

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Gabrielle Schuerman
gabrielle.schuerman@gmail.com
603-852-2718

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES NEW CHARTER SCHOOL FOR KEENE AREA

The Friends of Gathering Waters, a group representing parents and community supporters in southwest New Hampshire, has announced that Gathering Waters Chartered Public School will open in September 2021. Authorized by the New Hampshire State Board of Education, Gathering Waters will offer grades one through nine, adding grades ten, eleven, and twelve in each succeeding year. The school will be located in Keene; several sites are being considered.

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. The school will provide a rich and engaging academic curriculum that integrates the arts, meaningful practical work, outdoor education and service to the larger community. The school's curriculum and teaching methods will be guided by the core principles of Waldorf education.

Gathering Waters is an initiative member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, which has over 50 full member schools or schools working toward full membership. According to the Chair of the Gathering Waters Board of Trustees, Gabrielle Schuerman, "Our vision is an inclusive school culture of compassion and respect where deep interest in others goes hand in hand with individual growth. The educational environment enables students to develop self-confidence, self-knowledge, intellectual flexibility, and the capacity for creative problem solving that supports ethical action in their local and global communities. At Gathering Waters, we are committed to core values of social justice, inclusion and diversity along with a strong focus on supporting students to become responsible stewards of the environment."

New Hampshire's charter school legislation enables local communities to establish public, tuition-free schools that provide a choice for parents and students seeking different educational approaches from traditional public schools. Charter schools have flexibility to adopt innovative educational strategies and curricula to help students realize their academic potential. At the same time, the New Hampshire Board of Education oversees a rigorous and comprehensive application process that ensures that charter schools meet state standards for student

achievement, educational programs, methods of assessment and measures of success. Charters are granted for a renewable term of five years and each school is held accountable for meeting the goals and objectives outlined in its charters

People seeking more information about Gathering Waters may access the website, 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. Requests to be on a mailing list to receive regular newsletters, can be sent to info@gatheringwaterscharter.org.