

RSSAA Festivals Committee Mandate 2023-24 School Year

The Festivals Committee reports to the College of Teachers and is responsible for oversight and development of all festivals from Early Childhood to High School at the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor. The Committee is led by the Festivals Committee Chair. The Festivals Committee is intended to be quite small with representation from all areas of the school and the College. The Festivals Committee will work with the full body of the faculty and staff for the practical work needed to support festivals. All full-time faculty and staff will be expected to participate in the practical work of at least two festivals a year.

The Festivals Committee oversees the following pedagogical areas:

- Study of the festivals both in the committee and in the level faculty groups
- Coordination with the College and Faculty around ongoing development of festivals in terms of inclusion of all community members, practical sustainability and the nurturing of the children. The Committee will work closely with the College to decide on the direction of development and to ensure that the full community is included in any development process.
- Oversight of the practical work groups for each festival the committee is responsible for including the regular updating and maintenance of documentation about each festival.
- The Committee delegates the practical oversight of the Early Childhood Festivals to the Early Childhood Faculty Group

Practical Support Work: The Festivals Committee Chair will rely on the Lower School Coordinator and High School Curriculum and Activities Coordinator to work with faculty during the summer to assign all full-time faculty and staff members to the practical work of at least two festival during each school year. The goal will be to match faculty with festivals that work for their schedules and that they have a connection to. A particular point person for each festival will be assigned (with their agreement) during the summer. The assigned faculty members will then work with the support of the Festivals Committee to prepare, hold and clean up after the festival. The Early Childhood program will continue to celebrate their own separate festival schedule

The festivals that the Festival Committee provides oversight to the practical work:

- Beginning and End of School Rose Ceremonies
- Rosh Hashanah
- Michaelmas
- Diwali
- Lantern Walk
- Day of the Dead
- St. Nicholas

- Spiral of Light
- Lunar New Year
- Eid
- May Day
- Unique all school special events (such as Waldorf 100 celebration)

The festivals that are within the curriculum of particular classes or levels of the school, which will be held and supported within the identified group:

Grade/Teacher	Festivals
EC	Rose Ceremony, All EC Festivals, Spiral
Grade 1	Rose Ceremony, Lunar New Year
Grade 2	Santa Lucia
Grade 3	Rosh Hashanah, Thanksgiving
Grade 4	Halloween
Grade 5	Diwali, Pentathalon
Grade 6	Eid, Spring Fair
Grade 7	Michaelmas Games, Earth Day
Grade 8	MLK, Honors Evening
HS	Graduation

- Halloween – Generally 4th grade, held within Grades 1-8 Faculty
- Thanksgiving – Generally 3rd grade held within Grades 1-8 Faculty
- Santa Lucia – Generally 2nd grade held within Grades 1-8 Faculty
- Martin Luther King Day LS – Generally 8th grade, held within Grades 1-8 Faculty
- Martin Luther King Day HS – Held within HS Faculty
- 8th Grade Honors Evening – Held by 7th Grade Class, and within 1 – 8 Faculty
- 12th Grade Graduation – Held within HS Faculty

Festivals Committee Chair: The Festivals Committee chair will be the communication and organizational contact point for all festivals. The Chair will not be the decision maker for individual festivals but will make sure that everyone is supported in understanding their responsibilities and making sure that a healthy process is followed. They will ensure that communication about the committee is shared with the full community of faculty and parents in a timely and complete manner. The Festivals Committee Chair is also responsible for maintaining the Festivals Binder and ensuring that all festivals are kept updated in it.

Members: Ideally, the Festivals Committee will be staffed by one Early Childhood Faculty member, two Lower School Faculty members, one High School Faculty member, one art teacher. The Committee Chair is approved by the College and must be a College member.

Decision Making: Decision making will be done by consensus within the group according to the School Governance model. Minor changes to mandated areas of oversight may be made within

the Festivals Committee and reported to the College Chair. Significant changes should be recommended by the Festivals Committee to the faculty of the school at all three levels. Major changes to the festival life of the school (such as adding or removing festivals) should be recommended to the College. Communication between the Festivals Committee and the three levels of faculty will be carried by the representatives to the committee from each level.

Meetings: The Festivals Committee will meet at least once every other week throughout the school year

College Committee Status: The Festivals Committee is a committee of the College. This means that the Festivals Committee Chair will attend the Pedagogical Integration Team (PIT) meeting once a month and give regular updates in the College on a schedule determined by the College Chair.

Note: The Early Childhood Program celebrates the following festivals annually. These festivals are planned by Early Childhood faculty with awareness of the plans for Grades and High School, but are held separately.

- Rose Ceremony
- Michaelmas
- Lantern Walk
- Spiral of Light
- May Day