

## PRESS RELEASE

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### NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES ADDITION OF KINDERGARTEN AND INCREASED ENROLLMENT AT GATHERING WATERS CHARTER SCHOOL, AND NEW LEAD ADMINISTRATOR IS ANNOUNCED

Gathering Waters Charter School has announced that the New Hampshire State Board of Education voted 'Yes' on March 11, 2021 to add a 2021/2022 Kindergarten class and increase enrollment in all grades. This amendment will allow Gathering Waters to accept additional applicants from the waitlists. The school now plans to open in the fall with enrollment of 250 total students, an indication of the remarkable enthusiasm and community interest in Waldorf public education. There are still openings for incoming students of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grades.

Gathering Waters aims to provide a rich social experience of a classroom community that is greater than the sum of its parts. Classroom teachers will be supported by specialized academic support teachers who will work within the class and with smaller groups to allow for more individualized attention in math and language arts. Classes will also split into smaller groups for subjects such as handwork, music and art to allow for more individualized attention. A full circle of faculty will surround and support each class and individual student.

According to its charter, the mission of Gathering Waters is to offer students in the Monadnock region an education that enables them to discover their interests and capabilities; explore the surrounding world; and cultivate a lifelong love of learning, a sense of community responsibility, and understanding of environmental sustainability. Students develop self confidence, self-knowledge, intellectual flexibility, and the capacity for creative problem solving that supports ethical action in their local and global communities. The rich and engaging curriculum integrates the arts, academics, meaningful practical work, outdoor education and service to the larger community, guided by the core principles of Waldorf education.

Gathering Waters recently introduced Luke Goodwin as the school's new Lead Administrator. Luke has been involved with Waldorf education for over 40 years, and served as the Administrative Director at the Chicago Waldorf School for the last 13 years. In addition to his school leadership work, Luke has served as a school mentor for the Waldorf Schools of the Great Lakes & Ontario region and taught administration and governance courses at the Waldorf Teachers Institute in Chicago. Luke shares that he is most inspired by Waldorf education's social

mission: "We are an education of deep and authentic relationships and one that holds dear to an inspiring social mission. It is with these core values that I am honored to guide a new initiative with the founding of the Gathering Waters Chartered Public School."

Gathering Waters plans to make a public announcement on the school's facilities in the coming weeks, which will be located in the heart of Keene and make use of outdoor learning and community service.

People seeking more information about Gathering Waters may access the website, [www.gatheringwaterscharter.org](http://www.gatheringwaterscharter.org) or the school's Facebook page. Enrollment forms may be accessed on the website or by sending a request to [admissions@gatheringwaterscharter.org](mailto:admissions@gatheringwaterscharter.org). Requests to be on a mailing list to receive regular newsletters, can be sent to [info@gatheringwaterscharter.org](mailto:info@gatheringwaterscharter.org).