

# Why Choose Credo High?



**AT CREDO HIGH SCHOOL** our goal is to support young people to be creative thinkers, effective communicators and caring human beings who have a solid foundation of knowledge and the depth and breadth of capacities to meet the world's challenges head-on, and with empathy and compassion.

Credo is an independent California charter high school that calls on the proven principles of Waldorf education to deliver a college-prep learning experience that advances critical thinking, creativity, responsibility, and initiative in our students.

**Credo is a high school that gives more, that asks for more, and that prepares its students to achieve more.**

## ► BE YOURSELF

For any prospective high school student who wants the next four years to be an adventure in creativity, challenge, teamwork and achievement, Credo High encourages you to discover your full potential – in our classrooms and beyond.

## ► BE SEEN

In a smaller school community with passionate teachers, smaller classes, and weekly classes in social and personal sustainability, Credo students are seen and well-known by teachers and fellow students. No one slips through the cracks.

## ► BE INSPIRED

Credo students learn from master teachers with abiding passion for their subjects. The curriculum is contemporary, integrated and designed to provide meaning through experiential learning that takes into consideration the students' diverse learning styles, talents, and interests.

## ► BE CONNECTED

Service learning opportunities, team projects, foreign exchange opportunities, world language classes and a developing relationship with our neighbor, Sonoma State University, connect Credo students to the larger world, both near and far. Credo is the central hub of seven public Waldorf schools in the North Bay and hosts ongoing events and concerts for this larger Waldorf community.

## ► BE ADVENTUROUS

All Credo students spend a week of Adventure Learning each September, building self-reliance and social relationships while camping in nature. Adventure trips include backpacking, water trips (kayaking or canoeing), and vision quests.

## ► BE CREATIVE

Developing students' aptitude for creative thinking is at the core of Credo's mission. In addition, all Credo students study art and music for all four years. Fine arts include drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking; practical arts include blacksmithing, woodturning and furniture making. As a relatively new school Credo relies on students to fully participate in the creation of school culture, including sports teams, clubs and activities—like Club Credo, the school's two-generation nightclub created and run by students, and our annual Poetry Slam.

## ► BE BALANCED

While Credo's rigorous academic curriculum is also strong in music and the arts in order to nurture emotional intelligence and develop creative self-expression, students also frequent our computer lab to undertake research and hone their tech skills and regularly have their hands in the dirt, growing food in our farming classes.

## ► BE PREPARED

As a college-prep program, all Credo graduates will have met the requirements for applying to the University of California (vs. only 29% of public high schools grads countrywide). An ongoing social-emotional curriculum teaches all students to communicate, collaborate, resolve conflict, build consensus and support one another.

## ► BE ACCOMPLISHED

In addition to meeting some of the highest college-prep standards in the country and studying art, music, movement, farming and world language for four years, Credo students also score high on standardized testing. In its first year, Credo scored the third highest in academic achievement of 26 Sonoma County public high schools.

## ► BE WHOLE

At Credo, K-8 Waldorf students finish what they started; the high school emphasis on the development of critical thinking complements the development of willing and feeling that took place in the lower grades. For students of all backgrounds, Credo offers rigorous academics complemented with a rich offering of fine and practical arts and life skills. Credo regards all of our students as future leaders; we teach our students as if the future depends on them.



\* The drawings in this brochure were created by Credo High School teachers from photographs of the students in action during the course of a school day.

*Credo provides my daughter with a strong academic background, while also fostering a sense of community. The absence of bullying, in cyberspace or actual space, is remarkable. The student body is racially and ethnically diverse, politically and socially aware, and destined to provide the leadership we will need in the future. Our family feels lucky that our teenager has the opportunity to attend Credo. It has been a joy to watch the school grow, and we continue to anticipate great things.*

**CHRISTINE SLEIGHT, Ph.D.**  
Credo parent and speech pathologist

*As a professor of anthropology, I've been pleasantly surprised at how often I can spot Waldorf graduates in my university classes. It takes only a few sessions. Waldorf students typically demonstrate a cultivated capacity for meaningful inquiry. Less concerned with isolated facts in and of themselves, they show a depth and integration of their knowledge that open up more intellectual territory, allowing them to work with the content of my courses in more creative and substantive ways.*

**RICHARD J. SENGHAS, Ph.D.**  
Sonoma State University

*Attending Waldorf high school was the culmination of a process that began on my first day of Waldorf kindergarten. The high school helped me synthesize my whole experience as a human being up until that point. It was a supportive setting for actualization of everything that had been working in us, and the curriculum provided the final tools for us to be independent thinking, responsible and motivated people with reverence for the world we live in.*

**MOLLY LUVENDER, R.N.**  
Waldorf high school graduate, Class of 2004