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Warren Construction finishes \$6.3M Waldorf addition

BY STAFF

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COURTESY / LYNNE ESPY

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Maine Coast Waldorf School, Maine's only early-childhood-through-grade-12 Waldorf school, completed a major \$6.3 million transformation of its Freeport campus with the dedication of a new high school building on Oct. 20.

The expansion, which was undertaken to accommodate growing enrollment and interest in the Waldorf approach to education, is the largest in the school's 34-year history and unites more than 260 students on one campus.

"We exceeded our ambitious fundraising goals, which speaks to the exceptional support within our immediate and extended school community," Frederick Veitch, vice president of the board of directors and capital campaign co-chairman.

Maine Coast Waldorf's high school began in 2007 and was located at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester since its inception. But the goal was always to unify the whole school — early childhood and grades 1 through 12 — on Desert Road in Freeport. As the high school enrollment climbed toward a record 70 students, the time was at hand to make the move.

About Maine Coast Waldorf School

Founded in 1984, **Maine Coast Waldorf School** serves some 260 students from early childhood through high school. The mission of the school is to awaken the highest potential in every student by fostering clarity of thought, warmth of heart, and strength of resolve to make a difference in the world. While independent, Maine Coast Waldorf is part of a worldwide Waldorf school movement that encompasses more than 1,000 schools in 61 countries. Maine Coast Waldorf School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America.

"The new high school location in Freeport really strengthens our overall school," Lynn Baird, admissions director, said in a news release. "Not only are we more accessible, but we now have endless opportunities for connection, interaction and collaboration among teachers and students across the grades — K through 12."

Architectural firm Briburn of Portland designed the new high school building to meet net zero energy demands, Passive House (PHIUS) and Maine Advanced Building certifications, demonstrating the school's commitment to environmental stewardship. "Warren Construction Group was proud to be part of a committed team brought together to plan and create one of the most environmentally conscious schools built in recent history," said Peter Warren, whose company served as general contractor for the entire project. "The school now has the benefit of tight, efficient, high-quality space that is really fantastic to be in. The Waldorf community will be well served for years to come."

Other campaign building projects revolved around an expansion of the school's Community Hall to include new faculty offices, a commercial kitchen/café and

additional music/performing arts space. The existing grades 1-4 building was extended to include an educational support center.

To create these sustainably designed additions, Maine Coast Waldorf School partnered with Kaplan Thompson Architects of Portland. An open house scheduled for Nov. 4 includes opportunities for the public to view the school's expanded campus.

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