



What can your child learn to **make?**

... mud pies and messes, friends, projects, good decisions ...

All of these. **And so much more.**



At Linden Waldorf, we believe that the act of *making*—

of creating something from nothing,  
of joining disparate parts into a cohesive whole,  
of revising what currently exists for greater effectiveness—

is one of the most important capacities for our children's success in the unknown future.

And to *make* requires imagination:

*the ability to fabricate the possible and pursue it with tenacity.*

This capacity for imagination differentiates the greatest minds throughout history. And no matter how unexpected, out-of-the-box, or extraordinary an idea may seem, **we believe your child can learn how to make that idea real.**

At Linden Waldorf, we cultivate your child's imagination, as a tool and a skill, from their first days with us. Because **with imagination, the future is theirs to make.**

## How do we do it?

It starts with playing in the rain.



In their first years with us at Linden Waldorf, your child's "work" is play. In our Early Childhood classrooms, materials are purposefully both aesthetically pleasing and flexible.

Bright blue silk scarves can become a tent for camping, sails on a ship, or a blanket for a doll. A wooden balance board can transform into a rocket cockpit, an elaborate road system for trucks, or a kayak down rapids. Your child decides what the materials become based on their interests and what they want to explore that day.

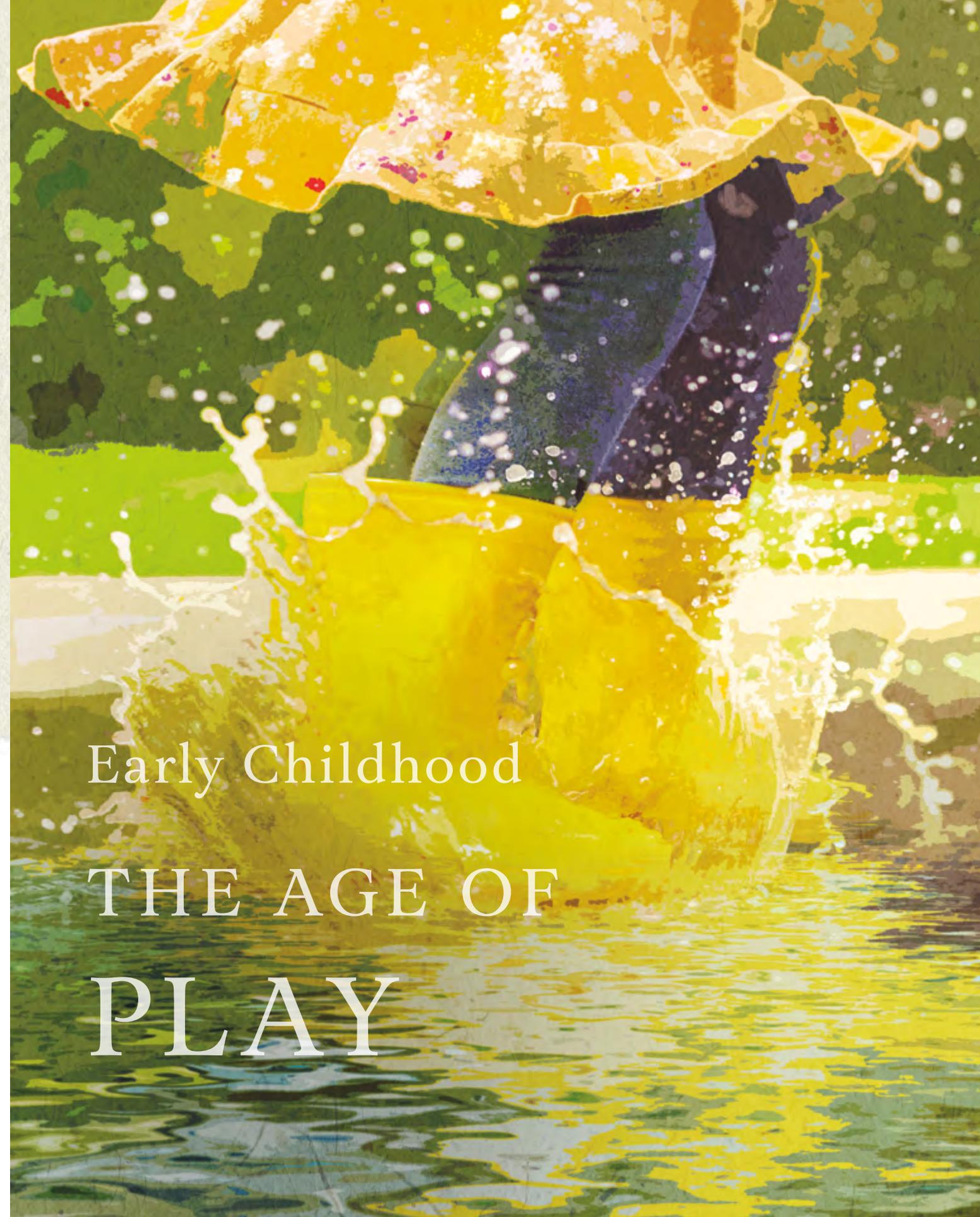
**We meet your child in their imagination.** Our teachers guide your child to learn to hold images in their mind through oral storytelling and repetition. They intentionally impart lessons through narrative—the worm eating the apple teaches a simple stitch, the chair wanting to hug the table introduces proper social etiquette, the call to hop like a bunny back to the classroom **turns reticent listeners into happy doers.**



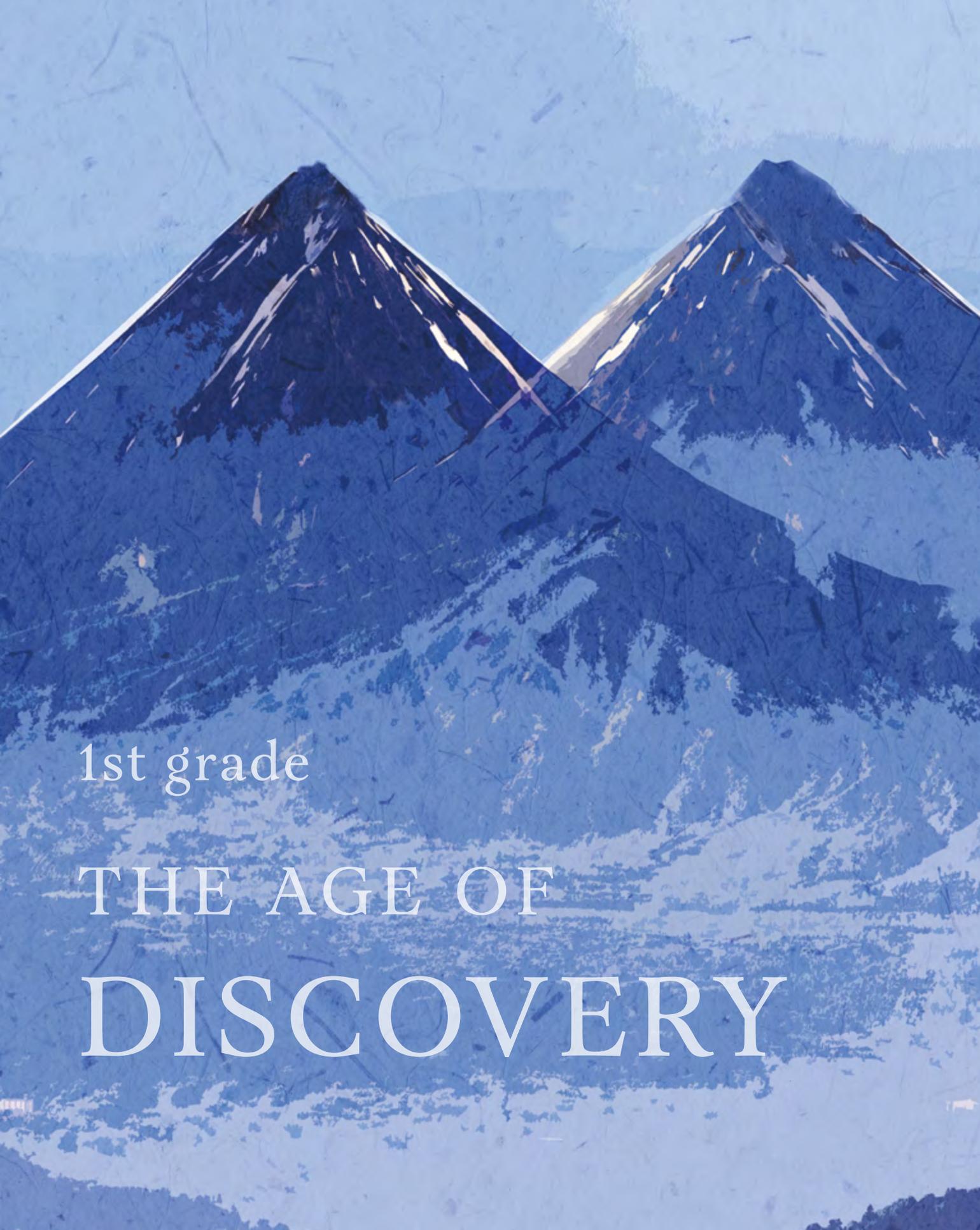
Your child eagerly imitates home life: washing dishes, setting the table, helping prepare snacks, or sweeping.

Practicing these skills helps your child feel confident and useful while meeting their **need to emulate what they see most often.**

Playing outside in all sorts of weather presents countless opportunities for your child to experience and immerse in nature. They're **learning to listen, observe, and investigate** by engaging all their senses.



# Early Childhood THE AGE OF PLAY



1st grade

# THE AGE OF DISCOVERY



Your child is developmentally ready to take on more academic learning. In first grade, relationships drive everything.

Your child is learning to form a community with their peers, to think of themselves as part of a class and a collective. Fairytales present a lens through which our teachers guide your child's explorations. These stories enliven valuable lessons like the power of good to overcome evil, that seemingly insurmountable challenges are both inevitable and conquerable, and that no matter the journey, helpers will come alongside us with wisdom to share if we're open to listening.

Your child begins the work of truly understanding letters—not simply being able to recite them from memory, but *visualizing them*.

**This is the essential precursor skill to reading comprehension.**

A picture of a mountain becomes the sound and form of M, then becomes words that begin with M: mountain, mouse, muse, music.



First graders learn the basics of knitting, the four processes in math, to play the pentatonic flute, and begin Spanish lessons. These activities **ground them in the present and channel their energy into creation**. They also lay and **strengthen the pathways of bilateral brain integration**.



Your second grader is still very much in a place of whimsical childhood, but they're also ready to test limits.

You might notice your child trying out a lie or find them sneaking a cookie before dinnertime. We meet this **duality of innocence and craftiness** by teaching your child stories of great people in history alongside fables of mischievous animals and tricksters.

These stories exemplify the propensity for goodness and deception within each of us and begin demonstrating for your child the **intricacies of human nature**. We focus on speaking to that newly discovered self-understanding in your child.



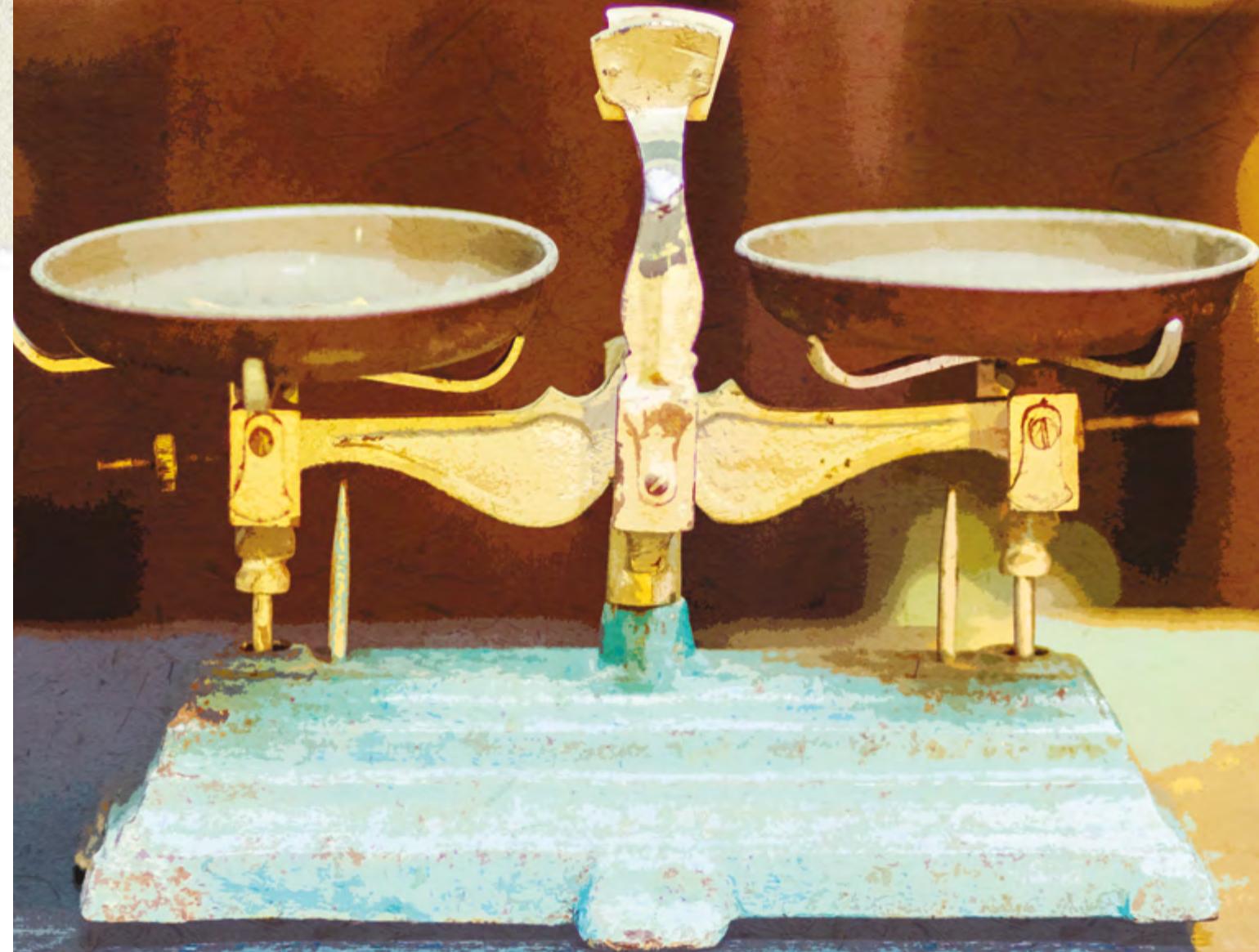
By this point, your child has had a year of practice with their main lesson book. They're **strengthening their dexterity**, their ability to cross their body's midline, and assuaging their brain's natural resistance to the difficulty of developmental leaps.

Your child's lesson book not only instructs art basics like shading and proportion, it further **hones your child's budding math and science skills**.

We intentionally teach the **patterns and rules of spelling and reading** in second grade, with an emphasis on your child **reading for comprehension and meaning**. We read together and individually, practicing first with prose or poetry we know by heart.

2nd grade

# THE AGE OF DUALITY



3rd grade

# THE AGE OF AWAKENING



In third grade, your child awakens to the expansiveness—and fragility—of life around them. They're also becoming attuned to themselves and their identity.

Your child wants to wrestle with larger questions about themselves and their world, as they begin to see themselves as both separate and a part of a larger human community: *How do I know if something is true? What happens when someone or something dies?* At this stage, you might notice your child becoming more fearful. So we take this uncertainty and move it into positive productivity to amplify their confidence.



**Third grade is marked by doing:**

growing food and studying the medicinal properties of herbs and flowers, building shelter and understanding basic survival, discovering how clothing is made, using fibers to weave, and learning to measure time, distance, and volume. **We give your child power** during a year when they may feel unsure.

Third graders learn Indigenous stories of creation, study the early years of American history, pioneering, and farming. They hear tales of **adventure and discovery** from around the world told through song and music, which they practice on their new string instruments. They also study Hebrew stories that speak to a fall from Paradise and the **resilience of humans making their own way in the world.**



Your fourth grader might be showing glimmers of mischief and wiliness. They might even have a few tricks up their sleeves. At this age, they're caught between the awareness of third and the calm of fifth.

This makes fourth grade a year of some dissonance. We meet the **need for connection in your child**. Tales of ancient gods who must always right their wrongs, of strong characters across all traditions who destroy and rebuild, and a year-long focus on preparation for theatrical performances all work toward honing understanding of process over product. Your child also **undertakes the careful study of mapmaking**, delving into our home state through history and geography and **developing strong organization of information skills** required to create a clear picture of your child's space and place in their world.

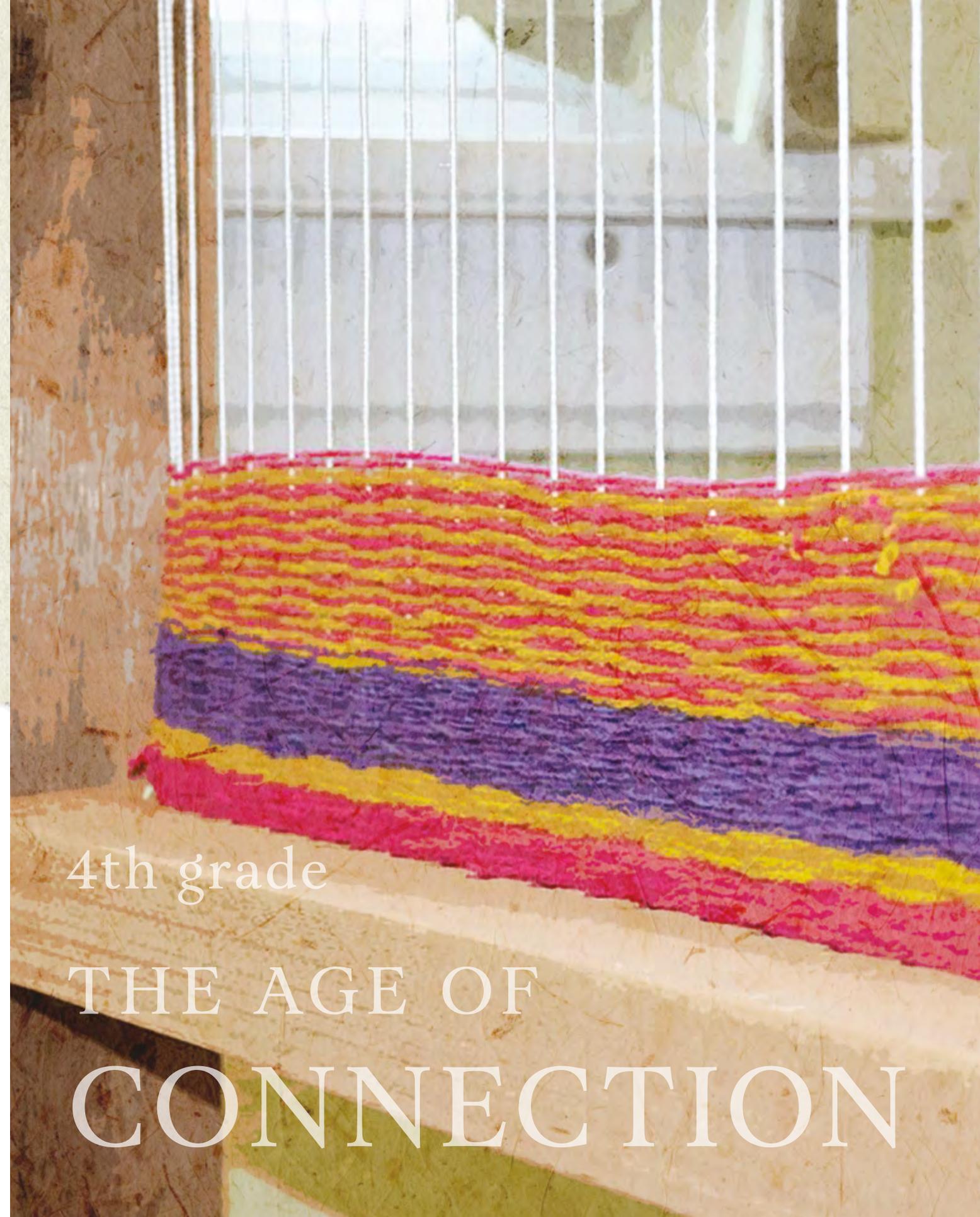
In Movement class, your child learns **orienteering**—the sport of navigation—providing them lifelong skills of **adaptation and flexibility**, while raising attention to their surroundings to build **engagement and awareness**.



As they learn fractions in math, quarter and half notes in music, or half stitch in handwork during a year when your child is attuned to the disparate, we guide them toward **seeing parts as integral to a larger process and outcome**, which builds the skills for **complex problem solving**.

4th grade

# THE AGE OF CONNECTION





This is the golden age of childhood. Your child is more physically, emotionally, and intellectually balanced.

They've left behind the sparks of mischief in fourth grade and moved toward **grounding and tranquility**. The study of ancient cultures, like India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece, **showcases societies and people** who were connected deeply spiritually and peacefully with one another and with their land. Your child immerses in the study of **striving for equality and fairness** and engages with the origin of many pivotal philosophical, artistic, mathematical, and engineering feats that shaped Western civilization, even as we know it today.

5th grade

# THE AGE OF BALANCE



Composing accompaniment for a folk song, carving a bowl in woodworking with careful attention to slope and shape, and using freehand geometry to express numerical phenomenon in nature—all your child's activities within and beyond the classroom **demonstrate for them the strength and beauty of unity**.

Fifth graders compete in an Ancient Greek Pentathlon with other Waldorf students from across the region. While it's certainly a challenging athletic pursuit, it's also a time to **focus on the efficacy of technique and grace**, like perfecting form to run faster or throw the javelin farther.



This is a year of so many changes for your sixth grader as they grow from childhood into adolescence, a joyful and often complex transition.

Peer relationships may take on new meaning and weight. While counterintuitive, your child thrives with **structure and rules** as they're grappling with existential questions like: *What am I doing here and where am I going? What's my purpose?*

Sixth graders advance from their previous year's study and move into Ancient Rome and Roman law. They study the cultures and societies of Ancient Africa and South America, and eventually the Middle Ages in Europe and Asia, seeking to understand *what happens when you work hard to build something and it all crumbles? How do you begin again?* They balance inquiry into themselves with study of the world far beyond them through **deep investigation of the rules and laws of the Earth, from a scientific and social perspective.**



Sound dynamics, thermodynamics, physics, astronomy, and mineralogy—sixth graders engage acutely with a wide range of scientific inquiry as a way to channel their current proclivity for complication into **thoughtful observation, persistent problem solving, and attention to nuance.**

**We appeal to the highest in your sixth grader**, knowing they'll rise to it, by asking them to seek out an adult who embodies traits they'd like to emulate. This process concludes with a ceremony, as both a rite of passage and a **culmination of their self-work.**

6th grade

THE AGE OF  
VIRTUE



# 7th grade THE AGE OF PERSPECTIVE



By seventh grade, your child is settling into adolescence and can step back and evaluate situations and people with deeper understanding and wider scope.

We channel those glimmers of independent thinking and curiosity into study of the opulence and adventure of the Renaissance. We also delve into the nuances of first contact between early explorers and Indigenous peoples around the world. Your seventh grader questions the complexities of a changing global landscape these travels initiated and the ways we still grapple with them today.

Seventh graders follow the shifts and upheavals of Western society as the church and politics collide, asking, “*What comes with a rebirth in thinking?*” The end of the year brings study of the Reformation and a foreshadowing of pilgrimage across the ocean to early America.

Building a toy that exhibits the laws of physics in woodworking, honing perspective in their drawings, diagramming sentences, or crafting highly accurate model birds in felt, your seventh grader becomes an expert at **disassembling and reconstructing what they see, what they know, and what they can form from it.**



We ask your child to wonder: *Why would someone need algebra?* Algebra is introduced in depth **historically, conceptually, and artistically** before students begin to use it, providing them a multidimensional example for the **purpose of innovation.**



This is the year everything comes together. Eighth graders are ready for change—and ready to use their voices.

We mirror this for your child by engaging them in the history of early America, from pilgrims to the colonies and early American democracy. We cover the American Revolution as well as revolutions across the globe occurring at the same time to **demonstrate action and change** and guide our students to understand that **humanity is a work in progress—a constantly evolving community** around the world, to which they have a responsibility as global citizens.

Your eighth grader is eager to espouse opinions and defend them, so we ask them to do this by writing research-based essays on complex and often controversial topics. We ask our students to meet the challenges of these complex topics head-on to understand *why they occurred, what can be learned from them, and how to ensure history doesn't repeat itself*. They draft and receive feedback many times over, **learning the importance of forming opinions that are well-reasoned and well-informed** and experiencing firsthand the power of persistence.

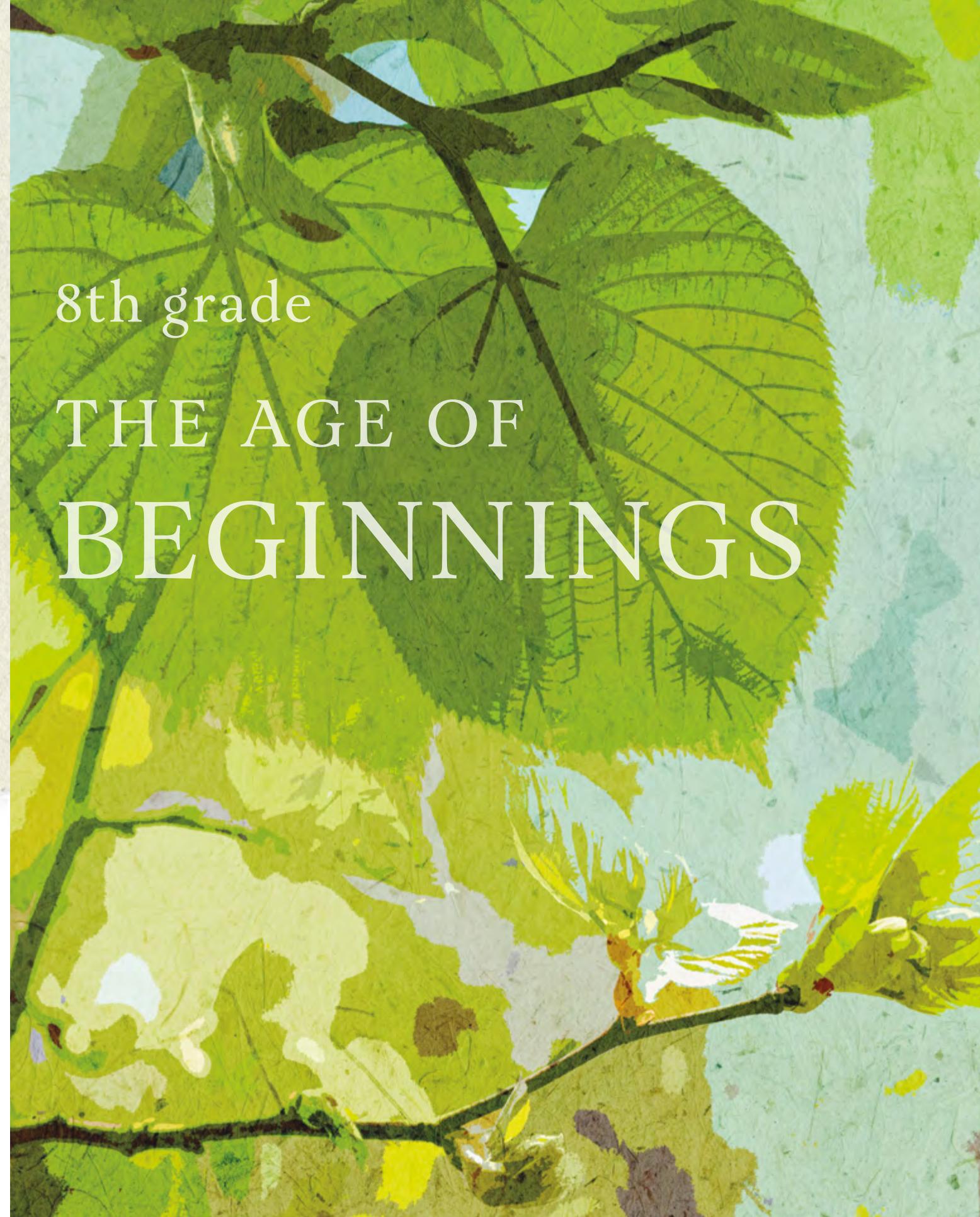


Studying the Platonic solids, 3D geometry, human physiology, and organic chemistry prepares your child for advanced science and math courses in high school and beyond.

Your child undertakes a **large-scale independent project**: building a full-size sailboat or electric guitar coalesces craftsmanship, beauty, and function; a lifestyle magazine empowers local students; a documentary film brings insight and research together; the making of paper, ink, and quills preserves heirloom practices while showcasing chemistry and art.

8th grade

# THE AGE OF BEGINNINGS



Throughout their Linden Waldorf journey, your child will open and close their days with a **pause for reflection and meditation** on words like these:

*All my work is now ended.*

*What I have learned will now rest.*

*When I have done my very best,*

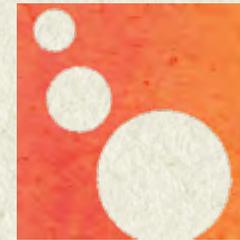
*Wisdom, strength, and love will grow*

*And I will bless all that I know.*

By giving our students a chance to **gather their thoughts and center their minds, hearts, and bodies**, they're more prepared learners each day.

And by closing their days—and their time with us—in this way, they gain the space and ability to **deeply integrate all that they know and carry it forward** to their next schools and beyond.

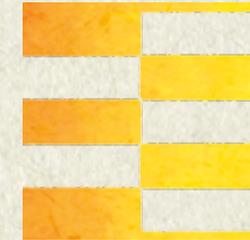
Ultimately, our students know that what they know in this moment is only the beginning to ***what could be.***



EC - THE AGE OF  
PLAY



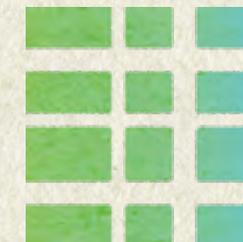
1st - THE AGE OF  
DISCOVERY



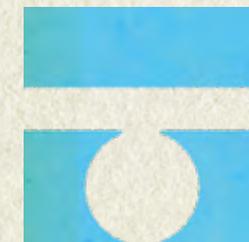
2nd - THE AGE OF  
DUALITY



3rd - THE AGE OF  
AWAKENING



4th - THE AGE OF  
CONNECTION



5th - THE AGE OF  
BALANCE



6th - THE AGE OF  
VIRTUE



7th - THE AGE OF  
PERSPECTIVE



8th - THE AGE OF  
BEGINNINGS

At Linden Waldorf, your child can

**imagine the future—then make it.**



# LindenWaldorf

Nashville's co-ed independent school  
where imagination is in the making  
for preschool–grade 8.

3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville TN 37215 [lindenwaldorf.org](http://lindenwaldorf.org)