors work extraordinarily hard to ensure that every senior is admitted to at least one college before graduation. We have had fourteen graduating classes and only a handful of students have chosen to leave school early or to take the GED. In 2018, we had a 94% graduation rate. Walden graduates have attended colleges as diverse as, Sarah Lawrence, Antioch, Tufts, Bryn Mawr, Cambridge, Stanford, BYU, Bard College, Barnard, Colorado School of Mines, NYU, Evergreen, Seattle University, University of Washington, Westminster, USU, SUU, UVU, and U of U.

## *Walden's Academic Programs*

Walden School of Liberal Arts provides our students with an education based on the principles of four major educational philosophies: 1) The Montessori Method; 2) International Baccalaureate Programmes; 3) Expeditionary Learning, and 4) Optimal Experience Theory (Flow).

The Montessori Method is an educational philosophy of education with an emphasis on independence, freedom within limits, discovery, and developmentally appropriate learning activities. The method is based on a profound respect for all aspects of a child's cognitive, academic, psychological, physical, and social development. Montessori schools seek to create learning environments where discovery and interest help guide the learning process. Classes typically are made up of 2-3 year age levels in order to allow children to learn and grow at their own rate. At Walden, grade levels are combined as follows: grades 1-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

Walden School of Liberal Arts is an International Baccalaureate World school offering the Diploma Programmes. IB schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students. IB programs encourage students to become inquirers, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

Expeditionary Learning (EL) schools promote project based, interdisciplinary, in-depth learning experiences individually, in groups and in their community, with authentic assessment opportunities provided through cumulative products, public presentations, and portfolios. EL encourages students to engage in learning that require perseverance, fitness, craftsmanship, imagination, self-discipline, and significant achievement. The fundamental principles of EL include:

- The Primacy of Self-Discovery
- The Having of Wonderful Ideas
- The Responsibility for Learning
- Empathy and Caring
- Success and Failure
- Collaboration
- Diversity and Inclusion
- The Natural World
- Solitude and Reflection
- Service and Compassion

Recent research in the field of Optimal Experience Theory (Flow) has shown that Flow is fundamental to the type of meaningful learning Walden seeks to provide for our students. An optimal “flow” education is one in which:

- Goals Are Clear
- Feedback Is Immediate
- Skills Match Challenges
- Concentration Is Deep
- Problems Are Forgotten
- Control Is Possible
- Self-Consciousness Disappears
- The Sense of Time Is Altered
- The Experience Becomes Autotelic (worth doing for its own sake alone)

We welcome your questions and input regarding Walden's educational programs.

## *Walden Faculty*

Walden is very lucky to have a group of exceptionally gifted and qualified individuals who teach a wide variety of courses and grade levels. All of Walden's teachers are qualified to teach under Utah State law, however, a handful are not considered to be "highly qualified or HQ" by federal standards because they teach under a temporary 3-year Utah State authorization. The following teachers are temporarily licensed as eminently qualified educators and professionals in their area of instruction, but do not have federal HQ status:

- **Kat Webb, Career & Technical Education, Theater/Art Foundations:** Kat is a BYU graduate with broad experience in multiple careers, including management, theater and education.
- **Stephen Cope, Web Development:** Stephen is a local musician and business owner who has developed professional, HTML5-compliant websites for businesses and as elements in various art installations.
- **Peter Vogel, Physics:** Peter has 4 years of experience at the college level teaching introductory physics courses at BYU.
- **Joe Perry, Irish Music:** Joe is a professional Irish musician who plays the Irish uilleann pipes, and Scottish Highland Pipes. He has taught students to play these traditional instruments for over twenty years in group and private lesson settings.
- **Kelly Nelson, Secondary Math I and Biology:** Secondary Math 1: Kelly has a B.S. in Biology and a thorough knowledge of algebra and statistics. She has a strong background in field research related to Botany and Conservation and an extensive background in animal husbandry and animal behavior.
- **Jason Hogge, Robotics I, Gaming Development Fundamentals:** Jason has taught robotics for over two years. He has created the art, programming and sound for many video games.

- **Will Strong, Art Foundations:** Will has a BFA in illustration from Brigham Young University. He is a published author and illustrator with several successful publications.
- **Kat Moulton, Folk Dance:** Kat's university background in dance focused on Eastern European, British and Irish, Israeli, and Indian dance. She was a member of the BYU Folk Dance Team.
- **Tonia Chantry, Japanese and Psychology:** Tonia is a native speaker of Japanese. She graduated with a degree in teaching English as a foreign language with a linguistics minor and obtained her teaching license in secondary education with a Japanese language endorsement. Tonia has a minor in psychology from BYU.
- **Sophie Blair, Art Foundations and Music Appreciation:** Sophie is an artist, illustrator and calligrapher. Proficient in both digital and studio design. . Classically trained on viola and piano, Sophie works for as a studio and freelance musician.
- **Aubree Cameron, Special Education teacher:** Aubree currently holds a teaching license in Hawaii, and is in the final process of completing her Utah Teaching License.
- **Chelsea Hickman:** Chelsea has a MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from the University of California in Riverside. She has won numerous awards for her work in theater. A play that she wrote is currently showing in NYC.

## *Academic Achievement*

We are pleased to provide you with an annual update of the academic achievements of our students.

One method that is used to evaluate academic achievement is the Utah Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) criterion referenced tests. These tests are designed to measure student performance against the State curriculum standards at each grade level or specific class. SAGE measures both overall student proficiency and student growth. In 2017-18, Walden High School students experienced a computer glitch during their Language Arts exams that

was unable to be rectified at the state level, resulting in inaccurate data in that area, however, there were areas in which our students really did shine including 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade science, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade math. Additionally, 80.43% of our third graders met the state literacy goal for the year (a whopping 32% above the state established goal for schools).

Walden elementary and middle school students continue to outperform State averages in English Language Arts (ELA), however, Math scores continued to come in slightly below State averages in many grades at the end of the 2017-18 school year. This led us to add an elementary math specialist and a middle/high school special education math teacher to better support math education moving forward.

We are proud of our students and teachers and continue to look for ways to improve academic proficiency. We look forward to continued growth this year.

### *CASA After School Program*

Walden provides robust after school programs for K-12<sup>th</sup> students. Daily clubs provide leadership opportunities, expeditions, learning enrichment, homework support, skill development, team building, prevention education, and fun!

Our CASA program supported a wildly successful collaborative PreK-12 production of The Wizard of Oz.

In the elementary, homework help is offered along with fine arts, music, science, technology, engineering and math projects and learning adventures.

In the middle school, Walden offers daily homework help and a variety of clubs such as Music Production, Robotics, and Maker Space in our STEM Innovation Station.

High school clubs derive from student interest and incorporate student leadership opportunities. Just a sampling: Finer Things, Shakespeare Competition, Medical Science, Greenhouse, Spanish Club, Writing Lab, Math Lab, Soccer, and Love Squad.

### *Expeditionary Report*

Walden is dedicated to providing our students with opportunities to interact with our community and the wider world. 2017-18 expeditions included such opportunities as:

#### **Elementary School**

Loveland Living Planet Aquarium  
Timp Lodge  
Discovery Gateway  
Hogle Zoo  
Natural History Museum  
Planetarium  
Thanksgiving Point  
Bean Museum  
Scera Playhouse

#### **Middle School**

Hale Center Theater  
Homestead Crater  
BYU Earth Science Museum  
CLAS Ropes Course  
Dinosaur National Monument  
New York City Expedition  
BYU Timp Lodge

#### **High School**

Utah Shakespeare Festival  
Timp Lodge  
Wasatch Back Walkabout  
Sundance Film Festival  
Capitol Reef Camping Trip  
Vietnam  
San Francisco College Hopping Trip  
Philadelphia/New York  
Escalante  
Moab