

## Community School for Creative Education (CSCE)

A multicultural, multilingual, TK-8 charter school open to all, inspired by the Waldorf educational model, we are supported by local partners and a global network of Waldorf Schools linked together in common commitment to educating the whole child and preparing them for college and a lifetime of learning.



"Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, let them go forth in freedom."  
Rudolph Steiner, 1919

### An Urban Waldorf School

Inspired by the Rudolf Steiner Waldorf methodology, CSCE has adopted a model which has been successfully educating children since 1919. According to a survey of Waldorf graduates from the Research Institute for Waldorf Education, the following statistics are noted of Waldorf graduates:

- 94% matriculate to college
- 88% graduate from college
- 91% practice and value lifetime learning
- 89% are highly satisfied with their choice of career
- The majority consider family, friends and helping others to be what brings them their greatest joy

### How Waldorf Methodology is integrated into CSCE:

- Core subjects (English, math, science, social studies) are taught in concentrated blocks referred to as "main lessons"



- Students learn academic content through the arts (drama, movement, painting, drawing, music, modeling).
- Students learn music (recorder, strings, band), fine arts, physical education, movement, gardening, and handwork.
- Students learn two world languages (Mandarin and Spanish) in grades TK-8.
- Class size is kept small (ratio of 28 to 1).
- Students are prepared for standardized testing, college, and beyond.
- Students are instilled with a lifelong love of learning.

### **How CSCE Compares to others in the Oakland Unified School District**

According to the 2016 State of California Assessment, the following assessments were made.

- **Academics**
  - CSCE is serving Special Education students three times better than OUSD schools (K-12).
  - CSCE serves English Language students five times better than OUSD schools (K-12).
  - CSCE is on par with OUSD and outperforming neighboring school Garfield Elementary for Math standards.
- **Diversity**
  - In an era when public education is becoming increasingly segregated, CSCE is proud to be *one of the most diverse schools in the state as it continues to grow*.
  - CSCE has: 49% Hispanic, 18% African American, 10% white, 8% Asian, 3% American Indian, 1% Pacific Islander, and 1% Filipino.
- **Environment**
  - A safe, diverse, and supportive educational environment, where art, music, and movement are used to deliver a learning environment that helps support and nourish a child's passion for learning.
  - Teachers stay with their class from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> to build strong relationships.
  - Older and younger students are matched for "buddy" reading; to build relationships and to encourage a passion for reading.
  - Middle school students build Global Citizenship through collaborating with peers from 18 countries and cities; through a shared public service project.
- **Community**
  - Parents are recognized and valued as their children's first teachers; which creates an environment that welcomes parents as partners into educating children.

- Community meetings are held in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Vietnamese to meet the diverse needs of CSCE students.
- Partnerships with neighborhood business owners and community organizations have brought student volunteers to our projects; art installations to our walls; and trees to our sidewalks.
- Following an inclusion model, we provide an integrated program of intervention, mental health and special education services.



**Reflections from the Founder, Dr. Ida Oberman** (center in photo above)  
 In the fall of 1966, I was enrolled as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at the Waldorf School in Tuebingen in Germany. I was a stranger in a strange land where I did not understand the

language, my school lessons, nor the students. As a part-Jewish girl who had moved with her family from Holland to post-war Germany, I felt the living shadow of Nazism.

Bit by bit, after weeks and months of work with my class teacher Hanna Lindenberg, moments of clarity began to appear. Through the poems, songs, and verses, words started to sound familiar and cadences entered my being. The babbled mush and hard vowels slowly became the sing-song language of Germany. And then one day it became a language for *me*, one that I could understand and through which I could see and meet the world. My prejudices of all things German fell away and my fears went with them. Waldorf had transformed me.

My path toward founding what is now the Community School for Creative Education in Oakland, the country's first urban public multicultural Waldorf school, started there, in my childhood. Every day I work with colleagues, families and community to bring these growing, striving children to that same revelation I reached many years ago, when everything began to come clear. For so many children I currently serve, their schooling starts out like noise, a foreign language but when nurtured by a Waldorf inspired education of rich learning they thrive and grow to be successful learners and leaders in their community and in our world.

*Dr. Ida Oberman has a Ph.D. from Stanford and is a published author of three books on education reform and leadership, including [The Waldorf Movement In Education From European Cradle To American Crucible, 1919 to 2008](#). She served as a teacher for 10 years in Rockland County, NY and as a former funder at the Hewlett Educational Foundation. Dr. Oberman is fluent in three languages, is a State-certified and Waldorf-trained teacher; currently serves on the board of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), and is an avid Potter.*