

# Walden School of Liberal Arts



## Report Card 2016

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

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### *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 2015-16, our families donated countless hours improving school programs, raising funds, and serving our students. Over 900 volunteers came to our Comcast Cares Day and helped to clean, garden, build, landscape, and beautify our campus.

### *Community Involvement*

Walden has had close to 1000 guest speakers, panel members, and professional mentors in the school during the past twelve years. 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.

### **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	30	7.3%
American Indian	8	2%
Asian	6	1%
African American/Black	2	<1%
Pacific Islander	3	<1%
White	350	86%
Multiple Races	10	2.4%
Special Education	94	22%
Economic Disadvantage	197	47%
Female	202	49%
Male	210	51%

### **Graduation Rates and Matriculation**

Walden teachers and counselors work extraordinarily hard to ensure that every senior is admitted to at least one college before graduation. We have had twelve graduating classes and only a small handful of students have chosen to leave school early or to take the GED. In 2016, we had a 92% graduation rate. Walden graduates have attended colleges as diverse as, Sarah Lawrence, Antioch, Tufts, Bryn Mawr, BYU, Bard College, Barnard, Cornell College, NYU, Stanford, Evergreen, Seattle University, University of Washington, Westminster, USU, UVU, and U of U.

## Walden School'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 and Middle Year 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.

### 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.

At all school levels, elementary (3 – 5), middle (6 – 8), and high school (9 – 12), Walden students did better in English Language Arts (ELA) than State averages. Walden high school ELA scores are the highest in relation to the State averages with 51% of Walden students proficient compared to the state average of 41%. Walden also outperformed state averages in science (Walden 57% to State 49%) with elementary students showing the highest proficiency (Walden 61% to State 49%). Although Walden math SAGE scores were lower than state averages (Walden 37% to State 47%), our high school students outperformed State averages significantly (Walden 54% to State 40%) and Walden students showed high average growth scores with 60% of our students showing higher growth rates than in the previous year. We continue to look for ways to improve our mathematics instruction and look forward to continued growth this year.

### **CASA After School Program**

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

In the elementary, homework help is offered along with enjoyable arts, science, and math activities. This year we are introducing our show choir performing group and Bricks4kids, a Lego Club, which reinforces science, technology, engineering and math concepts.

In the middle school, students have daily homework help and a variety of clubs such as Music Production, Robotics, Outdoors, and International Cooking.

High school clubs derive from student interest and incorporate student leadership opportunities. Just a sampling: Finer Things, Mermaids against Misogyny, The Walden Journal, Permaculture, Black Forest Weather Center, Japanese/Korean, and Love Squad.

### **Expeditionary Report**

Walden is dedicated to providing our students with opportunities to interact with our community and the wider world. 2016 expeditions included:

#### **Elementary School**

Loveland Living Planet Aquarium  
Timp Lodge  
Discovery Gateway  
The Covey Center for the Arts  
Hogle Zoo  
Natural History Museum  
BYU Planetarium  
Cornbelly's Pumpkin Patch  
Thanksgiving Point  
BYU Bean Museum  
Scera Playhouse  
South Fork Park Leaf Exploration

#### **Middle School**

Topaz Japanese Internment Center  
Noorda Theater Utah Valley University  
Rock Canyon Hike  
Homestead Crater  
BYU Earth Science Museum  
CLAS Ropes Course  
BYU Timp Lodge  
Washington DC Expedition  
Four Corners Expedition

#### **High School**

Utah Shakespeare Festival  
Timp Lodge Expedition  
Wasatch Back Walkabout  
Sundance Film Festival  
BYU Model UN  
UVU & BYU Forums and Symposiums  
Capitol Reef Camping Trip  
New York City Expedition  
Seattle College Hopping Trip  
Ecuador Expedition  
Many classroom field experiences

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Walden has a staff of highly qualified (HQ), credentialed teachers who are dedicated to their students and their profession.

### Highly Qualified Teachers

Elementary	7
Secondary	13

### Teacher Education Levels

Bachelor's Degree	16
Master's Degree	10
Doctoral Degree	4

### Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Aides

Elementary	9
Secondary	1

### Authorized Teachers

Although all Walden teachers are skilled in their subject areas and have the proper state clearance to teach, some teachers do not have the certification required by the federal government to meet Highly Qualified criteria. Walden has hired competent, experienced professionals without traditional certification to teach some specialty classes. You have a right to know the qualifications of your child's teachers, in accordance with 20 USC §6311(h)(6). Please email if you have additional questions.

The following teachers are not HQ by federal government standards, but are authorized to teach through the Utah State Board of Education. All have university degrees and/or extensive professional experience and are invaluable to Walden. Most teach one or two classes, although several are full time instructors.

### Michele Taylor—Dance

Michele has been teaching and choreographing dance for over 25 years in both public and private schools. Her most recent teaching job, prior to coming to Walden, was at Elizabeth Academy in Salt Lake City.

### Joe Perry —Tai Chi & Irish Music

Joe has been a professional Celtic music performer for the past 22 years teaching Scottish bagpipes and Irish uilleann pipes. He teaches traditional Irish music to Walden high school students. Instruments included are fiddle, uilleann pipes, penny whistle, guitar, and bodhran drum.

Joe has his own martial arts studio and has been teaching Tai Chi for over a decade. He holds a fifth degree masters level in Shaolin Kempo and has been teaching this art for over 25 years. Joe graduated from United Studios of Self Defense Martial Arts Teaching College in 1988. Joe has studied martial arts in China at the Shaolin Temple and continues his

own training from master level teachers every month. Joe has worked with ages 4 to 72. His expertise and experience in both this art and in teaching is invaluable.

### Maureen Fletcher—IBDP Film & Careers

Maureen is an educator, writer, filmmaker, social worker and researcher. She earned a bachelor's degree in Education from Virginia Tech and a masters in Film Production at BYU, where she taught classes in Film History, the Language of Film and Film Theory and Criticism. Upon successful completion of her MFA, she worked with Leucadia Film, a small independent film company based in Salt Lake City. The job demanded a varied scope of practice incorporating script writing, story development, production and post production and was an excellent opportunity to make film at all levels of the media production strata. Maureen worked at Meridian School, a small private school in Provo Utah, for a decade, teaching a myriad of classes in the high school

### Kathryn Webb—Theater and CCA

Kathryn has successfully directed many plays at the secondary and college level and has been invited to direct at venues such as the Covey Center in Provo. She has extensive experience in theatrical makeup and film and has been nominated twice for KCACTF for her design work. Additionally, she has worked at various venues as an acting coordinator. She has experience in production management, as a board member of Utah Shakespeare in the Park—a company with which she also directed and acted for five years. Kat's resume in performance is extensive-- Currently, she is working with Renaissance Now Theater, Film from New York, and the Orem-based Grassroots Shakespeare in separate productions. She has been able to work on film sets in Park City with regional television companies, and has been a writer for Utah Theatre Bloggers for several years now.

### Stuart Wheeler—Music Appreciation

As a teacher of songwriting and music production, Stuart brings a great deal of experience to the classroom. He studied music composition at BYU. He's been writing songs and composing music for over 10 years. In 2010 he was selected as one of 10 composers from the Seattle area to participate in the David Diamond Young Composers' Workshop. In 2016 he was chosen to receive the Barlow Composer Award, which came with a commission to compose a new work for the BYU Singers, BYU's premiere choral group. He has written and produced multiple albums of music and has written and arranged songs for Shadow Mountain Records and for numerous independent artists. In 2015 he contributed to 13 separate albums that were released that year

**Jordan Pinegar—Marketing, Political Science**

Jordan has a Masters degree in education from the University of Oklahoma with an emphasis in academic leadership and instructional curriculum. She has taught English, world literature, and Spanish at a private school. For the past 15 years, she has worked in marketing and advertising as a global marketing director, creative director, writer, training and online education director, speech writer and event director. She currently works as a consultant for various companies and contributes to product development, marketing, writing, and branding.

**Benjamin Biggs—Robotics, Computer Science**

An Electrical Engineering major at BYU, Ben has been working with electronics for many years. He teaches students with Arduino, an open-source project using microcontroller-based kits for building digital devices and interactive objects that can sense and control physical devices. His major is in electrical engineering with classes in digital design, circuit analysis, embedded systems, integrated circuits, the C programming language, the C++ programming language, and more. He has worked as a TA in engineering classes at BYU and in middle and high school for the past two years.

**Grace Wilson—Choir**

Grace has a level 2 teaching and teaches MS science, but she also conducts Walden's choir. Grace was originally a music education major who studied choral music at BYU and performed in show choir. She has toured with several music groups. Grace has conducted for many years and founded a women's chorus in 2003 that is still performing. She also teaches private piano lessons,

**Bryan Sours—PE**

Bryan has a level 2 teaching license and teaches MS social studies and language arts, but also teaches PE classes. A former varsity athlete, Bryan is committed to healthy living. Bryan has extensive experience instructing youth in various sports through his work as a youth pastor. Bryan is a cyclist and is dedicated to exposing students to alternative physical education activities. He values the importance of the lasting effects physical education can have for students both in and out of the classroom.

**Charles Ross Hansen—Digital Media**

Charles "Ross" has a BS from UVU with a major in Digital Media: Gaming and Animation. He has extensive industry experience as a 3D artist, designer, and as a product and project manager.

**Jeannette Jones—Secondary Math 1**

Jeanette graduated from BYU with a BS in Education and a level I teaching license. Prior to coming to Walden, she taught Pre-Algebra class and Algebra class at a private school.

**Hannah Hunt—Yoga**

Hannah completed her 200-hour teacher training at 3B yoga in 2011. Since receiving her certification, Hannah has taught at a variety of places in Utah Valley such as the Quarry, Sundance and currently 3B Yoga. In the spring of 2016 Hannah completed Kid's Yoga Teacher Training.

**Bethany Engledinger—Elementary**

Bethany is in the Alternative Routes to Licensure program through USBE. She has a bachelor's degrees in Human Development and Family Studies from Oregon State University and in Communication Disorders from USU. She has worked as a paraprofessional at Walden for 3 years.

**Nathan Anderson—Computer Programming**

Nathan's received his training in Computer Engineering at Brigham Young University. He has expertise in Computer Science Data Structures, Computational Linguistics, C++ and Python object-oriented programming and Discrete Structures. He has taught College Level introductory Computer Programming classes at BYU.

**Matt Ellsworth—Chemistry and IBDP ESS**

Matt earned a BA in Spanish and Chemistry from Brigham Young University and an AA in Mandarin Chinese from the Defense Foreign Language Institute and the Congress of the United States. Matt's research experience includes the collection of biological samples from various iguana species in Costa Rica to establish genetic relationships and determine the need for protection of species. He also worked for a summer in Volcano National Park, Costa Rica, helping rangers track various species and help maintain trails and prevent erosion due to deforestation. His college coursework includes courses in Zoology, Biology, Environmental Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry.

From 2007-2012, Matt taught a wide variety of science classes in public schools, including physics, chemistry, and health. The first year he taught Chemistry, his students had an unprecedented 100% pass rate on year-end CRTs. For the past two years, Matt has been teaching Health and Chemistry at Walden. He is passionate about environmental science and is trained to teach IBDP ESS through the International Baccalaureate Organization.

**Tyler Tryon—Biology, Health, World Civ**

During his undergraduate education as a pre-med student at Brigham Young University, Tyler completed extensive coursework in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, & Health. His volunteer and paid work in hospitals as part of his pre-med studies has prepared him for teaching Health as well.

**Kamden Jones—Physics, Personal Finance**

Kamdem is completing her Physics teaching degree at Brigham Young University where she has served as a physics and personal finance tutor. Her strengths include differentiating instruction and working with students with varying learning styles. Additionally,

**Austin Clark—Physics**

Austin has been teaching physics at BYU since 2009. He has received numerous teaching commendations for his ability to explain complicated physics concepts in an understandable, and enjoyable way.

**Alice Waldron—Graphic Arts**

Alice is a graduate of BYU in Commercial Art. During her undergraduate studies at BYU, she completed coursework in Principles of 2D Design, Illustration 1, Digital Illustration, Figure Drawing for Illustrators/Animators, and Introduction to 2D and 3D Computer Animation. She has also worked as a freelance Illustrator and Graphic Designer. She also worked as a Program Area Director for Boy Scouts of America at Camp Tifie, where she taught principles of art and design

**Daniel Hughes—MS Art**

Daniel has a BFA in Illustration from BYU. He is the recipient of the Oscarson Discovery Grant, the Cory Nathan Belleau scholarship, the Barnett Plotkin memorial award from the Society of Illustrators in Manhattan, New York, as well as many other talent awards. He has worked full-time in entertainment design for ten years as well as Disney Interactive, Lumenas Animation, Wahoo/NinjaBee, Intel, Snapple, Reebok, Subaru, Microsoft, Lionsgate, Skittles, Petersen Entertainment, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and others. He has taught foundation, as well as advanced illustration at Brigham Young University, and Utah Valley University.

**Joe Wheeler—MS Spanish**

Joe has a B.A. in History with a minor in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Maryland, College Park. While there, Joe fulfilled all of the requirements, for a degree in education, including the completion of their Honors seminar. Joe is fluent in Spanish and has worked professionally as a writer and translator for a large multi-national financial institution. Over the past 15 years Joe has worked as an English and dance instructor and has built, written, and taught multiple training programs.

**Andrew Huff—Secondary Math 2**

Andrew has both a BS and ME in Mechanical Engineering. He has 8 years of experience teaching math from middle school through the university level. He has passed the PRAXIS 0061 Mathematics Content Knowledge exam and is applying for licensure through APT. He has taken all the coursework to qualify him through Math level 3 and needs to finish one class for Math Level 4.

**Jennie Smithson—Kindergarten**

Jennie has a BS in Family Life with a family studies emphasis from BYU and is currently enrolled in a Montessori teacher education program at Westminster College. She is authorized to teach through ARL. She has been a paraprofessional aide in our kindergarten classroom for over six years.

**Nathan Hauke—English Language Arts**

Dr. Hauke has a Ph.D. in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Utah (2010), an M.A. in English & Creative Writing from Central Michigan University (2004), and extensive experience teaching a wide variety of literature, creative writing/ poetics, film, and composition classes at the university level. Dr. Hauke taught as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while he was in school at CMU (2002-2004) and went on to hold an Instructor position there (2004-2005); He taught as a GTA at the UU (2007-2009) and went on to hold an instructor position at the University of Alabama (2009-2010), and a Lecturer/Adjunct Assistant Professor of English at Appalachian State University (2011-2015).

Dr Hauke consistently received the highest teaching evaluations in his department at ASU and was nominated for the Faculty Award in Excellence for General Education Teaching at ASU (2014). He was also honored as Outstanding Faculty by Sigma Tau Delta, the English Fraternity, at ASU (2014).

**Dian Monson—English Language Arts**

Dr. Monson has a BA in English from BYU, an MA in Creative Writing from Boston University, and a Ph.D from Bradais in English and American Lit. She taught Honors Composition and Lit at BYU for eight years. She has been an exceptional teacher at Walden in the past and has won numerous and regional awards for her writing.