

"I trust that the students know better than I who they are and what it is like to be them."- Steve co-teacher



West Philadelphia Cooperative School

WPCS is a cooperative school offering a Kindergarten Class (ages 4-6), a Preschool Class (ages 3-4) and a Toddler Class (age 2). School hours are from 9am – 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; two, three, or four-day enrollment options are available. An after school program is available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 2 pm – 5 pm, for an additional fee. Children play outside daily and take frequent walking trips around the neighborhood. Children participate in the Pentridge Community Garden. The school provides a healthy (sometimes kid-made) snack and parents provide a



West Philadelphia Cooperative School

4625 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143
westphillycoop@gmail.com
www.westphillycoopschool.com



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The West Philadelphia Cooperative School currently accepts children 2 years to 6 years old. All parents become members of the cooperative and are required to give time towards the operation of the school.

Days and Hours

Monday 9-2 (2-4:30 afterschool)

Tuesday 9-2 (2-5 afterschool)

Wednesday 9-2 (2-5 afterschool)

Friday 9-2

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What We Are

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on the idea that each child is wonderfully capable of being, growing and becoming their own unique self in the midst of their various communities. We do not view children as small adults or empty vessel needing to be filled, but as individuals with their own ideas, feelings and abilities who play key roles in shaping the movements of our school day.

We seek to enact a play based emergent curriculum, based on the needs and interests of our attending children. We foster mixed aged group interaction, and encourage friendships to form among the varying ages of our students. As teachers, we empower our students to build self control and self esteem by assisting and encouraging them to successfully complete daily tasks, such as putting on their shoes or going to the bathroom.

We strongly believe in learning within our neighborhood, and often utilize the outdoor classrooms of our community garden and local parks, as well as our nearby library and food cooperative.

A Cooperative

The West Philadelphia Cooperative Preschool began in 2005 as a rotation of a three or four parents providing child-centered learning

for our children. Although our membership has grown to more than twenty families and three full-time teachers, our school still depends on the energy and talents of members. Parents complete all administrative and operational tasks associated with the school and function as the school's decision making body.

All parents become members of the cooperative and are required to give time towards the operation of the school. Each family is required to fulfill a "parent job," attend school wide Town Meetings (bi-monthly), complete 3 hours of in-school time per month (exemptions and a buy-out option are available), participate in all-school workdays, as well as other responsibilities.

"The kids' needs and wants direct how we approach our days together."-Steve co-teacher



"Trust and unbridled inventiveness are fruits that I pluck daily from the grove of coop personalities."- Bethany co-teacher

What? Why? How?

- Learning through play
- Creating an educational community
- Giving individualized care
- Seeing children as full people
- Providing a student-led educational environment
- Engaging with and teaching about nature
- Supporting diversity and compassion
- Maintaining a low teacher to student ratio (1:5)
- Keeping costs low through parent cooperation

"To build and create a school they believe in for the children within their neighborhood."-Tina lead-teacher