



COURTESY PHOTO

Eugene Schwartz, international leader in Waldorf education and the film's collaborator, stands outside Novato Charter School.

Documentary shot at Novato Charter School

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The Novato Charter School, a kindergarten through eighth-grade Waldorf-inspired public school located in Hamilton Field, became the subject recently of a new documentary on Waldorf education as practiced in public schools.

The film is part of a video project to document Waldorf education as a whole and the

students' participation and experiences in this system. It is produced by Hagen's Recording Studio of Princeton, N.J. in cooperation with Eugene Schwartz, Waldorf teacher and lecturer of 33 years and internationally recognized Waldorf Consultant.

"We hope that parents looking for a school for their child will get an inside view of what goes on in a public

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Ready for the camera: Steve Kinney, Novato Charter School's eighth-grade teacher being filmed.

WALDORF: Hamilton school in documentary

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Waldorf school. We think that teachers who want more fulfillment in their teaching will find this documentary helpful. And we know that anyone in the world of public education will find some answers here for the most vexing pedagogical issues of our time," said Schwartz.

In response to the question, why the Novato Charter School?, Mr. Schwartz said, "The Novato School was given an inauspicious physical setting for a home

— an ugly and lifeless former army base — and has turned it into a beautifully landscaped, meticulously cared-for setting replete with sustainable landscaping, an organic garden, and solar power.

"In much the same way, the Novato School educates children in a public school system that many feel is also lifeless and hopeless — but by surrounding children with meaning, and beauty, and high expectations, it is helping in its own way to transform California's public schools. Who wouldn't be

attracted to such a place?"

Waldorf education is a worldwide system of education for preschool through grade 12 that is developmentally based, age-appropriate learning. The Novato Charter School, which currently ranks in the top 10 percent of performing schools in the state, has incorporated Waldorf methods and integrated it with current best educational practices and state standards.

Mr. Schwartz expects the documentary to be released sometime in early 2011.