

Guiding Principles

Simplicity	Peace	Integrity	Community	Equality
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What is it?				
Value of the spirit vs material objects, nurture of nature, careful use of resources, stewards of the earth.	Conflict resolution skill-building, alternatives to violence, decisions by consensus or “sense of the meeting.”	Outer life reflects inner beliefs: “Let your life speak”, being truthful, doing the right thing even if no one is looking.	People connecting, sharing of our authentic selves, knowing your voice will be heard and valued, sharing your gifts.	Respect for different people and different ideas, embracing a diverse community.

What does it look like?				
<p>Practicing Yoga in PE and sometimes in class.</p> <p>Using silence (“silent worship”) to calm and center ourselves at the beginning of each day, or at any point during the day when needed.</p> <p>After “No TV Week”, a parent commented that she never realized how much she would learn about her child by turning off the TV.</p>	<p>The Peace Table is a tool for resolving disagreements between classmates.</p> <p>Teachers help children articulate to one another what they need, such as “Can I play?” or “I feel left out.”</p> <p>A teacher leads a class discussion about what to do because a classroom rule isn’t working as well as expected. Does the rule need to be amended in some way?</p>	<p>A student from a neighboring school made friends with the WFS graduates in her school without realizing where they were from. She was simply drawn to these particular people.</p> <p>Students reported a bullying incident they witnessed on the bus and it was resolved.</p> <p>Children use journal writing as a tool for reflection and self expression.</p>	<p>Kindergarteners were heard saying “Do you need this piece?” “I’ll read it to you.” “She is sad.”</p> <p>A first grader enjoys helping his classmates to draw birds because he is good at it and they admire and respect his ability.</p> <p>A fifth grader gave a stranger his stuffed bear when he saw a need.</p> <p>Pre-K children and parents threw a baby shower for their teacher.</p> <p>A grandma of a former student still volunteers to serve lunch on Fridays.</p> <p>Students meet weekly with their younger Reading Buddies to enjoy favorite stories together.</p>	<p>A kindergartener is heard saying “She’s trying it her way.”</p> <p>When asked what money is for, a kindergartener says “ To help people who don’t have enough money to come to our school.”</p> <p>Children’s athletic abilities differ widely, so they play competitive sports without keeping score.</p> <p>In the course of their studies, students are continually asked “What do you think?”</p>